

Laird Township Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday August 14, 2024

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

The Minutes of the July 10, 2024 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Supervisor 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 Clerk Henry to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize payment of the bills. With all in favor, motion carried.

Petitions and Communications: The Houghton County Planning Commission is holding a meeting next Tuesday, August 20th at 4:00 p.m. at the Courthouse. Rep. Markkanen will be leading a discussion on solar power and windmills. Supervisor Spencer will attend and asked if anyone else was interested. J. Ploskonka volunteered to attend as well. Supervisor Spencer will RSVP for both of them.

Fire Department Report: There was one call out on a carbon monoxide alarm. No other activity.

Constable Report: The monthly liquor license inspection for the Church in the Valley was done.

Transfer Station Report: Waste Management picked up both dumpsters with scrap tires and brought them to Marquette. Nothing else to report.

Recreation Committee Report:

- A basketball hoop is up, but an upgrade to a permanent pole is being considered.
- A Farmer's Market is still being planned. The date is yet to be determined. It will be posted on the township Facebook page after next week's Recreation Committee meeting.

Assessor's Report:

- The L-4029 is done. A mil in Laird Township is currently worth \$20,641. A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer, supported by Trustee Juntunen, to accept the L-4029 as presented. Clerk Henry will submit the report to the County Clerk and the Equalization Office.
- There have been 4 new building permits issued so far this year.

Public Comment:

- County Commissioner R. Britz announced that the Red Hen Food & Goods store in Nisula has been approved for a block grant, which is a \$12,000 loan to be paid back over 10 years. This brings our local store one step closer to opening.
- The area near the vault in the Nisula Cemetery is not being mowed. Supervisor Spencer will talk to the contractor in charge of mowing.
- A. Mensch brought up some questions regarding the reprinted centennial book about Laird Township. She questioned whether or not it was legal for an individual to copyright a book that was written by many families, and compiled by a committee. She also asked whether or not families were asked their permission to reprint their stories. Her family received a release of the copyright so that they can still use the photos and verbiage written by her family, but her concern was that others don't know to do that. Copyright infringement is a serious issue. Mensch also asked whether the board knew this was happening, and inquired how much of the \$38 purchase price of the book was going to the township.
- Treasurer Krajnak brought up paying more on the fire hall loan. Chief Juntunen has approved an extra \$5,000 to be paid on the principle with the September payment.

- Assessor Fedie discussed the new Ambulance contract. Laird Township has not received anything new since the millage passed on August 6th. Supervisor Spencer will call G. Wadaga to discuss payment options that may allow us not to levy the extra half mil that was voted upon.
- D. Vandeville has extra copies of the reprinted centennial book, "A View of the Century Past 1887-1987" available for sale. They are also available on Amazon for \$38.

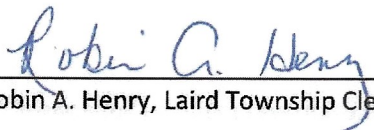
Old Business:

- Scrap Tire dumpsters were hauled away yesterday, August 13, 2024.
- T. Chosa with TC Electric is preparing an estimate for replacing/repairing the electrical system in the township hall. He did a walk-through recently and will submit a bid to be discussed at the September Board Meeting.

New Business:

- Election Results were discussed. Clerk Henry also explained that write-in candidates have to submit paperwork to be official such that votes for them are counted. If anyone would like to run in November as a write-in candidate, they can obtain the paperwork and submit it by October 26, 2024.
- No additional insurance rider is needed for the tractor races this year. A motion was made by Clerk Henry, supported by Supervisor Spencer, to donate \$250 toward the September 7, 2024 Tractor Races, since the \$500 event insurance is no longer necessary. With all in favor, motion carried.
- A Grant Policy was presented by Clerk Henry to the Board. This will ensure that the proper checks and balances are in place when individuals or groups obtain grant funds in the name of Laird Township. It also ensures that all funds and assets generated from any township grant remain the property of Laird Township. A motion was made by Trustee Juntunen, supported by Trustee McGahan, to accept the policy as written. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Spencer, Henry, Krajnak, Juntunen, McGahan. With all in favor, the motion carries and the policy is immediately in effect.

A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer and seconded by Treasurer Krajnak to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.



Robin A. Henry, Laird Township Clerk