

FINAL – NO CHANGES MADE

## IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

APRIL 16, 2024

3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058

Meeting called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM.

Roll call: Doug Sokolowski, Dean Bass, Jamie Knight, and Mike Buehler present. Also present Shelly Lake, Deputy Clerk. Sharon Olson absent. 9 members of the public in attendance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Knight – remove Rachel Frantz, Recycling Coordinator, from Agenda

Knight – add under “Upcoming Dates”, May 7, 2024 school election

Motion by Knight, support by Buehler, to approve Agenda, as amended. All YES votes. **MOTION PASSED**

### **APPROVAL OF MARCH 2024 MEETING MINUTES**

Knight – pg 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, correct name to reflect “Angie” Solomon

Knight – pg 3, 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph, per L Forbes, remove “Forbes” from 1<sup>st</sup> sentence. Change “met” to “discussed”.

Knight – pg 3, 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph, insert “section of the” to read, “...wants this ordinance for his section of...”

- Motion by Knight, support by Sokolowski, to Approve the March, 2024 Minutes, as amended.  
All YES votes. **MOTION PASSED**

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Trees in the German Cemetery. Received one quote from Hickory Ridge Tree Service to trim pine trees around perimeter of cemetery (per Buehler, only East and South sides included). Quote for \$1,440.00 is to trim 18 trees to 8-10 ft high (\$80/each), chip all brush and clean up/rake affected areas. Discussion: Sokolowski – Do we need to obtain additional quotes? Knight and Buehler – They have done work for us before. Sokolowski asked if invoice would be paid when work is complete, or do we need to add to Bill Pay for Board approval? Knight – we will pay invoice when work is complete.
- Motion by Knight, support by Buehler, to accept the estimate from Hickory Ridge Tree Service in the amount of \$1,440.00 to trim 18 pine trees in the German Cemetery. Roll Call Vote: YES - Knight, Buehler, Sokolowski, Bass. Absent - Olson. NO - None. **MOTION PASSED**

## **REPORTS**

Fire Reports are available at their respective fire departments.

### **Hastings Fire Department**

- Knight summarized Hastings Fire Report. BIRCH had 5 calls in Irving Township

### **Chief Bill Richardson - Thornapple Fire Department**

- Presented his department's fire report.
- They are working on reducing their ISO rating, which directly correlates to the insurance rates of homes covered. Currently at a rating of 6, but think they can get to a rating of 3-4 by working with ISO. Should be a savings to homeowners. Will request to be reevaluated in one year.
- Met with the other Fire Chiefs on a Burn Ordinance. The document is on their website and will be presented to the Board in a few weeks. Working on a consensus between the three departments.

### **Lani Forbes - Freeport Fire Department**

- ISO evaluated Freeport 2-3 years ago. Sokolowski requested a copy of the Freeport ISO report, and Forbes agreed to get a copy to him.
- Received \$10,000 Michigan fire grant
- Provided update on new tanker purchase
- Four fires in Barry County due to heat lamps used for chicks

### **Commissioner Report - Jon Smelker**

- Approved loan for Hastings City Barry County Fair Board for \$100,000, to be paid back \$10,000/year for ten years. Matching funds for \$1.8M grant they have, to build new airport terminal.
- Passed a Resolution in support of the Constitution and the Second Amendment.
- Passed a Resolution to abolish the position of County Surveyor.
- Please see Minutes from County Commissioners Meetings, located on the County website.

### **Cemetery Report**

- Lorraine Bush - There has been an increase in the purchase of burial plots since January.
- April 26th is the Thornapple Kellogg Day of Caring. Motion by Knight, supported by Buehler, to spend no more than \$750.00 on flags to be placed in the cemetery, and headstone cleaning supplies. Roll Call Vote: YES - Knight, Sokolowski, Buehler, Bass. Absent - Olson. NO - None **MOTION PASSED**

### **Treasurer Report – Doug Sokolowski**

- Presented Treasurer Report, which is available for review online and at the Township Hall.
- Ended the fiscal year with **an interest earning of \$47,322** for Irving Township.
- Explained AT&T phone bill overcharge, and negotiated down our normal rate of \$264.79/month to \$54 per month.
- Received two invoices from Thornapple Township Fire Department:
  - 1) Annual ambulance contract renewal in the amount of \$7,617
  - 2) First installment (of six) in the amount of \$12,471.50
  - 3) Motion by Sokolowski, support by Knight, to pay a total of \$20,088.50 for these two invoices.Roll Call Vote: YES - Sokolowski, Knight, Bass, Buehler. Absent - Olson. NO - None **MOTION PASSED**

Knight discussed the new cemetery sign installation. Mike Buehler installed the new sign at the Irving Township Cemetery, saving the township the labor fee of \$550. Buehler asked where to install the

German Cemetery sign, in relation to the existing “Rules” sign. After discussion, it was agreed that Buehler would install the new sign in place of the “Rules” sign, with the plan of updating and creating new rules signage.

#### **PAY BILLS**

- Motion by Knight, support by Bass, to pay bills in the amount of \$6,295.92. Roll Call Vote: YES - Bass, Buehler, Knight, Sokolowski. Absent - Olson, NO - None **MOTION PASSED**

#### **PUBLIC INPUT**

None

#### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Sokolowski – the US Postal Service will allow a reduced postage rate if we are approved Non-Profit (for postage only). Lake – KCI speaker at recent seminar shared the possible savings. Several townships already have this status. We will begin the process of applying for non-profit.
- Knight – Thank you to Frank and Vicki Vining for donating the map located in the hall. Mr. Vining custom built the frame. Irving Township is very appreciative.

Motion by Knight, support by Buehler, to adjourn. All YES votes. **MOTION PASSED**  
Adjourned at 7:04pm

#### **UPCOMING DATES**

May 7, 2024 – Thornapple Kellogg School Election - Polls open 7:00am – 8:00pm  
May 21, 2024 – Irving Township Board Meeting 6:30pm

Minutes prepared by Shelly Lake, Deputy Clerk.