

Irving Township Board Meeting

3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, Michigan 49058

March 15, 2022, 6:30 pm

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Mike Buehler, Jamie Knight, Sharon Olson. Absent Alesse Cross, Dean Bass. Also, present (12) members of the public.

Knight, changes to agenda: Approve Salary Resolutions, Approve General Appropriations Act, Approve Meeting Dates listed in New Business moved to Special Meeting, March 21. Add to Agenda Under New Business, Hand Railing outside and land purchase-cemetery.

Motion to approve Agenda with corrections made by **Knight** and seconded by **Buehler**. All in favor "Ayes." "No" none. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Smelker, J., Commissioner Report, updated hiring policies for the non-representative employees to get their health insurance sooner. We hope this will help us improve getting new employees in the non-resident areas. New server purchased for IT department to support infrastructure; cost \$213,000. Courts and Law Building coming to completion. Friend of Court to Move into Courts and Law in a couple weeks. Looking into Board changes for "Open Comment" Rule. Coming up for discussion first of April. I will vote to leave the ruling as is, no change. I believe the Chair has the power to keep Public Input to the topic.

Knight, read Assessor's Report, Hastings Fire Report, Thornapple Township, attached. **Forbes**, read report on Freeport Fire. In addition, Freeport Board Meeting tomorrow, March 16 and Freeport Pancake Breakfast is Saturday, March 19, 8:00 am – 11:30 am.

Smelker, Commissioner Report, no update on Court and Laws Building, meeting tomorrow. We are waiting on Friend of the Court furniture warranty work to be finished. We discussed changing by-laws in public meetings; however, this discussion postponed for more information from the lawyer.

Bush, cemetery report, one (1) burial.

Public Input, none.

Knight, Clerk Minutes of February 15, 2022, Motion to approve Minutes, by **Knight** and seconded by **Buehler**. All in favor "Ayes." "No" none. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Knight, Pay Bills, Bill Payment List, attached. **Knight**, Motion to Pay Bills amount of **\$7,964.09**, seconded by **Buehler**. Roll call "Yes" **Knight**, **Buehler**, **Olson**. Absent, **Cross** and **Bass**.

Absent – **Cross**. Treasurer's report none.

Knight, Board of Review Update, (12) residents regarding VA/tax.

Unfinished Business - Records room update: One fireproof door installed. One exterior door installed. One door hardware replacement, project complete by **JD Forbes**. New quotes for brickwork, previous approved supplier deceased. Table for next meeting.

Knight, January Minutes, Knight, Motion to approve January 2022 Board Meeting Minutes with changes, seconded by Buehler. All in favor "Ayes." "No" none. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Knight, 2022-2023 Auditor's Contract, attached, one-year – Siegfried and Crandill, attached, \$5100. **Knight,** motion to approve One-year contract with Siegfried and Crandill, seconded by Buehler. Roll call "Yes" Knight, Buehler, Olson. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Knight, Sexton Contract, April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2026, attached, annual compensation, \$14,600. If Sexton unable to complete contract, Jeff and Lisa Elenbaas to fulfill contract through 2026. **Motion by Knight** to approve Sexton Contract, seconded by Buehler. Roll call "Yes" Buehler, Knight, Olson. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Knight, Tax Assessor Employment Contract, April 1, 2022 – March 31, 2024, \$27,000 yearly. **Motion by Knight** to approve Assessor Contract, seconded by Buehler. Roll call "Yes" Knight, Buehler, Olson. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Knight, Paul Henry Thornapple Trail Maintenance Agreement – Irving Township Portion, a one-year contract, 2022, \$1200. **Knight,** make a motion to approve the contract for Paul Henry Trail, seconded by Buehler. Roll call "Yes" Buehler, Knight, Olson. Absent, Cross and Bass.

Knight, quote provided by Ketchum Machine regarding replacing exterior handrail. Topic tabled for next meeting to receive additional quotes.

Knight, Cemetery, John Seeber discussed his interest to sell approximately two (2) acres of land aligned with the existing Irving Township cemetery on State Road. John has been contacted by Barry County Land Preservation for procurement of his land. John is willing to sell the two (2) acres of land to Irving Township and not let it go into the program. If it goes into preservation, there is no way that it can ever be sold. The piece is easy access, road frontage. Price \$20,000 an acre. **Smelker,** suggested the use of ARPA funds. **Forbes,** ARPA funds for handrails too. **Knight,** make a motion to spend \$20,000 an acre to secure +/- two (2) acres from John Seeber for farmland aligned with Irving Cemetery on State Road. Seconded by Buehler. Roll call "Yes" Buehler, Knight, Olson. Absent, Cross and Bass. **Knight,** to work with attorney to get agreement worked up. John Seeber to provide land description and survey.

Public Input - Summary

J.D. Forbes, I think you made a smart decision on land purchase.

Knight, motion to adjourn meeting at 7:50 pm. Seconded by Buehler.

Upcoming dates:

- March 21, 2022 – Budget Public Hearing Notice, 6:30 pm
- March 21, 2022 – Special Public Meeting, immediately following Budget Hearing
- April 19, 2022 – Township Board Meeting, 6:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Sharon Olson, Clerk