

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: Laurey Simpson
Trustee: John Clark

Township Board Meeting, February 14, 2017, Minutes, *Draft pending Board Approval March 14, 2017.*

Attendance: Fourteen (14)

Meeting called to order at 6:28pm, by Supervisor Fischer, with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Board Members present: Helen Fischer, Kathy English, Pam Barrett, Laurey Simpson, John Clark.

Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Treasurer Barrett, to approve the Trout Lake Township Board Meeting Minutes of January 10, 2017, as written. Shelby McGowan requested a correction as follows: The money Bill Rosa donated was for the Ambulance Corp, not the Pride Committee as stated in the minutes. Motion amended to reflect the changes and the Motion was Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.

Public Comments:

1. Al English addressed the issue, as presented on the agenda by Supervisor Fischer, related to Cindy Faulkner's unemployment claim for October 2016, in which she was paid in cash by Supervisor Fischer, and she did not report it to the Unemployment Agency (UIA). Therefore, she needed to repay that money to the UIA, which she apparently appealed. A telephone hearing was held with the Judge, who ruled in favor of the Unemployment Agency. Lengthy discussion ensued, with the result being that had she reported that income to the UIA, as she is required to do, there would not have been an issue or a hearing.
2. Mary Sharp presented a picture of a tree at the park which needs to be cut down according to the fireworks person before the next fireworks show. *Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Clerk English to have the tree cut down. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present. Dave Sharp volunteered to cut the tree down at no expense to the Township. Thank you, Dave!!*

Clerk Report: Kathy English, Clerk

1. Clerk English presented the expenses incurred to pick up the Fire Truck Tanker from Minnesota, which totaled \$816.63. Two (2) quotes were obtained from two (2) trucking companies, for \$1,100.00 & \$2,200.00. The quote for \$1,100.00 was from a trucking company who said they would pick it up on their way back from taking a load to Minnesota. However, they could not tell us when they would have a load as they are extremely busy. The second quote was also from a trucking company in the Minnesota area, however, their costs were for hauling the truck and their return trip.

Therefore, Clerk English elected to make the trip and pick up the truck. This saved the Township \$283.37 - \$1,383.37! And we have the truck much sooner and it has been used on a fire just recently and functioned extremely well!

The Firemen I have spoken with are very happy with the Truck, stating it is just what they needed, and that it performed excellently in the recent fire to which they responded!

Support from Dave Sharp, Assistant Fire Chief, to reimburse the expenses as stated received. *Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Trustee Clark, to reimburse the expenses as presented. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.*

2. The Michigan Township Authority (MTA) meeting attended by Clerk English was extremely valuable! There are many areas we, as a Township Board, need to address and form policies and procedures to assure we are operating according to State & Federal laws.
 - A. The first policy we need is related to reimbursement expenses/requests. In light of a recent incident, any and all reimbursement requests must be submitted by the person requesting reimbursement with their signature on the request form. Legal receipts itemizing the expenses incurred must be attached to the reimbursement request. The Township cannot, and will not, reimburse any expenses allegedly paid for in cash. All payments must go through the Township books.
3. Election dates for 2017 are as follows:
 - May 2, 2017
 - August 8, 2017
 - November 7, 2017

The Township Board meetings prior to these election dates must start at 1815 in order to convene the meeting of the Election Board to approve the election inspectors for the election. This needs to be a Board meeting with a quorum of Board members present. The Election Board is comprised of the Township Supervisor, Clerk, and Treasurer, who must be present at the meeting. In addition, the Election Board of the Township must be present at the public accuracy testing.

The Township Board meeting in August needs to be moved as the election date falls on the second (2nd) Tuesday of the month. Clerk English recommended that the Board Meeting be held on August 9, 2017, at 6:30pm. *Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Clerk English to hold the August Township Board meeting on August 9, 2017, at 6:30pm. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.*

4. DEQ Permit Issuance was granted to Tom Wedding as presented and posted, to fill in wetlands on his property for the purpose of erecting a building.

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5. Statement from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development Annual Statement of Loan Account received. Our current loan payment is \$15,691.19, \$7,500.00 is paid on the principal, and \$8191.19 is paid in interest. Therefore, the Township is paying more in interest/year than on the principal by \$691.19. We currently owe \$194,646.19 on the loan.

Clerk English recommended we pay an additional \$20,000 on the principal to start bringing the payments to a more realistic level. Discussion ensued. *Clerk English made a motion, seconded by Treasurer Barrett to pay an additional \$20,000.00 on the principal of the loan this year. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.*

6. Meetings

- A. In a continuing attempt to have Trout Lake Township representation at meetings where activities impact our Township, there are two (2) meetings scheduled:

1. On February 28, 2017, there are two (2) meetings related to trails and trail use:

- a. The first one is hosted by the EUP Regional Planning and Development Committee in Kinross at 1430, for the purpose of public input as to the direction we would like to see trails and trail use going forward.
- b. The second is hosted by the Hiawatha National Forest, and will be held at the Rudyard Community Center 1800-2000, for the same purpose, specifically related to the National Forest.

Anyone with an interest, part of groups that use the trails, such as the snowmobilers, 4-wheelers, bicyclists, motorcyclists, hikers, cross country skiers, etc., are encouraged to attend. If anyone would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact Clerk English.

2. The Township has received an invitation to attend a Coordinated Response Exercise (CORE) related to pipeline spills on March 21, 2017, in Sault Ste. Marie. Information has been received by the Supervisor and Fire Chief. There will be a complimentary meal served. Anyone interested in attending may contact the Clerk, as an RSVP must be submitted.

7. Quote received from Rudyard Electrical Service, Inc., to upgrade five (5) sites to 50 amp. service at the Township Campground for \$10,000.00. In addition, they recommended that all wiring should be in conduit for added protection as well as for future work required. In addition, they stated that all of our underground wiring will, and should be replaced in the near future.

Supervisor Fischer stated that she has paperwork to request a grant from the Tribe. In additional, Eric Wedesky of the DNR was supposed to give grant writer names, which she has not received to date.

8. Assessor Carol McLean. At the educational session for new Township Officials, it was stated that the lists of voters sent by the County Clerk to the Township Clerks need to be given to the Assessor for follow-up on changes in residencies.

Clerk English requested that the Assessor review these lists and return the results of her review and changes that were made to the Clerk. Lists given to Ms. McLean.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Barrett, Treasurer

1. Treasurer Barrett stated she will be at the Township Hall on February 28, 2017, 9:00am – 4:00pm to collect taxes. This is the last day to pay taxes on time.

Ambulance Service Report: John Clark, Ambulance Corp Captain

1. Three (3) runs during the month of January, 2017.
2. No training was held in January, 2017. Shelly McGowan and Stefanie Clark attend CPR training.
3. The PSRO meeting will be held on February 16, 2017.
4. To date, Chief Clark has not received any community interest for CPR AED training. Mr. Clark continues to explore obtaining the AEDs for the Fire Department and the Township Hall. Discussion ensued. Clerk English stated that the Women's Club all expressed an interest in obtaining First Responder & AED training. Shelly McGowan offered that Kylie McGowan would be more than happy to provide the training. Mr. Clark and Clerk English will pursue arranging this.
5. Chief Clark is compiling a list of equipment needed for the Ambulance and will submit to the Clerk. *Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to purchase the equipment and supplies. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.*
6. Anyone interested in taking an MFR or EMT Class can contact John Clark on his cell phone 906.203.062.
7. The Ambulance service is still in desperate need of people!

Fire Department Report: John Clark, Fire Chief. Report given by Dave Sharp, Assistant Fire Chief.

1. Two (2) runs for January, 2017.

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2. Chief Clark presented a request to purchase a R.O.S ladder tool out of their Earned money at a cost of \$450.00. *Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Trustee Simpson, to purchase the R.O.S. ladder tool at the cost of \$450.00 to be charged to their Earned money account. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.*
3. Assistant Chief Dave Sharp reported that the purchase of the Tanker Truck for the Fire Department is complete and in service. He gave a special Thanks to Al and Kathy English for traveling to pick up and deliver the new Tanker Truck!! It has function extremely well on the recent Fire Run!
4. Assistant Chief Sharp presented a list of equipment that will be needed to finish outfitting the Tanker Truck, which should cost approximately \$500.00. *Supervisor Fischer made a motion, seconded by Treasurer Barrett, to purchase the required equipment at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.*
5. Quotes are being obtained to get lettering for the new Tanker Truck.
6. The EUP Fire Association meeting held at the Trout Lake Township Hall on January 26, 2017, had a good turnout.
7. The Firemen's Fishing Derby is on February 18, 2017, at the Township Park/Campground. Registration is at 7:00am. There will be raffles, with the first prize being a Kayak. Tickets are available from any of the firemen or at local businesses.
8. Chief Clark made a plea for anyone willing and wanting to join the Fire Department. Must be 18 years of age and older, and any gender. Please contact Chief Clark at 906 203 0621.
9. Chief Clark still 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.

Tax Assessor Report: Carol McLean, Assessor.

1. Report received outlining Ms. McLean's activities related to Assessments.
2. Board of Reivew (BOR) education is Thursday, February 16, 2017, 1:30pm – 4:30pm.

Park Report: Helen Fischer, Supervisor. No report presented for this meeting.

Old Business:

1. Supervisor Fischer stated that she spoke to the DNR related to grants, and they stated they only issue on their own lands.
2. Supervisor Fischer stated that she contacted Eric (Wedeskey of the DNR), who stated that we need a plan in place before hiring a grant writer. He recommended their own grant writer, but has not sent the materials/name to date.

New Business:

1. Supervisor Fischer stated she has received complaints related to snowmobiles using Huckleberry Road. It was stated by a member of the public present that Huckleberry road is a State designated snowmobile trail.
2. Supervisor Fischer stated that she and Mr. Hillman met with Steve Mason, from Lighthouse, about Broad Band, who said there are no grants available. Mr. Hillman gave a length report related to obtaining DSL. He stated that AT&T says we already have DSL. He talked at length about obtaining grants to put up a tower for wireless. He also stated that there are community connect grants from \$50,000.00- \$5 million. No action recommended by the Board.

Motion made by Supervisor Fischer, to pay the bills as submitted by Clerk English, seconded by Treasurer Barrett. Motion Approved Unanimously by the Board Members present.

*Motion made by Supervisor Fischer, seconded by Trustee Clark, to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathleen A. English
Trout Lake Township Clerk