

SPALDING TOWNSHIP

These minutes are unapproved.

POWERS, MI

DECEMBER 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Moraska at 6:30 p.m. The following board members were present: Jim Moraska, Jerry Bartnicki, Connie Wells, Chris LeBoeuf, and Kevin LaBonte. Guests included: Jerry Kleiman, Dan Hammerberg, Leon Felch, and Noah & Tearsa VanEnkevort.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Jim Moraska made a public apology to Jim Nowack for comments he spoke at the October Township Board meeting.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes with Chris supporting. Motion carried.

CLERKS REPORT: Connie gave an update from the latest County Clerk's Quarterly meeting held on December 10, 2024. Some highlights included: introductions of newly elected clerks, updates on training, possible audits, security and emergency response plans. Election grants available and possible election dates for 2025. We were also given an updated list of 2025 meeting dates.

The Absentee Ballot Drop Box has been moved to the interior of the Township Hall until our next Election Date is set.

FINANCIAL/TREASURER'S REPORT: Jerry presented handouts showing the Township's monthly balances (check register), breaking down accounts, cash summary and balance sheets. Connie made a motion to accept the report with Jim 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 a total of 2 hours and 41 minutes with an average number of three volunteers responding. The total dollars lost was \$0.

There was one regular meeting with 11 members present.

There was one training meeting with 4 members present.

There was a Menominee County Fire Chief's meeting held on November 25th.

There was a work meeting held on December 11th with 3 members present.

Equipment repaired and/or improved: a water tank was removed from Ranger 7, Ranger 7 was run, and a roof was installed on Ranger 8.

The department applied for a WE Energies Grant that will be used for CPR mannequins. Heidi is working on getting the mannequins ordered.

The 2024 AFG Grant is being worked on. If awarded, it will be used to replace Tanker #3.

The Fire Department Annual Christmas Party is tentatively set for January 18th. Once this date is solidified, invites will be sent out.

CEMETERY/PARK REPORT: Cemetery work has been wrapped up for the winter. There was no park report.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: The Winter Tax Bills have been sent out. There have been numerous inquires to our Treasurer and Assessor regarding the rate increases.

Based on a recent Equalization/Appraisal Study performed by the Equalization Department, there have been tax increases over the course of 4 years that total: 78.7 % for Agriculture, 94.7% for Commercial property, 416.6% for Industrial Property, and 46. 4% for Residential Property.

We have recently had many buildings within our Township deemed as Class S (cold storage, steel supported buildings) that may be considered deep hole buildings.

Leon reported that he currently has 15 splits of property on his docket.

OLD BUSINESS

HANNAVILLE GRANT: The Township has been awarded this grant. It will be used for road gravel for the Cemetery.

DON STIMPSON BLITE: Jim contacted the DEQ, the Health Department and the Building Inspector. The property can not be condemned at this time as some improvements have been made. Currently there is no legal action that can be taken.

NEW BUSINESS

ROAD COMMISSION/SUPERVISOR'S MEETING: This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 19th at 1:00 p.m. Jim will be attending.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Dan thanked Jerry for catching a correspondence from a downstate Law Firm that was meant for the Spaulding Township Fire Department (a department also downstate) that was accidentally sent to us.

Jerry Kleiman stated that he will remain our Cemetery Sexton for the 2025 season.

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

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chris made a motion to adjourn with Jerry supporting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM CST

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Wells, Township Clerk