

TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

PO Box 215

Trout Lake, MI 49793

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Supervisor: Helen Fischer

Clerk: Kathleen A. English

Treasurer: Pam Barrett

Trustee: Laurey Simpson

Trustee: John Clark

Township Board Meeting, November 12, 2019, Minutes, *Draft pending Board approval December 10, 2019*

Attendance: Nineteen (19)

Meeting called to order at 1830 by Supervisor Fischer, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Board Members Present: Helen Fischer, Laurey Simpson, John Clark, and Pam Barrett. A quorum of the Township Board was in attendance.

Supervisor Fischer made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 8, 2019 meeting. Treasurer Barrett seconded the motion and the Board approved the motion unanimously.

Public Comments:

1. Mark Wilk of Straits Area EMS spoke about the possibility of Trout Lake Township joining the Straits Area EMS group. He said they would welcome Trout Lake Township joining. They are a group ambulance service, based in St. Ignace and managed by Cheboygan Life Support Services, comprising St. Ignace Township. The City of St. Ignace, Brevort Township, Moran Township, and Hendricks Township. Costs of operating Straits Area EMS are shared among each community that participates in the group based on the percentage of full-time residents in each participating community. For example, 47% of all full-time residents in the participating communities live in the City of St. Ignace. Accordingly, 47% of the costs are assessed to the City of St. Ignace. Likewise, 3% of full-time residents in the participating communities live in Hendricks Township, so Hendricks Township is assessed 3% of the costs. The costs to operate Straits Area EMS are comprised of (1) management fee paid to Cheboygan Life Support Services, (2) capital costs (e.g., new ambulances), and (3) any annual operating losses. Mr. Wilk agreed to attend the December Township board meeting in order to provide more detailed information regarding the costs for Trout Lake Township to join the group. Currently, Straits Area EMS operates two ALS and one BLS ambulance with two ambulances typically staffed at all times. He noted that they encourage each community to maintain a local Medical First Responder service. In addition, each community is typically responsible for maintaining their own equipment (i.e., ambulance, insurance, etc.). Mr. Wilk also described a membership program they offer for people who either do not have health insurance or whose health insurance does not fully cover ambulance services. At a cost of \$55-\$60 per year for a family, members receive unlimited ambulance services and transfers to Petoskey from Straits Area EMS at no cost to the member. Trout Lake Township residents attending the meeting supported pursuing this opportunity further.
2. A resident asked if there was any update on the AT&T cell tower in Trout Lake Township. Supervisor Fischer stated that she has been told it should be operational by

Thanksgiving. Trustee Simpson noted that it appears the hardware has been installed but that power has not yet been hooked up.

3. Ken Collier of Eppoufette commented that US 2 should be reopened to traffic by 3:00 pm on November 13, 2019.

Clerk's Report: Kathy English, Clerk, Absent. No Report.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Barrett, Treasurer.

1. Treasurer Barrett noted she was waiting for Clerk English to return in order to finalize the purchase of new computers.
2. Jessica McLean commented that it might be possible to install Windows 10 on the current laptop, thereby negated the need to purchase a new laptop. She offered to assist the board in determining whether this is possible.

Ambulance Service Report: John Clark, Ambulance Corp. Captain.

1. No calls for the month.
2. Trustee Clark confirmed that a 1 mill millage would raise approximately \$30,000 per year.
3. Trustee Clark noted that Whitefish Point will be putting on a Medical First Responder class starting sometime in December. Interested individuals can contact Trustee Clark or look for the posters that will be put up around town.

Fire Department Report: John Clark, Fire Chief.

1. No runs for the month.
2. Fire trucks are in good condition.
3. Trustee Clark reminded residents that with winter coming people should make sure their 911 address is clear and visible.
4. Trustee Clark also noted that everyone should check their smoke detectors. Any residents needing batteries for their smoke detectors should contact Trustee Clark as he has some for distribution.

Tax Assessor's Report: Jessica McLean, Assessor.

1. Nothing to report.

Unfinished Business

1. Supervisor Fischer commented that she spoke to Robert Brown of Dafter regarding Trout Lake Township's blight ordinance. She noted that Mr. Brown believes the existence ordinance is insufficient. He recommended that the Township establish a five person blight board to hear appeals from residents receiving blight citations. He further recommended that the Township adopt a fee schedule that charges residents a fee of \$100 for each visit made by the ordinance enforcement officer (the first visit would be free). Mr. Brown indicated that he is willing to be our ordinance enforcement officer for \$12,000 per year. It is unclear if he would also charge a per visit fee to Trout Lake Township. Gary Mitchell noted that \$12,000 per year is \$250 per week and that is a small cost to pay to clean up the Township. Supervisor Fischer

stated that she would invite Mr. Brown to the December board meeting in order to answer any outstanding questions.

2. David Blake-Thomas stated that he would email Jessica McLean a copy of the draft blight ordinance he previously wrote. Ms. McLean stated that she would upload it to the Trout Lake Township website and place copies of it at the Post Office so that residents can review it prior to the December board meeting.

New Business

1. Supervisor Fischer brought to the attention of the Board that Trout Lake Township had to decide whether to allow or prohibit retail marijuana establishments in the Township pursuant to Michigan law. Supervisor Fischer summarized a draft ordinance prohibiting retail marijuana establishments in the Township and discussion ensued regarding whether the Board should adopt the ordinance or not. The Board requested input from Township residents in attendance at the meeting. 7 residents indicated that they supported prohibiting retail marijuana establishments in the Township and 4 residents indicated that they supported allowing retail marijuana establishments in the Township. Supervisor Fischer then made a motion to adopt the proposed ordinance prohibiting retail marijuana establishments in Trout Lake Township. Treasurer Barrett seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. All members of the Board in attendance voted YES to adopt the ordinance.

Supervisor Fischer made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was seconded by Trustee Clark and approved unanimously by the Board Members in attendance.

Supervisor Fischer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Clark and approved unanimously by the Board Members in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 1945.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen A. English
Trout Lake Township Clerk