

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD MAY 15, 2023

Clerk Sandy Raffin called the Albert Township Board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., with Trustee Dick Deska, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Treasurer John Righi. Supervisor Michael Runyan was absent. Ted Orm from the Road Commission, Fire Chief Doug Baum, Jeff McDonald from zoning and 6 residents were in attendance.

Clerk Sandy Raffin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** that Treasurer John Righi chair the meeting, seconded by Trustee Dick Deska.

Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to approve the minutes of April 17, 2023 as presented, with the note to correct the spelling from Dillon to Dylan White made by John Righi, seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to pay the list of bills of \$95,824.08 with an additional \$1,838.77 seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

A **motion** to accept payroll was made by Sandy Raffin and seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

Treasurer John Righi presented the Treasurer's Report it was received and filed.

Zoning Report was received and filed.

Fire and Ambulance report was received and filed.

Ted Orm from the Montmorency County Road Commission was present. It was reported the Road Commission has been busy blading and patching the roads along with ditch clean-out, sign repair and replacements. The Road Commission has turned down the Snow Drift Rally request for test runs. Road Commission passed a resolution to retain jurisdiction over Pine Wood Court. A newer, 1994 vs. 1984, grade haul excavator has been purchased. The Road Commission will begin recessed line painting, from the four-way stop at 491 and 612 continuing for approximately 5 miles east, starting at the end of May. Clerk Sandy Raffin mentioned re-painting from the four-way stop going west into town, Ted Orm reported that seal-coat may be scheduled which would include repainting. Weight restrictions have been lifted.

Sandy has contacted A&L steel and they will provide a roll-off for collection of stoves or anything metal. Albert Township would collect disposal fees, which would belong to Albert Township. We would contact A&L once the roll-off is full and it would be collected. Clerk Sandy Raffin mentioned that our current Albert Township Ordinance prohibits disposal of metal. The benefit to the community with proper disposal versus items being dumped on the side of the road etc.... along with the income benefit. Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to amend Albert Township Transfer Site Ordinance No. 18 to delete section 2H: stoves, ranges, refrigerators, washers/dryers, water heaters and any household appliance made of metal, **motion** was seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Trustee

Dick Deska stated it was a good idea. Treasurer John Righi wished to confirm that Albert Township would make money from the metal disposal. Clerk Sandy Raffin confirmed that proceeds collected would be retained by Albert Township and pick up by A&L would be free as they make their money from the metal. Clerk Sandy Raffin again stated the benefit of people being able to dispose of items like mail boxes or anything metal. Disposal of refrigerators or freezers is prohibited unless they have a tag attached stating that the freon has been removed, otherwise anything metal including tire rims could be disposed of.

Clerk Sandy Raffin moved to amend her original motion; Ordinance No. 18 to delete section 2H: stoves, ranges, refrigerators, washers/dryers, water heaters and any household appliance made of metal. No refrigerators, freezers, or air conditioners unless they have been professionally tagged stating freon has been emptied. Trustee Dick Deska seconded the amended motion. Roll call vote was passed with 4 yeas votes. The motion was amended. A second vote was held to approve the original motion that was amended. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to accept the Transfer Site fees for the metal being collected to go into the dumpster. Trustee Marsha McDonald seconded the motion. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that Jeff McDonald from Zoning had attended a zoning class at Treetops Resort last Tuesday. Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to approve the cost of the zoning class, seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that Bill Baker, Straight & Level balance, has submitted all receipts for payment of \$8,389.83. Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** that Bill Baker be paid in the amount of \$8,389.83. All excess materials have been returned to Albert Township. Trustee Dick Deska inquired regarding excess stone, Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that there was not any stone. Seconded by Treasurer John Righi. Roll call vote was passed with 4 yeas votes. Motion carried. Trustee Marsha McDonald wished to confirm that there is no more owing on this bill, Clerk Sandy Raffin confirmed this is final.

Jamie Winkleman has submitted a 30-day review for Dave VanTubergen in maintenance. Jamie's review was very favorable regarding job performance and attitude. Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** that Dave be made a full-time maintenance employee with a wage increase to \$17.00/hr., motion was seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Motion carried with 4 yeas votes.

Treasurer John Righi made a **motion** that Jamie Winkleman be moved from interim maintenance supervisor to permanent full-time supervisor, seconded by Trustee Dick Deska. Trustee Marsha McDonald objected to this motion since the topic was not an agenda item. Treasurer John Righi believed the motion was appropriate as it related to maintenance staffing and salary but agreed to table the motion until the next meeting.

Discussion was raised by Trustee Marsh McDonald regarding possible recycling. Treasurer John Righi stated that recycling had been tried in the past and proved to be cost prohibitive. Fire Chief Doug Baum indicated that several other counties have encountered the same barrier to recycling efforts.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that she has spoken to Ron Hart from Hart Well Drilling and despite having drilled to a depth of 325 ft. for a well near the Little League ball field, he was not able to access clear water. A second attempt was made at another location, Sandy has not been able to reach Ron Hart regarding the status and is awaiting a return phone call.

Clerk Sandy Raffin reported that the Pavilion roof will be sheeted tomorrow, prep. work for cement will begin shortly. It was also reported that there were \$1,222 dollars in engraved bricks that were sold at the Mushroom Festival.

Trustee Dick Deska stated that he was asked to bring up office hours and reducing to part time office hours. There was some discussion pointing out that the nearest County building is over 20 miles away and there is value in accessibility. Furthermore, multiple employees would be impacted if hours were reduced to part time and health insurance benefits were lost. No motions were made.

The meeting was opened for public comment. Ruth Sadler and her husband, who live on Partridge Lane, expressed dissatisfaction with their neighbors who live across the street and own livestock which often wanders onto their property and among other concerns, causes a nuisance. Zoning Administrator, Jeff McDonald stated he would visit the neighbor's property the following day to follow-up on previous meetings and promises to erect a chicken coop and contain livestock.

Fire Chief, Doug Baum mentioned a Blight Elimination grant in the amount of \$200,000 dollars that is available and allocated to Montmorency County through State Land Bank. Doug also reported that there is currently a Red Flag warning in place regarding burning.

Treasurer John Righi moved to adjourn at 4:15 p.m., seconded by Trustee Marsha McDonald. John Righi adjourned meeting.

Respectfully,

Julie Marcotte
Secretary