

**Laird Township Board**  
Regular Meeting  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023

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

The Minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Trustee Spencer and seconded by Trustee Juntunen to accept the minutes of the Regular Board 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

- There was one call out to assist with a vehicle that ran into the Nisula Post Office wall.
- The new air compressor will be wired in by J. Juntunen.
- Thank you to the Portage Health Foundation for awarding an AED through a grant applied for by Clerk Henry.

Transfer Station Report – Nothing new to report.

Constable Report

- Constable Peterson is up to date on liquor inspections.
- Horses were loose on M38 due to deer knocking down fencing.
- Snowmobiler(s) in Alston Cemetery is still a problem.
- Someone was uncomfortable because a stranger was walking too close to their residence.

Assessor's Report – The Board of Review met. The State Equalized Value is up 7.1% in total and up 9.8% in Residential. One mill is now worth \$19,816 in revenue.

Houghton County Commissioner Roy Britz was in attendance and briefly discussed the upcoming May 2, 2023 election for the renewal of the Houghton County road millage.

Public Comment:

- Road conditions were the main topic of discussion. Many roads are in need of gravel and having holes and ruts filled in. The board was strongly encouraged to take a ride on gravel roads to fully understand how serious the situation is. Board members agreed to do so. C. Balderrama stated he would like the minutes to note that he will send a Letter of Intent to all board members within 90 days.

Old Business:

Scrap Tire Grant – Supervisor McLaren stated that transportation costs will not be covered by the grant and must be paid by Laird Township. After discussion on whether or not this is a necessary use of township funds this year, a motion was made by Clerk Henry, supported by Trustee Juntunen, not pursue the grant this year. With four in favor and one against, motion carried. The Board will discuss applying for this grant again in 2024.

New Business:

- The museum next to the township hall needs some minor repairs, including one shutter and replacing/repairing a rotten bench. A motion was made by Supervisor McLaren, supported by Trustee Spencer, to put this repair work out for bids. With all in favor, motion carried.
- The grandstand at the ball field needs to be painted. It was suggested that Supervisor McLaren call D. Hebner at the Houghton County Sheriff's Department to see if a work crew is available for this type of work. If not, a motion was made by Supervisor McLaren, seconded by Trustee Spencer to put this job out for bids. The paint has been donated, so the bid would be for labor and supplies. With all in favor, motion carried.
- Removal of outhouse at the recreation area – A motion was made by Trustee Juntunen, seconded by Trustee Spencer to put the removal of the outhouse out for bids and use the rest rooms in the fire hall. With all in favor, motion carried.
- Painting the Transfer Station shelter and removing propane tank from the unvented heater was discussed. LaCourt Gas will drain the propane tank and credit the township for the amount of propane recovered. H. Smith-Grannis offered to paint the shelter herself. A motion was made by Trustee Juntunen, seconded by Trustee Spencer to allow Smith-Grannis to paint the shelter using the same paint we have for the grandstand. With all in favor, motion carried.
- Investment Policy – a sample policy was presented by Clerk Henry and Treasurer Krajnak. The board will review the policy and take action at the May 2023 regular board meeting.
- Dust Control was discussed. A motion was made by Supervisor McLaren, seconded by Trustee Juntunen, to proceed with offering dust control to all Laird Township residents at the same cost structure as last year. With all in favor, motion carried.
- Mowing bids were opened and discussed.
  - Terry Spencer submitted a bid to mow the township hall and museum for \$25 per time per location, and the bid includes mowing and trimming as needed. A motion was made by Supervisor McLaren, supported by Clerk Henry, to award T. Spencer the hall and museum mowing jobs. With all in favor, motion carried.
  - Jeff Ploskonka submitted a bid for the Alston Cemetery mowing for \$180 per mowing, the Nisula Cemetery for \$350 per mowing, and the Ballfield/Recreation Area/Fire Hall for \$220 per mowing. All amounts include trimming each time. A motion was made by Supervisor McLaren, supported by Trustee Juntunen to award J. Ploskonka the Alston Cemetery, Nisula Cemetery, and Ballfield/Recreation Area/Fire Hall mowing jobs. With all in favor, motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor McLaren and seconded by Treasurer Krajnak to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robin A. Henry, Laird Township Clerk