

Eden Township Board Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024

Roger Nash called the meeting to order with Sally Wittlieff, Joe Stickney and Brenda Carr present. Julie Van Dyke present by telephone.

The minutes from the November 21 board meeting were approved with Sally making the motion, Joe in support, motion carried.

Sally presented the December-January Financial Reports, Roger motioned to accept the financial report, Joe with support. Motion carried.

Nancy Vandervest presented BOR dates: Organization Mtg. March 5 at 8 am and hearings dates March 11 & 12 1:30-7:30 pm, and July 16 & December 10 at 8 am (if needed). Sally motioned to accept all BOR dates, Brenda with support, motion carried.

Nancy presented the Poverty Exemption: Board approved application and set the asset test at \$75,000. Roger motioned to accept, Joe with support, motion carried.

Nancy presented the Consumer Price Index (Set by State of Michigan) will be 5% for 2024; two years in a row that the CPI is the max. at 5%.

The Resolution to allow local residents to protest to BOR of writing was approved. Sally motioned to accept, Joe with support, motion carried. Roll Call: Roger, Sally, Joe, Brenda & Julie all in favor.

Increases in the following property classes for 2024:

Residential - 14% in State Equalized Values

Agricultural - 11% in State Equalized Values.

Personal property statements have been mailed and assessment change notices will be mailed the end of Feb.

Steve Hull gave an update on behalf of the County Commissioners.

Dave Cox presented his wedding/event venue business on South Eden Lake Road and asked if the township had extra money to help improve the road, south of Anthony and Anthony & Sippy as well.

Budget Discussion: Julie recommended increasing the election expense line item from \$6000 to \$6500 to cover the extra cost of staffing the collaborative 9 days of early voting. Julie recommended increasing our hall rental fee, especially in the winter to cover heat, cleaning & cleaning supplies and plowing costs. New verbiage to hall rental agreement: The rental fee for township residents is \$85.00 per day with a \$100.00 security deposit. Non-residents is \$125.00 per day with a \$200.00 security deposit. The security deposit must be paid with a separate check or cash to be returned once an inspection of the property is made upon commencement of the rental period. If snow plowing of the parking lot is necessary during the rental period, the renter is responsible for the \$100 plow fee paid directly to the plow service, or may choose to handle snow removal themselves. Roger motioned to support, Sally with support, motion carried.

Roger recommended that we use ARPA funds toward updating the hall to potentially include: New sign at corner of Custer/Hawley Roads, New posting sign in front of hall, roof, flooring, paint doors, addition of wainscoting to protect walls, removal of old kitchen cabinets and extend cabinetry along wall.

Approval of preliminary budget with increases to hall rental income and election expenses. **The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.** Julie made the motion, Sally with support, motion carried.

Roger discussed fixing Darr Road bridge, EGLE meeting is rescheduled to the spring to discuss options. Wishlist is due to the MCRC soon, Roger will ask that Eden Lake Road south of Anthony is made a priority.

Julie provided the November 21-January 30 Transaction List of bills to be paid. Roger made the motion to pay bills upon inspection, Sally with the support, motion carried.

Sally made the motion to adjourn, Joe with the support, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Next board meeting is March 26 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Julie Van Dyke