

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2013  
Houghton Township Community Building**

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Supervisor Vivian called the regular meeting to order at 3 P.M.

Trustee Treganowan led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Vivian, Clerk Jones, Treasurer Chase, Trustee Long and Trustee Treganowan.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Tom and Elaine Hall, Mel Jones, and Carol Little

**CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL/ ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

- Approve minutes of November 18, 2013 regular meeting
- Accept financial report
- Approve payment of bills for all funds

General Fund – \$ 2932.85                      Water Fund – \$983.00

- Adopt agenda for today's meeting

Motion by Long, seconded by Chase, to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT** – Two principle residence exemptions were dealt with at the December Board of Review. Carol informed us of a veteran's tax exemption – if they are 100% disabled, they are entitled to a 100% exemption. Four personal property tax exemptions were sent to businesses – Cliff View, Phoenix Store, Vansville and the Eagle River Inn. The township's evaluation that Carol has differs from the county equalization director. These differences have to be worked out.

**WATER DEPARTMENT** – A letter was received from Traverse Engineering. Quotes were given for three options to taking care of the tank problem. Jim has suggested option #3, and Mel said that Doug Pascoe also feels option 3 is the best. Jack feels that the costs of some of the items could be reduced. Doug also suggested that the building be sprayed with insulation at least down to the ground level. Jack questioned installing new pump controls as we have just installed new controls. Mel agreed that new controls were not necessary.

Mel said that there was an electric problem again, but it was taken care of.

Mel, Jim and Jack will meet with Sirtola to discuss costs and procedures for doing the work. These plans then would be given to Dick Supina. Doug felt May was a good time to do this work.

Motion by Treganowan, seconded by Vivian, to proceed with option #3 (four bladder tanks) and contract with Traverse Engineering and Sirtola Well Drilling, Inc to do the work. Motion passed unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING** – Across the state, there are funding issues. Millages may be sought.

**MUSEUM** – The committee is raising money for piano restoration.

**REVISE/REVIEW TOWNSHIP RENTAL AGREEMENT** – Jim will contact the fire marshall to get an accurate number for building capacity on the first floor. Shari presented a revised copy of the rental agreement that the board looked at, discussed, and made a few changes. The document will be considered again at our next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**SHARI'S REPORT** – Schools want us to collect taxes for them again. Shari is drawing up a contract. She has also written a letter to send to potential auditors, and Carol will place an ad in the newspaper.

Motion Vivian, seconded by Long, that Shari be authorized to buy a new printer for the treasurer's office. Motion passed unanimously.

**CLERK – F – 65** - has been sent in.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT** - Jim has attended some meetings concerning zoning. RS – 1 allows trailers for 90 days, but must be hooked up to water and sewer. The final public hearing will be held January 7<sup>th</sup>. Jim would like a recommendation from the township board to the zoning board. Mary asked whether a change for our township would affect other townships.

Motion by Vivian, seconded by Treganowan, that the Houghton Township Board recommend to the county zoning board that, in platted areas, a special use permit be required for placement of RVs, and the time be limited to 4 weeks.

Mary Long – abstain; Shari Chase – abstain; Carol Jones – aye; Jack Treganowan – aye; Jim Vivian – aye. Motion passed.

**BUDGET REVIEW OF ALL FUNDS**

**FLOOR COMMENTS** – Tom will be gone next week, so someone must do snow removal. He has found out about a new ice melter that can be sprayed. Also, the snow blower has been having problems.

Carol Little has suggested two board of review trainings. Board authorized any board of review member to attend.

She also asked about the procedure for land division requests. Currently, the Bants are asking about dividing their lot.

Confirm date for next meeting – Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

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Carol Jones, Clerk  
Houghton Township

-CERTIFICATION-

I, the undersigned, Carol Jones, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Township of Houghton, Keweenaw County, Michigan, DO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December, 2013

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Carol Jones, Clerk  
Houghton Township