

Laird Township Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Supervisor Patrick McLaren called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Supervisor Patrick McLaren, Treasurer Nicole Krajnak, Trustee Patricia Spencer, Trustee John Juntunen and Clerk Robin Henry.

The Minutes of the June 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Trustee Spencer and seconded by Trustee Juntunen to accept the minutes of that meeting. With all in favor, motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed. A motion was made by Trustee Juntunen and supported by Trustee Spencer to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the bills. With all in favor, motion carried.

Fire Department Report – Fire Chief A. Juntunen reported that there was one call out on June 26th for a downed power line on South Laird Road. Security cameras have been installed at the Fire Hall.

Transfer Station Report – Main door on shack needs to be repaired. The bottom hinge is gone. Supervisor McLaren will see that this is done.

Constable Report – Constable Peterson rode along when the dust control was spread. There was nothing else to report.

Public Comment

- Daniel Niemela is running for a seat on the Houghton County Board. He introduced himself and handed out brochures with his contact information.
- Mark Miller offered to paint the backstop at the ball field. The green wood should cure for one year before paint or stain is applied, so this will be kept in mind for next summer.
- Tim Johnston and Heather Williams bought the Alston bar and have officially named it "the Church in the Valley". They are looking for photos of the bar or inside the bar to display.
- J. Ploskonka discussed the Class C (perhaps he meant to say Class A, which allows 500 plants) grow operation that he and Denise would like to develop. It would include a 30'x50' pole barn on 80 acres of property. Much discussion ensued on both sides of this issue.

Old Business:

- Alston Ave. paving project will begin next week. The culvert under Mill Creek will be replaced, which will result in a one-week closure of the road.
- Marijuana Grow Operation – After much discussion, the board took a roll call vote to opt in and allow preparation of an Ordinance. McLaren "no", Henry "no", Krajnak "aye", Juntunen "no", and Spencer "aye". The motion failed. An option was presented to residents to pass a petition to get this on the November ballot this year was presented.
- The ice rink project was finished. J. Ploskonka did a nice job on that and the ballfield for our community. The final payment on the ice rink was paid today.
- Landscaping around the Nisula mausoleum was discussed. A spec sheet was prepared, and Supervisor McLaren will advertise for bids.

New Business:

- The snowmobile in Baraga County would like to connect with Houghton County. Harold Miron from Covington is working with the Baraga County Visitor's Bureau on this. They would like to connect the parking lot at the Church in the Valley to either Hoover Road or South Laird Road. Tim Johnston, owner of Church in the Valley, will contact H. Miron and work on securing this route, if possible.

- Engagement agreement with Foster Swift law firm. If there is a need to secure an attorney to write an ordinance or resolution, we have a proposal from a law firm who has experience with local government issues. The cost will not exceed \$250 per hour. With no immediate need, this issue was tabled.
- August 2, 2022 primary election is being worked on. The election workers who recently went through training and are ready and willing to serve are: Mary K. Smith, Lois Kemppainen, Christal Kemppainen, Sylvia Wentela, Jean Greutz, and Election Supervisor Carolyn LeClaire. A motion was made by Trustee Juntunen, seconded by Supervisor McLaren to appoint the aforementioned workers to work at both the August 2022 Primary and the November 2022 General Elections. With all in favor, motion carried.
- Tractor Races will be held on Saturday, August 27th. B. Tolonen and A. Juntunen are in charge, but Laird Township is sponsoring the event. A motion was made by Clerk Henry, seconded by Trustee Juntunen to donate up to \$200 toward this event. With all in favor, motion carried. Clerk Henry will submit the application for event insurance through Hannula Agency.
- Damaged sign on Hulkonen Road will be repaired by Supervisor McLaren. There is a missing sign on N. Laird Hts. Road. This has been replaced several times. Supervisor McLaren will contact the Houghton County Road Commission to see what can be done about this.

A motion was made by Treasurer Krajnak and seconded by Clerk Henry to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.



Robin A. Henry, Laird Township Clerk