

Irving Township Special Board Meeting Minutes

October 21, 2020

Call to order with Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30pm.

Three board members were present. Sharon Olson, clerk, and Dean Bass, Trustee, absent. There were five members of the public in attendance.

Motion to approve the agenda with corrections was made by Jamie and seconded by Mike. Corrections were to remove Dan Remenap speaking and also removing association meeting under new business.

Fire reports were read by Jamie and Lani Forbes. Jon Smelker presented commissioners report. He left some information on the new jail at the township. They have been in closed session about the property they are wanting to purchase. He has missed the last three meetings due to quarantine.

No cemetery report.

Assessors report was read by Jamie.

Public input. Tim Ross mentioned the letter from Carol Ergang at the September meeting. He then asked about the election commission meeting and why the supervisor asked for Carol to not be present when the tallying was happening. Knight mentioned a disparity in the letter that she was a candidate on the ballot in November 2016 so was not able to work the election. Knight said that it was for the integrity of the election and it would not look good for our township to have someone who spoke out against a candidate on the ballot who has a write in candidate running against them. Knight also mentioned that she would feel the same way if this happened with other elected officials as well, not just this race for supervisor. Ross also mentioned that he will be at the township on election day and hopes that others would join him. He said he will maintain the 100' distance. Ross also mentioned other townships he has been to have spray painted or chalked lines in their parking lots to show the 100' line as well. Knight mentioned that Olson has purchased four new 100' signs to place at the township on election day. Ross mentioned a picture of him at the township in August and he stated that this was him, his wife and step-daughter waiting to vote and that it was the only time he was inside the building in August.

Lani asked that since Carol is no longer a resident of the township, can she work the election. Rhonda VanPolen mentioned that yes, non-residents can work the election.

Forbes mentioned that she is part of the Barry County Suicide Prevention Task Force. She provided a report to the board with numbers. The September 2020 numbers show an increase of 12 from September 2019. Smelker and Forbes mentioned how the state has cut out a lot of funding for Medicaid which helps to pay for mental health and substance abuse help.

Rhonda mentioned to make sure that the 100' mark is very visible for all to see and if anyone is at the township campaigning, to make sure they are proper as people are looking for improper things right now.

Minutes of the September meeting were approved by all. Motion by Jamie, second by Mike.

Lynnette presented the treasurers report. She mentioned that the fire in the escrow account has been cleaned up and funds have been released.

Bills were approved in the amount of \$4,560.27. Motion by Jamie, second by Mike. Passed by roll call of all ayes.

Board member comment. Jamie handed out absentee ballot information that Sharon provided. As of Oct 21, 936 ballots have been sent out and 553 returned. There is a possibility of 1,692 people who could vote in person on election day. Jamie thanked and appreciated Sharon for her hard work getting the ballots out in a timely manner. Jamie also mentioned that all board members have received a copy of the audit and to please review for discussion at the meeting in November. Lynnette mentioned that the new mailbox is not going to go anywhere. She and Chris used 5 bags of cement for the pole so it is firmly in place.

Unfinished business. Lynnette applied for a grant through Center for Tech and Civic Life and was award \$2,500 towards election costs due to COVID. We will be using these funds for a handicap ramp, two posse officers, tent rental to keep residents out of the weather on election day and additional hall cleaning needed after the election.

New Business. Received a quote from Skyline Gutters for snow removal 2020-2021 winter. Jamie made the motion to approve the quote, second by Mike. Roll call all ayes.

Public input. Lani mentioned there is property tax relief funds in the amount of \$169,000 for residents not able to pay due to COVID. The number to call is 269-986-4149. Lynnette is considering sending letters to our residents who are delinquent.

Motion made to adjourn at 7:08 by Jamie, second by Mike.

Next meeting is Wednesday November 11, 2020 at 6:30pm. Election is November 3, 2020 with polls open 7am-8pm.