

**SPALDING TOWNSHIP**

**These minutes are unapproved.**

**POWERS, MI**

**FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by supervisor Moraska at 6:30 p.m. The following members were present: Jim Moraska, Jerry Bartnicki, Connie Wells, Chris LeBoeuf, and Kevin LaBonte. Guests included: Leon Felch, Dan Hammerberg, Gary Eichorn, Larry Johnson, and Jerry Kleiman.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** A concerned citizen made statements with respect to correspondence he has been receiving regarding the County Administrator and the Equalization Director. Once again, a long discussion ensued regarding the dramatic increase in taxes in Spalding Township and other Townships. Another citizen expressed deep concern over the inaction regarding this topic.

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

**CLERK'S REPORT:** We just completed a draft of the 2025-26 budget. It is ready for review and any changes if needed. I am purchasing a new laptop that will be upgraded and meets the specifications for epollbook. The cost incurred for this laptop will be reimbursed by the State of Michigan.

We recently received a reimbursement from the State in the amount of \$3110.00 for the costs incurred from the purchase of the camera system and installation of the drop box.

**FINANCIAL/TREASURER'S REPORT:** Jerry presented handouts showing the Township's monthly balances (check register), breaking down accounts, cash summary and balance sheets. Kevin made a motion to accept the Treasurer's 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 one call that lasted 2.5 hours with 6 members responding.

There was one training meeting on Air Packs, MSA Meter, response guidelines and refilling air bottles. Nine members were present.

There was a Menominee County Fire Chief's Association meeting on January 30<sup>th</sup>. Our Fire Chief attended.

There was one work meeting with six members present.

Equipment repaired and/or improved: small equipment was run, batteries were replaced in ET2, the battery in Utility 6 was replaced, and the Draeger air packs were replaced. The department is waiting on an award announcement for the 2024 AFG Grant. Our Fire Chief gave a report on the annual Recognition Dinner where four individuals were recognized for years of service and expressed his thanks to the Township for their support.

**CEMETERY/PARK REPORT:** Our Sexton reported that there are three Spring burials coming up.

**ASSESSOR'S REPORT:** Personal Property Statement deadline is February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Notices of Assessment will be sent out two weeks before our Board of Review dates.

Land Value and ECF's (Economic Condition Factors) have all been calculated. The Board of Review dates are set for March 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-9:00 p.m. and March 13<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. These dates and times will be published in the Luft's Advertiser.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**REPORT ON ROAD COMMISSION MEETING:** Three members of our board met with the County Road Commission Head Engineer to highlight road improvement projects. They include: 1.) Veeseer School Road – lift and gravel for one mile. 2.) 36 ½ Mile Road – lift and gravel for about ¼ mile. 3.) North/South Swamp Road will be graveled for one mile. 4.) County Road 563 toward the 400 Road will have the shoulders fixed with a lift to fix water drainage issues.

The estimated cost to fix Spring Green Road is \$750,000.

**PARK BATHROOM REPAIR QUOTE:** The Township received a quote from Schultz Remodeling and Handyman Repairs to repair the park bathroom in the amount of \$3375.68. Since this bathroom is located by a trailhead, it qualifies for a DNR grant for the amount of \$2500.00.

**FIRE RING QUOTES:** The Township received two quotes for purchasing fire rings for the park. Kevin made a motion to purchase six rings at a cost of \$108.00 each from Superior Welding with Chris supporting. Motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2025-2026:** Mr. Moraska presented the proposed budget for the upcoming year. A short discussion ensued regarding changes.

**BOARD OF REVIEW DATES MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> 3-9 PM MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup> 9 AM – 3 PM:** The Board of Review will meet these two dates. It is posted on the Township Hall doors and these dates will be published in the Luft's Advertiser.

**ADJUST FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT FOR USE LINE 206-000-980-001:** The Clerk will perform a Batch Budget Amendment of the current budget in the amount of \$58,044.00 for the purchase of Air Packs for the Fire Department. Kevin made a motion to approve this change with Connie supporting.

**LETTER FROM NORTHERN INITIATIVES ON RFL (REVOLVING LOAN FUND):** The Township received a letter from Northern Initiatives stating that we have money available for loans. The deadline to borrow is June.

**LETTER FROM UPSET:** The Township received a letter from the Upper Peninsula Substance Enforcement Team requesting money. The board decided not to donate.

**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:** A guest inquired about the approval status of our meeting minutes on the Township website. Connie stated that all our minutes have been approved, and she would get the minutes in question corrected.

Another guest stated that we have a new Executive Director of the Menominee Business Development Corporation. Her name is Lexie Hagan. He also went over the commercial/industrial sales in our Township and offered an explanation on the land values in the agricultural class.

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

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:** Chris made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Jim supporting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Connie Wells, Township Clerk