

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THE TOWNSHIP HALL
JANUARY 3, 2024 AT 7:00 PM

Call to order- 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call- Tester, Bunting, Huff, Laper, Shick.

Approval of Minutes- December 2023 – Motion Tester, 2nd Laper. Approved 5-0

Approval of Agenda- Tester requests to add Tamarack Library. Put after public comment. Shick to add board comments after public comment at the end of meeting. Motion Tester, 2nd Bunting. Approved 5-0

Public Comments- No comments

Tamarack Library-update on last fiscal year. Bond pay off early. Improvements at library. Saving for a bookmobile, survey on line.

Reports- Treasure- 2 payments had to be paid before the end of the year- Foster Swift and New furnace installation. Check for Printer on Decembers bills paid will be voided, new printer is in and running, old printer will be removed. Motion Tester, 2nd Shick. Approved 5-0.

Additional items- BSNA software-price increase \$10,495, not including yearly service of \$6695. Require \$1900 pay down when sign agreement, and increase of price. Motion Bunting, 2nd Tester-rollcall Huff, Bunting, Tester, Laper, Shick. Approved 5-0. Approve income and asset standards to eligible for a poverty exemption- Motion Shick ,2nd Bunting. Rollcall- Bunting, Tester, Shick, Laper, Huff. Approved 5-0. Resolution to adopt taxpayers & non-resident taxpayers to protest in writing by letter or email for Board of Review. Motion Shick, 2nd Bunting. Rollcall- Huff, Laper, Shick, Tester, Bunting. Approved 5-0. Resolution to adopt alternated start dates for march 2024, July 2024 and December 2024 Board of Review. Motion Laper, 2nd Tester. Rollcall Shick, Laper, Huff, Tester, Bunting. Approved 5-0. Shick reminds that that ZBA volunteers require training speak with Shick if you are interested in joining ZBA.

Clerk- expenses- Spent \$13,706.89 Motion Laper, 2nd Tester. Approve 5-0

Tester- PC report-Checked on lights on Towers- Lights are placed under special use so they cannot be changed. Planning Commission interested in going with 6 meeting a year

instead of 4 so they could get caught up on ordinances. Eric wants to have March meeting, during this budget. Laper suggested Amend the budget to cover cost but it could be paid out of special meeting. Motion Tester, 2nd Laper. Rollcall- Huff, Bunting, Shick, Tester, Laper. Approved 5-0. Comment- Shick-Tester on PC is to bring official business to the Township Board.

Bunting- Fire meeting none past month. ZBA pole barn variance passed. Talked to Jeremy Tiffany- Might want to put some type of fencing around new furnace to protect it from lawnmower hitting it with rocks.

Kelsey- Zoning- Land division, denied permit, court date for blight, compliant filed and following up.

Supervisor-Handout on Isabella wind payments, is looking into. Foie Requests-we did not have info at our office so informed request to go to County. If you have questions about absentee ballot, please speak with us at the office.

Old Business: ARPA money updates- Huff- Meeting tables still being researched. Laper-\$82,000 from state needs to be distributed by 2025. We have more from county but not time limits on that. Bunting asked about generator-ordered but 9-month lead time. Leaves us with \$60,000 after generator purchase. Parking lot and possible roads next. Shick has copies of Budget update on what is spent and what is left for the rest of the fiscal year. Shick- Conferences- Huff signed up-Shick working on her schedule.

New business- Set up Budget workshop in March. Request to vacate a walk way- requires resolution by Board. Motion Huff, 2nd Tester. Rollcall-Huff, Laper, Shick, Tester, Bunting. Approved 5-0. Planning Commission-Baldwin agreed to 1 year- Motion-Shick, 2nd Huff. Rollcall-Bunting, Tester, Shick, Laper, Huff. Approved 5-0. Fire department merger.

Stanton Fire Department and Sheridan fire Authority Merger being proposed. Chief Brasington- Stanton Fire, Brandon Stowell- Sheridan Fire. Sheridan created Fire Authority last year. Wants to combine local fire department under one fire authority. Every station would stay where they are but they would be under one Department. Money would be from Fire Authority Millage not each Township millage. Every township would have 1 person on the Board. Would also attempt to recoup some of the expensed from fire dept call outs. Township would have to sign on- would like to get commitment by May 2024 because they would need to put a millage on the August Ballot. Shick has more questions she would like to have answered and Board would like to hear from the citizens. We could not have a public hearing till at least the end of February, and board would want to bring this to the citizens for discussion. More information is needed by the board. Will we still have coverage if we do not sign on to the Authority, Stowell said we would still have coverage. Board has decided to table matter till February Meeting. Motion Laper, 2nd Tester. Rollcall-Huff, Laper, Shick, Tester, Bunting. Approved 5-0. Road commission-discussion to work up actual cost, decided to have all road suggested costs worked

up. Motion Laper, 2nd Tester. Rollcall-Bunting, Tester, Huff, Laper, Shick. Approved 5-0. Parking Lot costs worked up- Motion Shick, 2nd Tester. Rollcall Bunting, Huff, Laper, Shick. Tester. Approved 5-0.

Sewer system around Clifford Lake. Study contracted by the Spicer Group. Covid put it on hold. Spicer Group returned \$978 to Douglass Township that was intended for the study. Clifford Lake assoc. would like to have the contribution returned so that can continue the study. Dickerson Lake is also investigating the Sewer system. If Stanton, Dickerson, and Clifford would install sewer system together, cost would be lower. Septic systems around the lakes are older and some must resort to holding tank and pumping. Not sure what Spicer is going to charge for complete study it was decided to table to next month. Motion Shick, 2nd Tester. Rollcall-Bunting, Huff, Laper, Tester, Shick. Approved 5-0.

Announcements-Next Meeting February 7th, 2024. Board of review volunteers. Clean up date April 27, 2024. Bunting will not be able to make next months meeting-work commitment.

Public comment- Election training, wind and solar
Fire authority questions. People to volunteer for election.
If sewer goes in- possible sewer authority created.
Are they going to get more than one estimate
Concerns about cost of sewer install and monthly payment for sewer.
Likes the idea of fire department authority.
What is the process for updating when resident files a complaint.

Board comments- None

Adjourned - Motion- Tester, 2nd Bunting. Approved 5-0 8:55pm