

SPECIAL MEETING

MEETING MINUTES HOUGHTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2024

Houghton Township Community Building

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Supervisor Robby Fischer called the special meeting to order at 1:00 pm and led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Robby Fischer, Clerk Wanda Kolb, Treasurer Mary Long, Trustee Tom Hall, Trustee Jim Huovinen

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Dan Steck, Liisa Koljonen, Eric Hermanson (Keweenaw County Treasurer), Mel Jones, Leslie Fisher

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2024: Motion by Tom, seconded Jim to approve the minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

AGENDA: The Notice of Special Meeting served as the agenda for the meeting.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING: Planning and problem solving related to no clerk or treasurer after January 1, 2025.

DISCUSSION:

Mel Jones reported that he has contacted Julie Hamilton who is willing to be the Township Treasurer if a deputy treasurer can be found who will do the work of the Treasurer. Liisa Koljonen was present at the meeting and indicated she would not be available to do the deputy Treasurer's position since she is not trained to do it. She is able to do the Clerk's duties.

Mel Jones is available to do the work of the Clerk as the Deputy Clerk if a Clerk can be named.

Robby reported that he is sending a communication to residents outlining our problem with no clerk or treasurer. This will be done by the end of the week. He also reported that he will be meeting with all Keweenaw County Township Supervisors on December 12 and will discuss our problem of no treasurer or clerk with them. Jim Huovinen suggested that it may be possible for another township treasurer to do the work for our township. Robby will discuss the possibility of this at the Supervisor meeting.

The Board was in agreement that a long-term solution is needed and we should begin discussing annexing with another township. We are told this will take 2-4 years. Wanda was asked to contact the Keweenaw County prosecuting attorney to let him know that we will need to begin this process. Our attorney will also need to be contacted at a later date.

Jim Huovinen will contact our legislators and ask them to research how annexation would occur, what are the steps, how long will it take, how has it been done previously etc. He will also ask if it would be possible for Mel Jones (who was a resident for 40 years and has been a member of the township board) to be named Clerk even though he is no longer a resident.

Motion to Adjourn: Robby made the motion to adjourn at 2 p.m., second by Wanda. Motion passed unanimously.

Next Special Budget meeting on Tuesday, December 10 at 1 p.m.

Next regular meeting – December 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Wanda Kolb, Clerk
Houghton Township

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, Wanda Kolb, the appointed 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 4th day of December, 2024.

Wanda Kolb, Clerk, Houghton Township