

BROOKS TOWNSHIP MINUTES

490 QUARTERLINE ROAD

NEWAYGO, Michigan 49337

(231) 652-6763

September 19, 2023

APPROVED

Members Present: Supervisor - Cory Nelson, Clerk - Jennifer Badgero, Treasurer – Vivian Miller, Trustee - Ryan Schultz, Trustee – Danielle Hummel

Members Absent: None

A regular meeting of the Brooks Township Board was held on the above date at the Brooks Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Nelson. Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA: Supervisor Nelson asked for additions or corrections to the agenda. **Moved** by Hummel, **seconded** by Miller to approve the agenda as written. **Unanimously Approved**

MINUTES

Moved by Nelson, **seconded** by Badgero to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of August 15, 2023. **Unanimously Approved**

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:

Moved by Miller, **seconded** by Hummel, to pay the bills as presented. **Unanimously Approved**

TREASURER’S REPORT: (attached)

Received and Accepted Treasurer’s Report for August - GF 101 – Beginning Balance – \$1,652,205.07

Receipts – \$88,656.47 Disbursement - \$48,283.21 Ending Balance – \$1,692,578.33

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

Planning Commission – No meeting held

Fire Board Report: Dave Otteren reported that the board approved refurbishment of truck 1211 to make it a multipurpose vehicle. This allows for the sale of truck 1260 and eliminates the need for purchase of a new truck.

Coolbough Management Commission – No meeting held.

Chain of Lakes Sewer Authority – Per Nelson, a meeting was held 9/12/23. COLA is in the process of recruiting a full-time manager after a previous candidate declined an offer. A budget amendment was passed To increase the starting pay of a full-time manager from \$20.60 to \$22.00 per hour.

Newaygo Area Recreation Authority – Badgero reported the following highlights:

- The soccer field is looking rough and needs attention
- 16 of the 18 holes of disc golf are completed at Henning
- The pickle ball courts need attention
- The skateboard park needs to be upgraded

County Commissioner – None present

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1) Wigent Dock – The issue remains in pending status until the ZA does a complete “finding of facts”.
- 2) Early Voting Contract – **Moved** by Badgero, **seconded** by Miller to approve a one year contract with the county to handle early voting responsibilities pending final approval from the township attorney. This is a more cost-effective approach and does not impact the absentee voting process. Postcards will Be sent to voters to explain the change. **Unanimously Approved**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) SRO – Mitch Rood – Officer Rood provided a handout and presented details from the bi-annual report for the period of January ’23 to July ’23. Highlights of this report include the following:
 - Teamwork with school officials and a recently assigned Police Social Worker has aided in addressing student issues.
 - The social worker position has brought a wealth of knowledge and resources that have been very beneficial to students and staff.
 - Newaygo Middle School hosted a job fair and quite a few students expressed interest in law enforcement.
 - Several threat assessments were completed last school year and the team continues to learn and handle each situation. The threat assessment team attended training and is prepared for the new school year.
 - A recent grant funded through the State of Michigan has allowed another SRO to be added to Newaygo Middle School.
 - True Blue Mentoring, a collaborative mentoring program with True North and Newaygo Police Department concluded its fifth year. Six students attended in the past school year. He noted that this is a great opportunity for mentoring a great group of kids.

The Police Chief also presented a handout outlining police contract expenses since 2018. The current contract expires FY 23/24 and Brooks Township porting will increase by \$20,000.00 for the next contract period ending FY 26/27.

Moved by Nelson, **seconded** by Schultz to accept the SRO contract increase for FY 23/24.

Unanimously Approved

- 2) Centerline Dugouts - **Moved** by Badgero, **seconded** by Nelson to approve a contribution (from Covid Related funding) to the Centerline dugout repair, not to exceed \$20,600.00. **Unanimously Approved**
- 3) Skate Park – The skate park opened in 2009 and needs resurfacing. The high school engineering students Plan to rebuild as much as they can for their class project. **Moved** by Nelson, **seconded** by Badgero to Approve an amount (from Covid related funding) not to exceed \$10,000.00 to refurbish the skate park. **Unanimously Approved.**
- 4) Library Internet Upgrade – **Moved** by Nelson, **seconded** by Badgero to contribute (from Covid related Funding)
- 5) Resolution 2023-383 opposing state regulations for wind/solar energy – **Moved** by Nelson, **seconded** by Badgero to accept Resolution 2023-383, which opposes legislation preempting local control for solar and wind developments.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Robert Hamlin, precinct 1 delegate, noted concerns over a recent bill proposing costly septic tank and bi-annual inspection fees.

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Badgero noted that she recently had an exit conference with the auditors and will seek recommendations on areas to spend Covid funding.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Nelson, **seconded** by Hummel to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 PM. **Unanimously Approved**

Jennifer Badgero, _____
Township Clerk

Dianna Schaafsma _____
Deputy Clerk