

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

AUGUST 2, 2023

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board was called to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Trustee/Mark Haataja, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

Kara presented the July 5, 2023 monthly meeting minutes. Lori **motioned** to accept the meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the financial statements. Marty **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.**

Kara presented bills to be paid, with one being added from the General Fund for Tim's Excavating & Skid Steer Service, LLC. in the amount of \$300 for concrete removal at the Liminga Cemetery. Lori **motioned** to pay all bills as amended. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

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The township has received the FEMA reimbursement in the amount of \$159,502.50. John Paul Pietila of Traverse Engineering needs a copy of our contract with John Coponen Construction, LLC. as documentation is needed for reimbursement to the township for the outstanding balance owed to us from FEMA.

There is nothing new to report from our attorney on the easement question on the Township owned parcel in Freda.

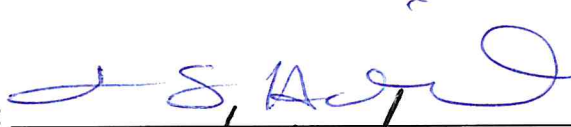
Kara will pay by check the FAO, USAED, Detroit Army Corps of Engineers lease agreement for N. Canal Park. The lease has not been signed yet as we are waiting to hear back from the Hannula Agency for liability coverage documentation.

The meeting with KEDA about a private operator at the N. Canal Park on July 12, 2023 left us with a few items to be forwarded to KEDA, which are a property description, etc. Mark will fill these out and send them in.

John Paul will be putting an ad in the paper for bids on the underwater debris removal at the Redridge Dam. The pre-bid meeting will take place on August 22nd or 23rd and the bids will have to be in by September 5, 2023 at 1:00PM. John Paul will open and read the bids at the township hall at the 1:00PM deadline. The bid work will begin in early October. John Paul has permits for us but he will send us copies after he meets with Stan Vitton. How to clean the debris out is a question John Paul has for Stan. John Paul and Stan will submit administrative costs after the project is finished.

Public Comment Accepted.

Mark motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:42PM. 2nd by Lori. Approved Unan.

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

SEPTEMBER 6, 2023

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

@AGATE BEACH PAVILION

Supervisor/Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Agate Beach Pavilion with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Trustee/Mark Haataja and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

All present read over the August 2, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Lori **motioned** to accept the Monthly Meeting Minutes as read. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Marty **motioned** to approve the financial statements as **amended**. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.** Kara will transfer \$932 from the Toivola Fire Fund Pct#2 to the Toivola Rec Center in the General Fund to pay for the well project charges from Keranen Well Services.

Kara presented Bills to be paid. Lori **motioned** to pay all bills as presented. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

The USFWS is going to start a feasibility study for improvements at the Redridge Dam and they will shoulder the cost themselves. The board must approve anything that the USFWS does and will read over the document from them.

Rec Plan coordinator Ken Vrana said that he plans to have the board review the finalized rec plan in the next few weeks and possibly seek approval at the October board meeting.

The Redridge Dam clean out project bid(s) came back and the township received only one bid. The bid was \$20,000 over the projected FEMA funds that we are purported to receive to pay for this project. We are not recommending this bid be awarded until we are sure we will receive the FEMA funds. This will be tabled until we get results from FEMA. Let it be noted that TES is working on the remaining FEMA questions for the balance of the previously spent funds. There is nothing outstanding right now and they need nothing from us right now.

Concerning the township easement issue...Marty **motioned** to go forward with litigation to open the blocked easement on township property. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** This issue affects multiple landowners and we can possibly cost share with said landowners. Marty **motioned** to make a few contacts with the adjacent landowners to be a part of the litigation. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Stanton Township sent the signed agreement to USACE/USCG concerning the property adjacent to the steel sheeting at the N. Canal Park. So far there has been no response/receipt from them yet.

Does the board want to sign the EGLE Covenant for the N. Canal Park? The board will read it over (review) in the coming weeks and bring it up at the board meeting in October.

We need a signed, stamped former survey for the N. Canal Park. Does anyone know if we even have one or where it can be found?

Marty revised Ordinance #3 for the boards review and shall we vote on the ordinance at this meeting? Mark **motioned** to table the vote until the October board meeting with some more revisions. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

John Paul Pietila of TES is still working on a cost estimate of the Redridge Dam parcel survey for posting signage.

There was a suggestion for more signage for Agate Beach Park on M-26. It would need M-DOT approval and it was decided that it was not needed at this time.

The HCRC is still working on providing the sale price & documents for the lot adjacent to the township hall for a car pool lot. The HCRC has already approved the sale for a minimal amount, possibly for documentation/transfer fees only.

The township audit is almost complete.

The State of Michigan is forcing all municipalities to change over to a Uniform Chart of Accounts. Our township is not in compliance at this time but we will work on getting a quote from BS&A and other townships to see how this can be done.

Marty will modify last years bid document for the plowing of all township properties. Kara will have Kiira post the revised bid document on the township website and she will also check with MTA to see if it is necessary to post it in the newspaper. The bid deadline will be at 6PM at the start of the October 4, 2023 Stanton Township Board Meeting.

Next the board looked over the Agate Beach Building Improvements w/estimates list that John Mattila provided to the board. The board told John to go ahead with the proposed list.

It was mentioned that there is pending legislation in the State of Michigan for wind farm implementation that the townships or Counties will have no say in. If you are against this, please call your legislators to state your disapproval of this matter.

Per board member Mark Haataja...The parking lot out at the Redridge Dam is in terrible shape and severely needs to be fixed so we will fix it! Mark will get quotes to bring back to the board at the next meeting in October and we will proceed from there.

Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 Update: Per Mike Pionke standing in for new Fire Chief Anthony Lampinen...There will be a live fire training at the Liminga training building and it will be sponsored by the Ontonagon Fire Dept. Several other fire departments will be in attendance and this training will be held in the evening.

Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2 Update: Per Fire Chief Garry Hoekstra...The Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2 has been awarded a DNR Grant at present and they have applied for another DNR Grant for this fall. Way to go!!

*Lori said taxes are due by next Thursday, September 14, 2023!

Per the road committee...The County may start on the Canal Road project in late September of 2023, but this is not set in stone.

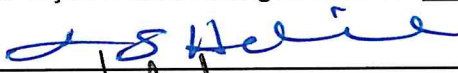
Public Comment Accepted.

The Freda Sewer is operating well and the board will ask Sewer Operator Jim Morin for details pertaining to the \$1,600 charge for internet.

Public Comment Accepted.

Someone wanted to know when Election Inspector Training was going to be held for the 2024 Election year so Kara will check with the County Clerk to see when that is being held and will send notice to all involved.

Mark **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:15PM. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

OCTOBER 4, 2023

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Monthly Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Trustee/Mark Haataja and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

Kara presented the September 6, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Lori **motioned** to accept the monthly meeting minutes as presented. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Next Lori read the Financial Statements. Kara **motioned** to accept the Financial Statements as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Next Kara presented Bills to be paid. Kara is adding one bill from Tim's Excavating & Skidsteer Service, LLC in the amount of \$3,305 for the Redridge Dam parking lot repairs. She will be voiding the bill to Numinen, DeForge & Toutant PC in the amount of \$750 that she printed in error and paying out the correct amount of \$70.60 as the bill reads. **Approved Unan.** Marty **motioned** to pay all bills as **amended.** **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

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The USFWS is starting a feasibility study of the future Redridge Dam project and five options have been identified that may satisfy the USFWS and Township needs. They will make a presentation to the township in January or February of 2024.

The Stanton Township Recreation Plan from Ken Vrana needs reviewing and approval by the board. It was decided that the board will hold a special meeting on November 1, 2023 at 5:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall to review the Stanton Township Recreation Plan and vote on its approval. This meeting will be held prior to the Stanton Township Board monthly meeting slated to begin at 6:00PM.

John Paul Pietila of Traverse Engineering submitted paperwork for additional money for the Redridge Dam Project (Steel Dam, Debris Removal & Parking Lot) to the MSP/FEMA liaison. The liaison has not heard anything from FEMA yet and it does not look good. Therefore, Marty **motioned** that if the additional funding we need from FEMA is awarded in the next two to three weeks, Bacco Construction will be awarded the

project as we will accept their bid. If we do not hear from FEMA by the stated deadline, we will not accept the bid and we will postpone the bidding until next spring. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

There is nothing new to report on the blocked township property easement.

The Stanton Township lease from the USACE/USCG for the property adjacent to the steel sheeting at N. Canal Park is forthcoming and will be signed when it arrives.

Marty **motioned** to **NOT** sign the EPA's Brownfield Covenant on the N. Canal Park property. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved** on a **Roll Call Vote: 1 AYE 4 NAYS.**

KEDA is still looking for a former survey of the N. Canal Park. Mark will contact KEDA to ask if it is really necessary to get a survey done for money.

Mark **motioned** to accept the Stanton Township Ordinance No. 3 Revision No. 1 as **amended**. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

John Paul Pietila of Traverse Engineering will try to get to the Redridge Dam in November to get the cost estimate of the parcel survey so Marty doesn't need to seek out another price for the survey elsewhere.

The signs for Agate Beach Park and Campground are in the process of being put up.

The car pool lot purchase is complete and we are waiting for the final deed from the County. Lori ordered signage to designate this as a township car pool lot with no overnight winter parking to allow for snow removal.

The township audit has been completed and a corrective action plan is required by the State Treasury. We have a proposed action plan and Marty will submit the letter to the State Treasury declaring the plan.

Next Kara opened and read the plowing contract bids that were submitted. Julio Trucking was the low bidder at \$280, followed by Phil Anderson at \$315, followed by Blue Line Site Solutions at \$485. Lori **motioned** to hire Julio Trucking to plow for Stanton Township for the 2023-2024 season. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Larson and Rova roads are currently being worked on and the aggregate surfacing projects will start in a week or so. The materials will be supplied by Valley View Quarry and shaped/compacted by HCRC forces. The Houghton Canal Road will not be started this year but will be the first project started in the spring according to the HCRC Assistant Engineer.

The Redridge Dam parking lot maintenance project has been completed and looks good!

The Agate Beach Committee projects have been started per John Mattila. The new furnace will be installed this week and the gravel will go down next week.

Kara will call A+ Pest Management for spider and millipede control spraying at the Township Hall and Liminga Fire Hall.

The next Road Committee meeting will be set at the November 1, 2023 board meeting.

The Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 will have Fire Chief Anthony Lampinen as an instructor at the next training classes.

The Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2 has nothing new to report.

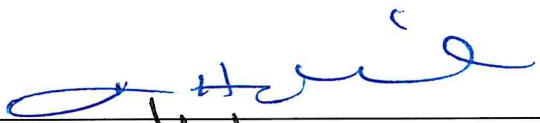
Per Freda Sewer system operator Jim Morin...the Freda sewer system is working just fine. He said a big thank you is owed to Lori for her perseverance in getting the sewer system paid off and saving them a boatload of money!! Thanks Lori!!! And thanks Jim for the stellar job you do keeping the system up and running!!!

Public Comment Accepted.


There is a horrible bump on the Liminga Road, West of Rauhala Road that needs to be fixed. Marty will ask the HCRC if they will fix it.

Mike **motioned** to oppose the bill that would remove control from local government and that would give a state commission authority over site permits for large solar and wind farm projects - a proposal that would take away local control at the township, city and county levels. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** Marty will send a letter of opposition to the recently introduced legislation to our local State Representative Greg Markkanen and Senator Ed McBroom.

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:23PM. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by: 

Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by: 

Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Special Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 5:01 p.m. at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mike Pionke and Clerk/Kara Heinonen. Trustee/Mark Haataja was late as his other job prevented him from arriving on time.

The board started out the Public Hearing reviewing the Draft Recreation Plan for the township, which was submitted by Ken Vrana. After a discussion of the plan, changes were made and the final plan was approved. The final plan will be posted on the township website with an open 30-day public comment period. After the 30-day period, the comments are compiled and they will be incorporated into the plan. The plan will then go to the board for adoption by resolution, and then submitted to the MDNR.

Lori **motioned** to pay the bill Ken Vrana submitted for his work on the township recreation plan. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.**

Marty **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 5:57PM. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by: _____



Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by: _____



Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

NOVEMBER 1, 2023

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Monthly Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Trustee/Mark Haataja and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

Kara presented the October 4, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Mark **motioned** to accept the monthly meeting minutes as presented. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Next Lori read the Financial Statements. Kara **motioned** to accept the Financial Statements as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Next Kara presented Bills to be paid, with one being added from the Toivola Rec Building Fund (cookbooks) in the amount of \$3,241.50 to reimburse the General Fund where the money was mistakenly taken from. Mark **motioned** to pay all bills as **amended. 2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** The board agreed to hold the check issued to the HCRC until we know what the documentation is for said check.

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*The Sparks Grant we resubmitted was not selected in the 2nd round for Agate Beach Park and 3rd & final round funding was pulled as there is no money left.

*The contract will not be rewarded right now (possibly in the spring) for the Redridge Dam project and TES is working on securing approval for full FEMA funding of the project.

*The is nothing new to report on the blocked easement to township property.

*Concerning the KEDA RFP survey request...we are still waiting on info. from the Corps of Engineers so it is still ongoing.

*According to the EPA representative, Stanton Township has NO restrictions on the superfund site coverup project. We did not and will not sign the covenant.

*Stanton Township Ordinance #3 will be effective as of November 15, 2023. The ordinance was published in the Daily Mining Gazette and on the township website.

*TES did supply a cost estimate of the Redridge Dam parcel survey and we have options 1, 2 and 3 to choose from. Mike **motioned** to choose options 2 (Set Property Corners and Provide a Certificate of Survey of the property and mark the North and East property lines with flagging) & 3 (Houghton County Register of Deeds research). **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

*The sign for the new Township Car Pool Lot needs to be moved from its current spot and placed in the correct spot.

*The township corrective plan (C.A.P.) has been submitted to the MI Treasury stating that the township procedure of using Quickbooks without the new Uniform Chart of Accounts will continue with manual entries until we figure out how to change it over properly. Also, budget amendments will be made when deficiencies are noted. No response from the MI Treasury as of yet.

*The aggregate surfacing projects did start on Monday, Oct. 9, 2023 by the HCRC and all 3 locations (Larson/Rova, Holman School & N. Canal Park Roads) are completed and look great! The invoice from the HCRC is here but not paid yet.

*The letter of opposition for pending wind and solar legislation that the Stanton Township Board sent to Senator McBroom & Representative Markanen was acknowledged by Rep. Markanen and he thanked us for our response. Sen. McBroom has not responded.

*Lori **motioned** to sign the agreement with Houghton County to approve a designated assessor in the event of a failed AMAR and non-compliance by our current assessor. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

*Marty will get a quote from Michigan Municipal Risk Management as recommended by Houghton County Administrator Ben Larson when the township insurance policy comes due. Our current carrier is the Hannula Agency.

*Next the board set the dates for the annual budget workshops, the annual budget hearing, the annual board meeting schedule and the December board of review meeting and they are as follows:

The December BOR Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 3:00PM.

Monthly Board Meetings for 2024 will all be held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 6:00PM. The May meeting will be held at the Toivola Recreation Center and the September meeting will be held at the Agate Beach Pavilion.

The Annual Budget Workshops will be held on Wednesday, January 17, 2024 & Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:30PM.

The Annual Budget Hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:30PM with the regular monthly board meeting to start directly after its conclusion.

*Lori mentioned that tax bills are going out in the 1st week in December.

*The Road Committee Meeting is set for Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00PM.

*The Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 had their Annual Pump Certification Test on 2 engines only and last week their ladders were tested. The dept. also held Fire Prevention Week at the E.B. Holman School in Stanton Township.


*Nothing new to report from the Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2.

*The Freda sewer system is working just fine and Jim is working on winterizing a few areas. He will bring the lawn mower to the township fire truck garage in Freda to be stored for the winter. Mark will tell Andrew Kilpela to bring his lawn mower there to be stored for the winter also.

Public Comment Accepted.

The Canal Road will not be repaired until next year. It was mentioned by a resident that there is a terrible area of road in Oskar Bay that is full of deep potholes and is really a detriment to vehicles. It is really, really bad!!

Mark **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:10PM. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen,

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

DECEMBER 4, 2023

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 5:30PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Trustee/Mike Pionke, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Kara Heinonen. Trustee/Mark Haataja came late.

Kara presented the November 1, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.** Kara presented the November 1, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Mike **motioned** to approve the monthly meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Kara **motioned** to accept the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Kara presented Bills to be paid. Lori **motioned** to pay all bills. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

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*Marty **motioned** to proceed with hiring Susan Sanford to convert Stanton Township's chart of accounts to the State of Michigan Uniform Chart of Accounts and to make our Quickbooks/Intuit accounting system compliant with the State of Michigan Uniform Chart of Accounts. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

*Kara will look over all budgets and make a list of budget amendments for the January 3, 2023 board meeting.

*Mike **motioned** to place the Fire Department Operating Millage Renewal on the February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Ballot. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.**

*The public comment period for the Stanton Township 5-Year Rec Plan ends on December 10, 2023. Comments need to be incorporated into the plan. A resolution to adopt the plan will need to happen after the Public Hearing for the plan, which will be held on January 3, 2023 at the beginning of the regular township board meeting. The plan would then be submitted to the MDNR.

*Great Lakes Fisheries & Wildlife Commission are still working on a feasibility study and are very excited about the project. We can expect results from the study soon.

*The Michigan Dam Safety Office pre-proposal was submitted by Ken Vrana & Stan Vitton for the next grant cycle.

*Nothing new to report on approval for full FEMA funding or existing FEMA funding reimbursement.

*John Paul Pietila of Traverse Engineering is still working on a sketch/parcel description of the Redridge Dam Property as well as adjacent parcels that will help identify parcel lines.

*Nothing new to report on the blocked easement to township property.

*The township cannot supply the RFP request that KEDA is waiting on until we get a lease agreement/language from USACE.

*The township carpool signage is in place.

*No response yet from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury on the Township Corrective Action Plan that was submitted.

*The invoice from the HCRC was paid after the documentation was verified.

*Multiple items still need to be checked on the asset inventory list for the MMRM insurance quote. We will go over the list in the spring.

*The BOR Meeting will be held on Dec. 12, 2023 at 3:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall.

*The N. Canal Park will be closed soon by Lori. Marty will follow up with the Houghton County Sheriff on the parking lot destruction at the N. Canal Park and the Stanton Township Boat Launch.

*A few members of the Stanton Township Road Committee talked to John Cima of the HCRC about the paving of Agate Beach Road and were given a quote of \$725,000 to pave and fix the underlayment of the road. This will be a big topic at the next road committee meeting being held on December 12, 2023 at 6:00PM.

*The Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 has a new member and a former member to boot...Al Jurkanis. Jon Stone has left the department as he has moved out of the township.

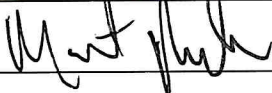
*It was brought to the board's attention that the "Redridge" sign needs to be replaced.

*All is well with the Freda Sewer. Everything is working well and is all done being winterized. Hats off to Jim once again!!

PUBLIC COMMENT ACCEPTED.

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 6:09PM. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor