

**SPALDING TOWNSHIP**

**These minutes are unapproved.**

**POWERS, MI**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Moraska at 6:30 p.m. The following boards members were present: Jim Moraska, Jerry Bartnicki, Connie Wells, Chris LeBoeuf, and Kevin LaBonte. Guest included: Jerry Kleiman, Dan Hammerberg, Jim Nowack, Leon Felch, Randy Viau, Jodi Peterson, Chris Peterson, John Liegeois, Becca Liegeois, Wendy Granquist, Don Stimpson, and Larry Johnson Jr.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None given.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW OFFICERS:** Jim Moraska swore in the newly elected Township Clerk, Connie Wells. Connie then swore in all newly elected and appointed officials. They are as follows: Supervisor, Jim Moraska, Deputy Supervisor, Dan Hammerberg, Treasurer, Jerry Bartnicki, Deputy Treasurer, Wendy Granquist, Deputy Clerk, Jodi Peterson, Trustee, Chris LeBoeuf, Trustee, Keven LaBonte, and Constable, Dan Hammerberg.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chris made a motion to approve the agenda with Connie supporting. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from October's meeting with Kevin supporting. Motion carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Connie reported that our Township had a total of 778 voters vote in the November 5<sup>th</sup> General Election that is 57.2% of our registered voters. Of that number, 305 were Absentee Voters with 321 ballots being mailed out. That is a 95% return rate on AV ballots.

Connie also discussed the difficulty experienced by the service of the United States Post Office. There has been a significant cut in funding that supports the Upper Peninsula's service.

Connie complimented the dedication of service of all the election workers for our Township.

**FINANCIAL/TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jerry presented handouts showing the Township's monthly balances (check register), breaking down accounts, cash summary and balance sheets. Chris made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report with Connie supporting. Motion carried.

**LIQUOR REPORT:** All is well in both taverns and the grocery store.

**FIRE REPORT/FIRE CHIEF & FIRE DEPARTMENT:** The department responded to two calls that lasted one hour and 17 minutes. (one call was cancelled enroute) with an average number of 4 members responding. The total amount of damages was \$0.

There was one regular meeting with ten members present.

There was one training meeting with 5 members present.

There was no work meeting this month.

There was no equipment repaired and/or improved.

The 2023 AFG Grant was not awarded. The Spring 2024 Hannahville Grant was approved. The WE Energies grant has been applied for. It will be used to purchase CPR mannequins. We did apply for the 2024 AFG Grant. If awarded, it will be used to purchase new tanker and air packs.

Dan explained the need to purchase new Draeger packs for the department. The cost of one pack with bottle is \$9850.00. Dan requested that we use Township funds to purchase six packs/bottles that will last 30 years. The cost will be \$59,100.00. Jim made a motion to purchase the packs with Chris supporting. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY/PARK REPORT:** Jerry has marked out area for 12 headstones. There have been several burials. Jerry will keep burial work going until the ground is frozen.

The park picnic tables are still in the campground. Jim will be removing them for storage soon.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** The warrant has been signed for winter taxes. They will be delivered on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Appraisal studies are in. We have projected ratios for next year. The increases are as follows: 26.5% increase for agricultural property, 17% increase for commercial property, 31% increase for residential property and a 2% increase for industrial property.

Leon Felch will attend the MTA Christmas party scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup>. He will provide a gift donation on behalf of the Township.

**SHERIFF'S REPORT:** None given.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**HANNAHVILLE GRANT:** Jim Moraska thanked Mr. Rich Sexton for his assistance in filling out the grant paperwork. If awarded, the money will be used to put gravel on the cemetery road the first year, and then on the park road the following year.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**CHARGES FOR ASSESSOR TO SHARE RECORD CARDS:** A discussion ensued regarding the Assessor's charges to share Record Cards. At the end of the discussion, the board decided to support Mr. Felch charging \$10.00 per Record Card if it is for property other than the owner's. Chris made a motion to accept this with Kevin supporting. Motion carried.

**DON STIMPSON BLITE:** The Township has received complaints regarding this property. There was a long discussion between Mr. Stimpson and the Board. The Board table this item until we hear further from the building inspector.

**MOTION TO PAY THE BILLS (ROLL CALL VOTE):** Chris made a motion to pay the bills with Jerry supporting. Roll call vote: Chris, yes, Kevin, yes, Jim, yes, Connie, yes, Jerry, yes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The Road Commission will be hosting meeting in the middle of December for all Supervisor throughout the County. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the ramifications of the new road millage.

Jim Nowack provided a list of proposed improvement for the Veteran's Park for the 2025 Calendar year.

Don Stimpson inquired as to whether or not the Fire Department could use his house for training purposes.

**ANY OTHER COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE TOWNSHIP:** None given.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Connie made a motion to adjourn with Chris supporting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM CST.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Wells, Township Clerk