

FINAL – APPROVED 9/20/22 – NO CHANGES

# Irving Township Board Meeting

3425 Wing Rd, Hastings, Michigan 49058

August 19, 2022, 6:30 pm

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Mike Buehler, Jamie Knight, Doug Sokolowski, Dean Bass, Sharon Olson.

Motion to approve Agenda made by Knight and seconded by Buehler. All in favor “Ayes.” “No” none. Motion passed.

Knight, reviewed fire reports, attached. Average response time Freeport, (7) minutes, Hastings (1 minute, 48 sec.). Bush review of Cemetery Report, attached, (4) burial purchases.

**Public Input – None.**

**Commission Report**, Smelker.

**Knight**, Clerk Minutes of July meeting. Sokolowski – correction, add the following under “Unclaimed Property Procedure to MI State Law, page 3, add all board member names that agreed – “*Yes*” *Knight, Buehler, Bass, Sokolowski, Olson absent.*” Knight, motion to approve Clerk’s minutes with the changes of July 19 as presented, seconded by Buehler. All in favor,” Yes”, “No,” none. Motion passed.

**Treasurer report, Sokolowski. (A detailed summary of Treasurer comments attached.) Sokolowski**, annual audit conducted by Siegfried & Crandall conducted on August 19. A final report to be provided by end of September. The updated Spam Proposal and Archive Proposal will begin when invoice is paid to Pixelvine. Pixelvine did perform onsite visit on August 11, to access IT needs for township as per agreed July 2022.

**Sokolowski** – As of Jul 31, 2022 – 215 tax bills have been paid totaling \$291,741.57 or 13% of total billed.

**Sokolowski – Broadband Expansion.** Received letter from Jennifer Heinzman, Barry County Chamber and Economic Development Alliance, is looking for communities to “pool” their resources and develop a comprehensive county plan for broadband. Jennifer is requesting what funds each municipality has allocated /earmarked for broadband.

**Sokolowski – Bank Questionnaire** submitted to all our banking partners. This resolution updates past resolution and allows what financial institutions that we can use. Sokolowski, motion to update Resolution 2017-9 to remove Hastings City Bank and substitute with High Point Community Bank and add Lake Michigan Credit Union and Consumers Credit Union. Seconded by Knight. Roll “Yes”, Buehler, Knight, Bass, Sokolowski, Olson. “No” none. Motion past.

**Sokolowski** – Update policy for sale of Township Property or Goods, dated, September 14, 2011. Update policy to add a (3<sup>rd</sup>) option, to donate or dispose of property. Discussion - Olson, example, old voter stations, no value to township. Sokolowski prefers to have these items documented. There is no value to us. No scrap value. Sokolowski, motion to add 3<sup>rd</sup> option to policy to donate or dispose of township property, seconded by Knight. All in favor “Yes”, “No” none. Motion passed.

**Sokolowski – Community Advisory Council & CAC**, Recommendation Form, attached. General discussion. Smelker, what is the reason for the this? Sokolowski in my mind this would give greater community participation than the 3 minutes for public input. It is a volunteer, unpaid position. Bass, I do not see any reason for a consult. Public reaches out to us. VanPolen, with due respect it is the Board’s job. That is what we elected you for. It is great that there is

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community involvement, but if there is a big project, add community. Sokolowski, motion to table Community Advisory Council to September meeting. Seconded by Olson. All in favor, “Yes”, “No” none. Motion passed. Item tabled to next meeting.

**Bill Pay List. Knight**, Any questions? Knight, cleaning invoice. Are we getting their invoices. Olson overlooked – buried in emails. Olson, reached out to supplier. Knight, motion made to pay bills in the amount of \$159,745. Bass seconded. Roll call – Sokolowski, Buehler, Bass, Knight, Olson.

Board Member Comments – Olson, update on election. Board of Canvassers, Irving Township had 619 in person voters. Poll book was good. One (1) write in. AV counting board, 359 voters, no write-ins. No issues with Board of Canvassers.

**Knight**, MEI has sent out letters to some township residents regarding fiber internet services coming August 2022 and completed November 2022. Call 269-623-2311 to be put on list.

**Unfinished business - Land Swap** – Sokolowski – I sent additional documentation to the Board regarding the original transaction, purchase agreement and any conditions that we could not sell the property for \$75,000. I also confirmed with attorney. There are no conditions. Is there any opposition to completing this land swap, otherwise, I would like to make a motion and close it off. We have been talking about this for several months. **Olson**, to refresh the Board, the next step is to meet with landowner, zoning, and surveyor to determine what the property would look like. Sokolowski, I have talked with landowner, the surveyor, and Jim M. I have walked the property with the landowner and surveyor. Sokolowski, for us, once we approve this, we can spend some money to get everything formalized. These next steps costs money. Knight, discussion? Smelker, what would it look like. Rick Olson stated that it would be more toward Woodschool Road. Smelker can the township put into writing that you cannot sell for residential property for 10 years or something like that since it is swap Ag for Ag. Buehler, it was bought for residential. Olson, “No” its use was bought for a new township hall and fire barn back then. Buehler the part that I can not handle is we are basically giving away \$50,000. Sokolowski, we are giving and getting the same amount land for land, Ag for Ag. The assessor report put the assessment for the Wing Road/Woodschool property at a higher rate. Buehler, I get it. Olson, to me that \$75,000 is not useable and this is usable property and finally doing something with the investment for our citizens. Buehler, why are we selling something for less than – Olson/Sokolowski, we are not selling anything, we are trading. Smelker, I would still like to see that there be something that says either party cannot sell the property for residential purposes for say 10 years or 5. Rick Olson, it would be understandable for both parties to not profit from the swap for said period. Smelker, the fact is “Selling” the property. If you “Gave” it to someone that is not “Selling.” Sokolowski, it doesn’t matter to me to put a condition on the property. I believe that would make the township happier; and further, it would be better for us to have the property across the street than down the street.

**Knight**, something else we need to consider, we need ½ of acre for the 911 tower with a drive and access to it. Smelker, and you are “not” selling the ½ acre, right? You are not making money on it right? **Knight**, I did talk with Stephanie Lemman regarding the 911 towers. They are going to give (2) towers to the county. The land on Wing Rd is better suited. Shuford, can you get payback with the cell tower? Knight, have little information. Will have Stephanie Lemman attend next meeting, September 20. She did talk about putting internet, but not cell phone due to signaling conflict. A. Wright, you said something about the towers, how tall? Knight 300’ with a blinking light for airplanes. Olson, so this is ½ acre that the township is going to donate to the county’s 911 program? We are committing to giving away ½ acre? Knight, we have not discussed any monetary exchange. We can discuss when she is here. Olson, that is what John Smelker was asking, not to profit, right ... Smelker, it was my understanding, but I don’t know. Knight, do you know how the agreements work with other municipalities? Smelker, I do not know how it works with other municipalities, but I do

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know they were talking with John Seeber and that was not going to happen on his land. Sokolowski, I do know we need to improve our 911, we may have to donate. Olson, does it require a public hearing? Smelker, I do not know.

**Knight**, I make a motion for Doug Sokolowski to begin the work to swap the properties, Grange/Solomon and Woodschool/Wing Road. Bass seconds. All in favor “Yes”, Sokolowski, Bass, Olson, Knight “No” Buehler.

Public comment – R. VanPolen why some of the Board Meeting Minutes, Verbatium. Lynnette Wingeier attended Great Lakes Energy Meeting. Also, had conversation with MEI. Lynnette Wingeier asked to be internet liaison. (Attached motions already prepared.)

Olson, I make a motion we commission Lynette Wingeier to be a liaison between high-speed internet providers and Irving Township. Buehler seconds. All in favor “Yes”, “No” Bass. Sokolowski, I make a motion to add to the original motion, “and other community efforts” Knight, seconded motion. All in favor “Yes”, “No” Bass.

Sokolowski, I make a motion we reimburse reasonable expenses for Lynette Wingeier to use for expenditures necessary in serving as a liaison for the township. Knight seconded. Roll call, “Yes” Sokolowski, Buehler, Knight, Olson, “No” Bass.

Upcoming dates:

Freeport Fire Meetings, 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, Freeport Fire Station at 7:30 pm.

Next board meeting, September 20, 6:30

Knight, motion to adjourn meeting at 7:29 pm seconded by Sokolowski.

Respectfully prepared for the Clerk,

Lorraine Bush, Deputy Clerk

August 24, 2022