

Laird Township Board
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 8, 2025

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

The December 11, 2024 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer and seconded by Treasurer Krajnak 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.

Fire Department Report: There were no call-outs this month.

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

Recreation Committee Report:

- January 10th at 5:00 p.m. is a Snow Shoe at Night event. There will be hot chocolate in the warming shack. Solar lights have been installed, but bring a flashlight, as there are still some dark places.
- Copper Shores reached out to D. Vandeville regarding the grant to repair and update the ice rink and warming shack that she submitted last year on behalf of Laird Township. They may be able to provide funds for the project this year. Supervisor Spencer has set up a meeting with them for 10:00 a.m. on Monday, January 13, 2025.
- The next Recreation Committee meeting will be Monday, January 20, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

Assessor's Report: Three Resolutions need to be adopted for the 660 Audit: Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test – 2025, Assessment Records Access Policy, and Personal Property Annual Canvass Policy.

Ambulance Committee Report:

- R. McGahan provided an update on Bay Ambulance personnel situation. 3 out of 4 candidates passed their Paramedic Exam.
- 2025 Contracts and the need to do long distance transfers will be discussed by BCMH (Baraga County Community Hospital) at the next meeting.
- January 22, 2025 is the next meeting date.

Old Business:

- TC Electric will begin working on the township hall within the next couple of weeks. He will be finished by February 15, 2025.
- The Mike Jylha sign is still in process.

New Business:

- There were three (3) snow plow bids for the Fire Hall & Recreation Area. Clerk Henry made a motion, seconded by Trustee Hiltunen to accept the bid by Paul Peterson at \$50/hour. With all in favor, motion carried.
- Clerk Henry gave an update on possible elections in 2025.

- Resolutions for the 660 Audit for the Assessor were voted on:
 1. A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer, supported by Treasurer Krajnak, to approve the Assessment Records Access Policy.
 - Aye: Spencer, Henry, Krajnak, Juntunen, Hiltunen
 - No: None
 - With all in favor, motion carried.
 2. A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer, supported by Trustee Juntunen to approve the Personal Property Annual Canvass Policy.
 - Aye: Spencer, Henry, Krajnak, Juntunen, Hiltunen
 - No: None
 - With all in favor, motion carried.
 3. A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer, supported by Trustee Juntunen, to approve Resolution #2025-01, Laird Twp. Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test – 2025.
 - Aye: Spencer, Henry, Krajnak, Juntunen, Hiltunen
 - No: None
 - With all in favor, motion carried.
- Clerk Henry discussed hiring a new auditor. Greg Soule from Andrews Hooper Pavlik, PC. Submitted a bid for \$12,000 to complete the 3/31/2025 biennial audit as well as the annual F-65. Several auditors were contacted, and only one quote was submitted. A motion was made by Supervisor Spencer, seconded by Treasurer Krajnak to approve hiring Mr. Soule. With all in favor, motion carried.
- D. Vandeville had two items to discuss:
 - The final grant report for the Centennial book was submitted to the Finlandia Foundation. A copy will be sent to Supervisor Spencer for the township file.
 - A letter was read into public record. A copy of the letter in full is attached to these minutes.
- J. Ploskonka had questions and comments for board members.
 - Clerk Henry was told that her duty is to take clear and accurate minutes. In past minutes, rebuttals to comments were not included.
 - Clerk Henry was told not to send any emails to D. Vandeville.
 - Clerk Henry was asked why she is sending tax information when that should be the job of the Treasurer.
 - With Clerk Henry not responding to questions, Mr. Ploskonka was asked by Supervisor Spencer to submit his questions in writing.
 - Treasurer Krajnak was asked if she is related to Z. Hulkkonen, and questioned whether or not she abstains from votes that pertain to him.

A motion was made by Trustee Hiltunen and seconded by Trustee Juntunen to adjourn the meeting. With all in favor, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Robin A. Henry, Laird Township Clerk

Denise Vandeville

vandevilleconsulting@gmail.com 906-370-5024 24501 Alston Av, Pelkie MI 49958

January 8, 2025

Laird Township Supervisor
24295 Alston Rd
Pelkie, MI 49958

Patricia Spencer:

It is time to come before the Laird Township Board and request that your malicious behavior end, and that, as a Board, you reflect upon your responsibilities as trusted elected officials, here to serve our community.

Public officials have a duty to maintain the trust of their constituents. They must:

1. **Avoid False Statements:** Refrain from making unfounded or false claims about individuals or groups.
2. **Exercise Caution in Public Speech:** Ensure that their public statements are accurate and not misleading.
3. **Act with Integrity:** Demonstrate honesty and uphold ethical standards in all forms of communication.
4. **Respect Free Speech Boundaries:** While they have the right to express opinions, they must not cross into defamation, which can harm others' reputations unjustly.

Defamation is a false statement presented as a fact that causes harm to someone's reputation. It can be classified into two types:

- **Slander:** Defamation in a temporary form, typically spoken words. The Laird Township Treasurer slandered me 3 separate times at the December 2024 meeting. On the videotaped evidence, when the Laird Centennial book was brought up, the Township Treasurer publicly stated from her position as a board member, that I stole the book from the community and the board. It is not true and she has been repeatedly told this fact.
- **Libel:** Defamation in a permanent form, such as written or in published material. The Laird Township Clerk has continually published biased minutes (August, September and possibly December 2024) that present an incorrect narrative, which also implies that I have stolen from the community and committed copyright offenses. The Laird Township Board voted to approve these incorrect representations, even after I pointed out the mistake and how it reflected on my reputation. These actions further perpetuate the defamation by voting to make it part of the permanent historical record.

Because I am an academic and spent my career as a college Dean, the accusations of intellectual theft are acutely directed to cause as much reputational damage as possible. After careful consideration, reflection, and consultation with a lawyer, I am formally requesting four things:

1. **A correction** of the historically inaccurate minutes that the Board refused to amend.
2. **A written apology** by the Board of Laird Township for the above listed repeated defamation, posted on the Laird Township website and Laird Township Happenings Facebook page, and left posted for a period of no less than 6 months.
3. **Resignation of the Laird Township Treasurer**, Nicole Krajnak, for the repeated defamation by slander, as listed but not limited to, the above.
4. **Resignation of the Laird Township Clerk**, Robin Henry, for the repeated defamation by libel, as listed but not limited to, the above.

Each of these remedies will be expected to be completed by one week from the January 8, 2025 Laird Township meeting, end of business day, January 15, 2025.

If you refuse to remedy this situation and choose to deny these aforementioned requests, I will want that official refusal in writing by the January 15 deadline.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Denise', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Denise Vandeville