

TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

PO Box 215
Trout Lake, MI 49793
906-569-3291(P)
906-569-3772 (F)

Supervisor: Helen Fischer
Clerk: Kathleen A. English
Treasurer: Pam Barrett
Trustee: Laura Simpson
Trustee: John Clark

Township Board Meeting, May 12, 2020, Minutes, *Draft pending Board Approval June 9, 2020.*

Attendance: Meeting was held in person at the Township Hall as well as by telephone conference. Attendance was not recorded.

Meeting called to order at 1829, by Supervisor Fischer, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Board Members present: Helen Fischer, Kathy English (via telephone), John Clark, Laura Simpson and Pam Barrett. A quorum of the Township Board was in attendance.

Motion made by Supervisor Fischer, seconded by Trustee Clark, to approve the minutes of March 10, 2020, as written. Motion approved unanimously. The April 2020 meeting was cancelled related to the COVID19 Pandemic and the Governor's Executive Orders regarding in person meetings.

Public Comments:

1. The Pride Committee Pig Roast has been cancelled for Memorial Weekend.
2. A new flag has been raised at the MiniPark, donated by Dave & Mary Sharp.

Clerk Report: Kathy English, Clerk. Financial report received.

1. As the agreement/contract with Straits Area Emergency Services has been signed, a representative to the Straits Area Emergency Services Board needs to be appointed. Supervisor Fischer made a motion recommending John Clark, who stated he would prefer to be an alternate related to meeting expectations. Therefore, Supervisor Fischer made an amended motion recommending David Blake-Thomas as the Trout Lake Township representative, with John Clark as alternate, seconded by Clerk English. Motion approved unanimously.
2. An invoice has been received from the Chippewa County Road Commission requiring the payment of 50% of the project by the end of the month for \$45,472.50. The revised estimated cost of the repairs for S. Birch St. between W. Front & W. Main, W. Front St. between Evergreen Rd & Trout Lake Rd., W. Main St. between M-123 & W. Front St., & Evergreen Rd. between Front St. & Main St. is estimated at \$108,141.00. Discussion ensued related to the lack of a signed contract, as well as issues related to changes in costs. The current cost is stated as being 48% higher than the original quote/contract which was rejected and rescinded by the Road Commission. Questions related to the legality of that action, as well as protections for the Township should prices increase again, decrease, or the Road Commission is not able to fulfill the contract were discussed. Clerk English volunteered to meet with the Road Commission Engineer to discuss the contract/payment/etc. Question arose as to whether the Township has the funds to pay for this project. Currently, this project would deplete the funds set aside and require additional funds to be added by the Township. It was suggested that the grant money, which was requested and granted last year, and needs to be spent, could be used. Question related to the Wegwas proposal. This will be clarified as well.
3. Recommendation requested related to Township Hall rentals for funeral dinners. Consensus of the Board was that the Funeral Committee would not need to pay the \$1.00 annual fee required of other community groups.

Treasurer Report: Pam Barrett, Treasurer. Financial report received. No additional report submitted.

Ambulance Service Report: John Clark, Ambulance Corp Captain.

1. Zero (0) runs for the months of March, April, & May to date.
2. Cheboygan Life Support is covering the Township.
3. The Trout Lake Ambulance now has Cheboygan Life Support stickers in place.
4. Continue to see if there is any interest in a MFR class. Contact John Clark at troutlake01@yahoo.com.

Fire Department Report: John Clark, Fire Chief.

1. Mr. Clark requested support to use the Fire Truck in a parade on May 24th @ 2pm for a surprise parade for the two (2) graduates, along with other citizens in Trout Lake starting at the fire hall. Congratulations Laken Mills & Kenny Bowers. Plans have not been finalized to date.
2. Zero (0) runs for the months of March, April, & May to date.
3. No meetings conducted related to the Stay At Home order.
4. Trucks were started to make sure they are ready.
5. Had to replace a primer bulb for the fuel on the mini pumper as it was stiff and unable to prime gas to the pump.
6. The Fire Department is always looking for new members. Please contact John Clark 906-203-0621.
7. Mr. Clark encourages everyone who is looking to burn debris to log onto WWW.DNR.STATE.MI.US/BURNPERMITS. The website has color coded maps designating if burning is permitted.

Park Report: Helen Fischer, Supervisor.

1. Supervisor Fischer asked the public if they want the Park open this season, to which the consensus was unanimous. Robert Mowery made a motion, seconded by Stefani Clark to open the Park. It was pointed out by the Clerk that Mr. Mowery & Ms. Clark are not elected Township Board members and therefore are not eligible to make motions. Trustee Simpson stated that the casinos are opening June 1st, therefore, the park needs to open. Trustee Simpson then made a motion, seconded by Treasurer Barrett, to open the Park June 1, 2020. Roll call vote:

Supervisor Fischer	Yes
Clerk English	No (see note following)
Treasurer Barrett	Yes
Trustee Clark	Yes
Trustee Simpson	Yes

Note: Clerk English voted 'no', at this time, expressing reservations for opening the Park related to the COVID 19 Pandemic and the Governor's Executive Orders related to gatherings of groups of people, while maintaining the safety of the community residents. Discussion ensued related to people outside the community bringing the COVID19 virus into the community. The community has been fortunate to not

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have any cases to date, however, should that change, the businesses would have to reclose with an even greater economic impact. These are just areas people should think about as a community.

2. Supervisor Fischer stated she will not be making reservations until the Park is open.
3. The septic work has not been completed to date as the contractors cannot work without approval of the Governor. As well, the Health Department inspections and start up procedures have not been completed. Discussion ensued related to the opening of the bath house, pit toilets, etc.
4. No applications from persons interested in working at the park were received. Supervisor Fischer stated she had one (1) call from someone in Engadine. It was recommended the ad for park attendants be placed in the papers again. Clerk English will look into reposting the ads. A special meeting will be called, should the Township receive any application.
5. Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Trustee Clark, to hold the Ball Tournament on July 4, 2020.
6. Discussion ensued related to having students work at the park, cleaning the Township Hall, & the Township Hall & the Ball Park grounds. Consensus was that this is a complicated process. No action taken.

Assessor Report: Jessica McLean, Assessor. Written report not received to be included in the minutes. Related to telephone conference reception, unable to hear the Assessor's verbal report.

Unfinished Business:

1. Mr. Blake-Thomas stated that the period for submitting a grant application for Graymont is due tomorrow. He recommended submitting the same grant as last cycle related to improving sidewalks, roads, etc. in the community. General consensus was in agreement.

New Business:

1. Supervisor Fischer inquired as to whether the Township wants to brine the roads this year. Clerk English made a motion, seconded by Trustee Clark to brine the roads as in the past. Motion approved unanimously.
2. Supervisor Fischer stated spring cleanup is currently scheduled for June 6, 2020, 0900 – 1300, at the Old County Garage. She will confirm the date and time.
3. There will be a budget meeting on May 20th, 1000.

Motion made by Supervisor Fischer, seconded by Trustee Clark, to pay the bills as submitted by Clerk English. Motion approved unanimously by the Board Members in attendance.

Motion made by Supervisor Fischer, seconded by Treasurer Barrett, to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 1941.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. English
Trout Lake Township Clerk