

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

3425 Wing Rd. Hastings, Michigan 49058

Meeting Called to order with the pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 PM

Present: Doug Sokolowski, Jamie Knight, and ~~Mike Buehler~~ Dean Bass. Absent: Sharon Olson and ~~Dean Bass~~ Mike Buehler

Also present were 11 members of the public, Shelly Lake (Deputy Clerk), and Lorraine Bush (Deputy Supervisor)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- Sokolowski – add under New Business – Sheriff Posse and postage request for November 2024 election.
- Motion by Knight, seconded by Bass, to approve the agenda, as amended. All “Yes” votes. **Motion Passed**

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2024 MEETING MINUTES

- Motion by Knight, seconded by Bass, to approve August 20, 2024 Minutes, as presented. All “Yes” votes. **Motion Passed**

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Generator for Township. This was discussed last month. Member of the public commented about conflict of interest with Supervisor Candidate, Dan Lydy, providing bid. Lydy pulled his bid from consideration. Township was ‘dinged’ during insurance audit for not having a generator in place. Bids were presented to three board members presented and all agreed to table this topic. Shelly Lake asked if any ARPA money remained, and Sokolowski answered yes, \$15,533 remains.
- IT Update – Sokolowski provided update (financially and timeline). We are receiving equipment and are under budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- Snowplow quotes – Topic tabled while Buehler obtains additional estimates.
- Air Conditioner for township – discussed where mold was coming from in the hall. Members decided it was likely not from the air conditioner (after Buehler checked it). No action taken at this time.
- Sheriff Posse presence on November 5, 2024 (election day). Motion by Knight, seconded by Sokolowski, to hire two Posse deputies for the hours of 7am-8pm on November 5 at a cost of \$25 per hour per deputy, for a total cost of \$650.00. Roll Call Vote: YES: Knight, Sokolowski, Bass. ABSENT: Buehler, Olson. NO: None **Motion Passed**

- Postage to mail November 2024 Ballots – Motion by Knight, seconded by Sokolowski, to spend \$552.00 for two-ounce stamps to mail absentee ballots for November 2024 Election. Roll Call Vote: YES: Knight, Sokolowski, Bass ABSENT: Buehler, Olson. NO: None **Motion Passed**

REPORTS

- Fire Reports:
 - Lani Forbes presented the Freeport Fire Department report
 - Knight presented the Hastings Fire Department report
 - Knight presented the Thornapple Fire Department report
 - Lani Forbes asked who is sitting on the BIRCH Fire Board. Per Sokolowski, will wait until new Township Board is in place.
 - All Fire Department reports are available at their respective departments.
- Cemetery Report – Lorraine Bush, Deputy Supervisor, provided an update on the two cemeteries in Irving Township. Ten contacts made with the public, and two plot sales. She is working with the Sexton on process improvement. Has added the Sexton’s contact information on the Certificates.
- Commissioner Smelker – Provided update on MidVilla project, Sheriff deputy pay, Transit millage on November ballot

TREASURER REPORT

- Treasurer report was presented to the Board, and is available to the public at the township hall
- Sokolowski - \$5,161 in interest was collected last month from our bank accounts.

BILL PAYMENT

- Motion by Knight, seconded by Bass, to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$218,133.12. Roll call vote: YES: Sokolowski, Bass, Knight. ABSENT: Buehler, Olson NO: None **Motion Passed**

PUBLIC INPUT

Adam Gillen – Conflict of interest (Lydy generator bid), need additional snowplow bids.

Dan Lydy – Withdrawing his generator bid

Will Betit – Comments on generator brands

Lani Forbes – In the future, have bids presented to Board anonymously

Francie Nagel – Suggested doing RFPs for estimates.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Doug Sokolowski – Read letter aloud (attached to Minutes)

UPCOMING DATES

- October 15, 2024 – Township Board Meeting 6:30 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

- Motion made by Knight, seconded by Sokolowski, to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm. All “Yes” votes. **Motion Passed**

Submitted by Shelly Lake, Irving Township Deputy Clerk

DOUGLAS R. SOKOLOWSKI, MSA, PMP

IRVING TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

18 SEPTEMBER 2024

Board of Trustees,

At last month's board meeting Trustee Bass stated: "Hopefully we will have a course correction that will be a little more attentive to what the residents of this community need."

Of course, we have become desensitized to Trustee Bass' rhetoric but that does not mean it should go unchallenged.

Since joining the board over two years ago the following has been accomplished. Small things like adding a second phone line, getting a garbage can at township hall, improving the budgeting process, adopting a Code of Conduct for the Board and ensuring the treasurer's office was open to the public at least two days a week. To the more significant, like improving the cemeteries by proper signage, fixing the cemetery roads and the small building, to completing the land swap, expanding parking spaces and providing additional funds to the fire departments. To the most significant, remodeling the lower and upper floor of township hall and working with our banking partners to increase our monthly returns from about \$150/month to almost \$5000/month.

Our township collects over \$5,000,000 in taxes and operates on over a \$500,000 annual budget. It is implausible to assume that 16% of registered voters represent the community. It is my sincere hope the new board realizes they do not have a decree and resist pressure to make a course correction – our community deserves better.

Sincerely

Douglas R. Sokolowski

