

MINUTES OF THE ALBERT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Supervisor Michael Runyan called the Albert Township Board meeting to order at 3:00 p.m., with Treasurer John Righi, Clerk Sandy Raffin, and Trustee Marsha McDonald. Trustee Dick Deska was absent. Also present, Financial Processor/Deputy Clerk Laura Schrader; Township Auditor Tyler Watters; Captain Al Lemcool, Township Fire Department; Road Commissioner Ted Orm; Project Manager of Otsego County Economic Alliance, Brandy Riopelle; TLPOA John Jackson and 16 residents were in attendance.

Supervisor Michael Runyan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 14, 2023 and the special meeting of September 11, 2023 as presented, seconded by Treasurer John Righi. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to approve the list of bills from 9/15 through 9/18 in the sum of \$165,547.83, additions of \$58,135.21, seconded by Trustee Marsha McDonald. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Treasurer John Righi made a **motion** to approve payroll from 9/15 through 9/18 for \$43,440.97, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Treasurer John Righi presented the Treasurer's Report which was received and filed. During his report he gave the status of the basement flood insurance claim. The insurance company covered \$23,797.00 which included the hot water tank, boiler, electric panel. All was refunded except a \$500.00 deductible. He gave a projected budget on the rate of spending, which was received and filed. It was decided that there will be a hold on spending in the Township, spending only for necessities. Special assessment for discussed for the Fire and Ambulance Department. A public hearing will need to be held once a decision is made on what to levy. Trustee Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to levy five mills for Fire and Ambulance so it can be on December taxes, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with a roll call vote of 4 yea votes.

Township Auditor, Tyler Watters presented the Township Audit which was received and filed. It will be available for public view from the Financial Processor. He explained that the DDA is a component unit and the Township Board should be appointing their board. The Township is in good financial status, and the funds were properly adjusted. Treasurer John Righi made a **motion** to accept the financial audit for the fiscal year ending March 2023 as presented, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Ted Orm from the Montmorency Road Commission was present. Road Commission has done sign repair, grading, patching, and finished traffic lines.

Captain Al Lemcool was present to give the Fire and Ambulance report that was received and filed. Discussion was held regarding needing a ramp installed on the UTV trailer. Clerk Sandy Raffin made a **motion** to allow Albert Township Fire and Ambulance, up to \$700.00 to install a ramp gate to existing trailer they already have, seconded by Trustee Marsha McDonald. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Zoning Report was received and filed.

Project Manager, Brandy Riopelle from Otsego County Economic Alliance, Inc., presented a program to help with child care. She is asking for Township Board support and help spread the information. Clerk Sandy Raffin, approved the information to be posted on our website.

Maintenance is in need of winter salt and softener salt. Trustee Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to purchase three pallets of winter salt and approval to purchase salt from Home Depot as needed, seconded by Treasurer John Righi. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Clerk, Sandy Raffin requested the cemetery stone setting prices to be raised. Trustee Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to raise prices for small stones to \$200.00 and large stones \$300.00, seconded by Treasurer John Righi. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Discussion was held regarding covid days. Trustee Marsha McDonald stated an employee was out on vacation and should have not gotten paid. She stated the employee double dipped and received vacation pay and covid pay. Financial Processor, Laura Schrader commented that an employee's medical status is not public knowledge and should not be discussed in the office and that no employee received double pay. Treasurer John Righi read past minutes that approved covid pay. Trustee Marsha McDonald made a motion then withdrew her motion. Treasurer John Righi made a **motion** to table the issue until the next meeting, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 4 yea votes.

Three employees requested to have their hour lunch returned. Trustee Marsha McDonald made a **motion** to continue our office hours at 8:00 to 3:30 with no paid lunch hours, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Motion carried with 3 yea votes with Treasurer John Righi vote of nay.

John Jackson from the TLPOA presented information regarding the over population of geese on East and West Twin Lakes. They are requesting the Township Board to approve a resolution for goose nest destruction and removal. TLPOA will do the work and funding. Trustee Marsha McDonald made a motion that the Board support the resolution for East and West Twin goose removal, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin, motion carried with a roll call vote of 4 yea votes.

During public comment Tom Page requested Trustee Marsha McDonald attend Charlton Township Board meeting and assist with their approval of the goose nest destruction and removal resolution.

Treasurer John Righi made a **motion** to adjourn, seconded by Clerk Sandy Raffin. Supervisor Runyan declared meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Schrader
Financial Processor/Deputy Clerk