

TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

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Supervisor: David Blake-Thomas
Clerk: David Hillman
Treasurer: Laura Sindles
Trustee: Laura Simpson
Trustee: Gary Loomis

Township Board Meeting, October 10, 2023 Minutes

Attendance: 16

The meeting at the Township Hall was called to order at 6:30 PM by Supervisor Blake-Thomas. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call of Board Members; Supervisor Blake-Thomas, Treasurer Sindles, Trustee Loomis, Trustee Simpson, and Clerk Hillman were present. A quorum of the Township Board was in attendance.

1. **Motion** by Trustee Simpson to approve the general meeting minutes of September 12, 2023, as written. Seconded by Trustee Loomis. Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Public Comments: None

Clerk Report: David Hillman, Clerk

1. Detailed expense report dated October 9, 2023 for items totaling \$10,549.34 was presented.
2. Attended CCRC bi-weekly meeting. Requested road repair to Wegwaas and city street.
3. Attended Early Voting (EV) seminar in Escanaba on Proposition 2022-2 changes.
4. **Motion** by Treasurer Sindles to spend up to \$1000 for an upgrade to the video monitor system to cover the Early Voting dropbox. Seconded by Trustee Simpson Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
5. **Motion** by Trustee Loomis to accept the Clerk's report. Seconded by Treasurer Sindles Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasure Report: Laura Sindles, Treasurer

1. Bank balance report dated September 30, 2023 with a total of \$701,278.16 was presented.
2. **Motion** by Clerk Hillman to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Trustee Simpson Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Fire Department Report: John Clark, Fire Chief

1. One run for the month of August and the NFIRS Fire Report was entered for the month
2. Fire Department meeting with Mark Conroy, Dave Sharp, Rod Butson, Eric Butson, Dennis McGowan, Brian McMillan, and John Clark present. Topped off fuel in all vehicles.
3. Installing smoke detectors at township residences. Need a detector in your house call 906-203-0621.
4. DNR grant for Mark Conroy's turnout gear still pending.
5. Check the DNR website for open burning restrictions.
6. If interested in joining the Fire Department, please contact John Clark 906-203-0621.
7. **Motion** by Trustee Loomis to accept the Fire Department report. Seconded by Trustee Simpson Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously**

Straits Area EMS Report: Supervisor Blake-Thomas

1. Five ambulance calls to Trout Lake since the last meeting.
2. Construction of walls and trusses completed on the new St. Ignace ambulance building.
3. Expected to pass a 2 Mil levy for 2024 due to building costs related to finance arrangements.
4. **Motion** by Trustee Simpson to accept the EMS report. Seconded by Treasurer Sindles Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously**

Park Report: Supervisor Blake-Thomas

1. Fall Fest was successful despite inclement weather. Thanks to Brian and Mary McMillan, Steve and Sue Hagen, Jan Chambers, Chavon McKerchie, Tammy Barnette, John Strait, Bob and Annie VanDyke, Jeff and Laura Sindles, Dave Hillman, Crystal Schwesinger, and all the campers that participated.
2. Park to remain open, weather permitting, into November to accommodate internet installation crew.
3. Reservations this year are projected to set a record exceeding \$100,000 in revenue.
4. Upcoming project: re-siding of the park office.
5. **Motion** by Trustee Simpson to accept the park report. Seconded by Trustee Loomis Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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Old Business:

1. Highline reports that almost everyone should be connected to fiber internet before end of construction season this year. The Rock Hill area may be the exception and could be pushed to next year.
2. Authority to spend public funds for a private service installation of high speed fiber internet was not established so the proposal is not being pursued at this time.

New Business:

1. **Motion** by Supervisor Blake-Thomas to approve Dowd Land Division Resolution 2023-05. Seconded by Trustee Simpson Voice vote: All yes with no 'Nay' votes. **Motion carried unanimously.**
2. April 24, 2024 is the deadline for candidates to apply for Trout Lake Township board positions that will be on the November 2024 election ballot. Application paperwork will be available upon request.
3. Flu Shot Clinic being offered again this fall at the Township Hall. Watch for the schedule.
4. A new recycling trailer is being made available soon that will accommodate cardboard.

Public Comment:

1. The Trout Lake Historical Society, a local non-profit, has set up a display in the Christ Chapel building in Trout Lake. They are looking for members and volunteers. Thanks to the Sault Tribe for a grant to help establish the organization.

Board Comments:

Trustee Loomis: Fire department response to the car fire was outstanding. Noted progress in getting the local hotel ready for use.


Clerk Hillman: Outdoor pickleball has ended. Indoor pickleball may begin soon at the local school building gymnasium owned by Rich and Brenda.

Supervisor Blake-Thomas: Squeek and John VanDyke often expressed their joy in living in Trout Lake due to a strong sense of community and the help that was freely given to each other. A large effort was made to help the transition out of the Lodge as they will not be returning. Thanks to Laurie Simpson, John and Joanne Haas, Al and Deb Armstrong, Al and Kathy English, Cal Mills, Norman Mills, and Angela and Jerry Thaier.

Motion made by Supervisor Blake-Thomas to pay the bills as submitted by Clerk Hillman. Seconded by Trustee Loomis. The motion approved unanimously by the Board Members in attendance with a voice vote.

Supervisor Blake-Thomas motioned to adjourned the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



David Hillman
Trout Lake Township Clerk