

# MASTODON TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024

Supervisor Chad Skinner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at the Mastodon Township Hall. He asked all to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance. Board Members present: Supervisor Chad Skinner, Clerk Jan Lemke, Treasurer Stacey Watters, Trustees Dave Smith and Mike Bjork.

Attendees: Summer Olson, Lisa Durr, Dawn & Phil Heil, Stu Creel, Andy Fleming, Jon Pickart, Dan Kurtz, Joe Novitsky, Lydia Novitsky, Peter LaPin, and Neil Adank.

Changes to the agenda: No changes.

July Meeting Minutes – Mike made a motion to accept the minutes with a second from Dave. All in favor.

**Accounts Payable & Payroll Review:** Mike reviewed the General Fund checks 31729-31813, Road Fund 1398-1399, and payroll DD1069-1094 issued. No questions. Dave made a motion to accept the payables and a second was made from Chad. All in favor.

**Treasurer Report:** Stacey's report was reviewed. No questions.

**Clerk's Report:** Annual Audit is completed. \*August election completed. State of Michigan will pay for election inspector wages again for early voting in August. The Reporter did not print the election results for Dave Smith and Stacey Watters. They will post a correction next week. \*Our firewall and Microsoft programs are expiring at the end of the year. She is working with Tech Solutions for quotes.

**Supervisor's Report:** Road Commission will not abandon Tree Line Road. \*We need to work on a 3 year plan for the Road Commission.

**Road Commission Report:** Dave stated that the Fiber Optics project is progressing slowly. Road Commission is still trying to get the culvert in on Bara Road and handle the rock on Rainbow Trail. They are not sure they can complete this year.

**Assessor Report:** Tammy had emailed her report. No questions.

**Fire Department Report:** The fire department was reviewed. No questions.

**Planning Commission Report:** Mike reported that there was no July meeting.

**Zoning Admin. Report:** The monthly report was emailed. No questions regarding his report.

**Recreation Committee Report:** Lydia reported that they were working on reviewing all of the Mastodon Township parks.

**Village of Alpha:** Peter reported that he attended the Road Commission meeting to question the dip in the road on County 424 - at the bottom of Main Street before leaving or entering the Village. He presented the findings to the Alpha Village Board and it was tabled until next month. The Village did some work on sidewalks and looking at road signs for within the Village.

**Maintenance Report:** Dan asked if the part-time help hired for the summer months could be extended one more month into September. Board approved.

**Unfinished Business:**

**Dunn Mine:** Review has been completed and the Board members have each received copies of all the minutes since 1953 whenever the well was discussed.

**Mitigation Resolution:** It was sent to the attorney and he is reviewing it.

**Pickleball Court:** A discussion took place regarding the proposals presented. Dave reviewed the property and suggested that we move forward with refurbishing the tennis court and adding lines for basketball, tennis, and pickleball. He suggested contacting an engineering company to get a professional bid on the cost. Mike mentioned that the Village had worked with GEI Engineering to get a quote that would allow them to apply for a grant. Pete said he could have the Village forward that bid to us to review. Chad also asked for more information from cities and townships that have done this in the past.

**New Business:**

**Poverty Exemption Resolution:** The Annual Guideline Resolution for Poverty Exemption was reviewed. Mike made a motion to accept and it was seconded by Chad. Roll Call vote was made and all voted yes - Stacey, Dave, Mike, Jan, and Chad.

**Request to be a member of the Board of Review:** A request was made from Paul Mallon who had completed the training through the State Tax Commission this past February. Chad made a motion to accept his request and the motion was seconded by Stacey. All were in favor.

**Alpha Brewing Company Request to Use the Upper Alpha Park:** The Board did not have a problem with the request as long as no holes would be drilled into the concrete.

**Recreational Marihuana Renewal – Glazed and Confused:** Stacey made a motion to accept the application and the motion was seconded by Mike. All were in favor.

**Other Business:**

**Public Comments:** Summer Olson expressed concern that there were some months that minutes were posted beyond the 8 business days, and there was a special meeting not posted on the website. She thought that the cost of the early voting Election Workers were not reimbursable. Jan assured her that they were. She thought that Mastodon should have consolidated early voting with Crystal Falls having our residents go to their City Hall to vote. She thought that the Dunn Mine review of minutes had already been done and now reviewed again. She didn't understand why there was a "No Parking" Sign behind the ball park in Alpha. She also asked if she could get a copy of the document discussed above under "Dunn Mine". Chad stated that he would work with Jan to get them a copy.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:08pm by Mike and seconded by Dave. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Lemke, Mastodon Township Clerk