

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD JULY 16, 2024

Board Members: Supervisor Michael Szukhent, Clerk Sandy Raffin, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Trustee Richard Deska, Treasurer John Righi. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Doug Baum, Recording Secretary Julie Marcotte, Zoning administrator Jeff McDonald was excused. 9 residents were present as well as Cam Cavitt, Candidate seeking re-election for the 106th district, State of Michigan.

Meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m., Mike Szukhent led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Szukhent stated that he would like to make an addition to the Tuesday July 16, 2024 agenda, to include Right of Way Contract with PIE&G and an amendment to Employee Handbook. Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to add PIE&G and amendments to our policies 7 (a) and 7 (b), seconded by Dick Deska. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Righi made a **motion** to approve Tuesday July 16th agenda as amended, seconded by Marsha McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Attendance taken

Public Comment:

Cheryl McCormick 6751 Island Dr. Atlanta, wished to propose the idea of establishing an area for re-usable items, in lieu of recycling, that residents could either use for donation or acquisition of good/reusable items that may otherwise be discarded.

Cam Cavitt, incumbent representative for the 106th district seeking re-election, made a brief introduction and presented changes to the States revenue sharing. Every Township will receive revenue sharing as part of the new budget, which was not the case previously.

Don Shelton Frisbee Rd Lewiston, expressed concerns regarding ATV/Side by Side traffic and speed, as well as garbage dumping. Frisbee Rd. is private and not County maintained. There was a street sign on Willoway, which is a County Rd., that has been stolen. The Township Board agreed that as an action item, responsibility for replacement of the street sign will be determined.

Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to approve the Minutes of June 18th. John Righi noted a correction on the second page, 3rd paragraph from the bottom, he had reported that residents could make direct tax payment through a link on our website to ALLPAID not AllPAYS, seconded by Dick Deska. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to approve the bills in the amount of \$36,139.47 from 6-19 thru 7-16 and additions in the amount of \$11,010.95, \$10,927.00 of which was for the Fire Department; West Shore Fire. Doug Baum reported that the DNR is dispersing a 50% match, the Grant expires August 1 and will be closed. Once the bill is paid, Doug will need to get a copy of the check to be sent to the DNR for reimbursement. Motion seconded by Marsha McDonald; motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to approve payroll in the amount of \$53,694.95 from 6-19 thru 7-16 seconded by Marsha McDonald. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Treasurers Report: received and filed. John Righi reported and presented a property on Gee Trl in Lewiston, going up for tax sale. The Township has first Right of Refusal and he will need to let the County know if the Township wishes to exercise that right or decline. John Righi made a **motion** to not purchase that property, seconded by Dick Deska. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Sandy Raffin reported that approximately 528 absentee ballots have been mailed, 11 people are Certified by the County to do our elections and early voting does start July 27th. Sandy Raffin will work Sunday August 4th from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for anyone with voting questions. Accuracy testing was completed last night and everything went well. Active shooter training will be conducted for Township employees and election workers on July 23rd.

Zoning: Marsha McDonald made a **motion** that we correct the Zoning Fee Schedule for the fence, more than two sections, to be \$50.00, seconded by Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to change the Employee Handbook in the area where it says, wages will be set by the Township Board in accordance with applicable laws, and add the Reference to the Employee Step Schedule, Certifications/Training/Advance Education that results in increases to the Employee Step Schedule must be approved in advance and also have it changed to, in the event the Township is closed as a result of snow or weather related reasons, take out "other reasons," seconded by John Righi. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Resolution: PIE&G, received and filed. Marsha McDonald made a **motion** that we sign the Resolution 2024-5 approve the Franchise Agreement with PIE&G for Broadband Internet, seconded by Sandy Raffin. Doug Baum stated the Resolution needed to be read or reading waived. McDonald withdrew her motion and Raffin withdrew her second.

Marsha McDonald made a motion to waive the reading of resolution, seconded by Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes.

Marsha McDonald made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-5 for the Franchise Agreement with PIE&G for Broadband internet, seconded by Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 5 yea votes, roll call vote taken.

Staff Reports:

- a) Zoning – received and filed
- b) Fire/EMS-received and filed- Doug reported that newly proposed OSHA standards would be very burdensome to Fire Departments. The Comment Period has been extended and is one of the primary concerns of Fire Chiefs throughout the Country. Doug further reported that he spoke to Laura approximately 1 ½ weeks ago about two direct deposits totaling \$10,000 two hundred and some dollars, it is still being confirmed that those were funds that came from the Treasury for that Fire Equipment Grant, there were no indicators or description with the deposit. Doug further requested that the Township confirm that PIE&G has a safety plan in place during construction.
- c) Maintenance-received and filed

d) Financial Processor-Audit was completed July 8, 9 and 10th, a presentation will be made to the Board and the Public on August 20th.

Road Commission: Ted Orm gave a brief update on current projects and staffing.

Board Comments: Marsha McDonald wished to encourage residents to participate in the Community Input Survey and extended a reminder of how that can be done. Mike Szukhent wished to thank the DDA for the Heritage Trail, which is now complete, it is fantastic. Mike has also met with a couple of groups from both East and West Twin to address water quality and preserving our lakes. Mike and Jeff McDonald both met with Todd, from the Road Commission, and had a good conversation gaining better understanding of each's roles. Mike also expressed gratitude to the Lewiston C.O.C and DDA for utilizing the new Pavilion, he is happy to see all the use. Mike also reported that once the Community Input Survey has wrapped up, the Township will be planning meetings with NEMCOG and stakeholders to continue moving forward with our Master Plan.

Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to adjourn at 8:10 p.m., seconded by Sandy Raffin. Motion carried.

Respectfully,

Julie Marcotte
Recording Secretary