

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 3, 2024

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

Supervisor/Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM 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.

All present read over the December 4, 2023 Monthly Meeting Minutes. Lori **motioned** to accept the monthly meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

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

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

The first thing on the agenda was for the board to commence with a Public Hearing on the proposed adoption of the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan. The hearing began with an announcement of the boards intent to adopt the Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation plan. Public comment was accepted immediately after the announcement. Eight people offered comments to the Stanton Township Board at this time. Six of these respondents voiced opinions regarding *Goal G: Explore opportunities to create public access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches*, as summarized below:

- Does not support Goal G, based on concerns about depreciative behavior, maintenance of stamp sand beaches, and public health with increased access to the stamp sand beaches, extending from Redridge to Sunset Place (Statement endorsed by a second person).

- Does not support Goal G, based on concerns about 4-wheelers and other ATVs, fires and parties on the beaches with increased public access.
- Does not want any public access to the Salmon-Trout River mouth and stamp sand beaches.
- Good plan, but concerns about depreciative behavior and trash on the stamp sand beaches. Need regular maintenance and proper management.
- Surprised that there is no public access to the mouth of the Salmon-Trout River and associated stamp sand beaches. A similar public access issue in Ontonagon was worked out cooperatively by the community. Need a balanced approach. Access to Lake Superior is needed in Redridge.

The other two respondents voiced other opinions or questions, as follows:

- Concerns about trash and depreciative behavior of MTU students at the North Canal Park (“Houghton Breakers”) and associated stamp sand beaches. Need property survey at North Canal Park to know the boundaries of Township land.
- In addition, questions regarding the Community Recreation Survey were answered by the Township Supervisor and its recreation consultant. Attendees were encouraged to review the results on the Stanton Township website, posted since November 10, 2023. Township Supervisor Rajala responded to these concerns and questions during discussions among the Board and meeting attendees. In particular, the Township Board appreciates the concerns about Goal G, voiced by property owners along the Lake Superior shoreline from Redridge to Sunset Shores. However, Goal G is only a first step to explore opportunities for creating public access. If any such opportunities arise, the residents of Redridge and Sunset Shores would certainly be included in project planning. As for concerns about the behavior of MTU students at the breakers, the Township Board recognizes that MTU administration could be an important partner in resolving those concerns. The Township Board is currently exploring plans for re-opening the North Canal Park campground, including a survey of the property.

Marty **motioned** to **adopt** the Stanton Township Board Resolution Adopting the 2024-2028 Stanton Township 5-Year Recreation Plan and that Ken will submit the township recreation plan to the MDNR. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved** on a **ROLL CALL VOTE: 5 AYES – HAATAJA, PIONKE, RAJALA, ANDERSON & HEINONEN 0 NAYS.**

*The Michigan Dam Service Office has reviewed the Stanton Township pre-proposal for the funding of a project again at the Redridge Dam and has invited the township to submit another full proposal as was previously submitted. The township is working with Ken Vrana and Stan Vitton on this and letters of support have again been requested from multiple agencies.

The United States Fish & Wildlife Service funded feasibility study will give us 5 options to mitigate the hazard at the Redridge Dam. When we receive the options we will review them. Ken told the board that it is a real opportunity to have the support of the USFWS. We have applied for funding from the MDSO already, but have been denied in the first round. We are in the second round now. Marty **motioned** that with grant approval in the MDSO funding package, the Stanton Township Board is requesting that: The regulated structure(s) be removed, a Sea Lamprey barrier be installed on the Salmon-Trout River and funding be provided for preservation of the Historic Steel Dam structure. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** This funding package will be submitted prior to January 31, 2024. The board will have a special meeting at one of the budget workshops to review the 5 options from the USFWS. The next question asked was, “Can Stanton Township reserve the right to transfer ownership of the dam and the associated township owned parcels to another public or non-profit entity, IF grant monies were accepted?” The answer is yes, we can give it away to a new owner. It was also mentioned that Stanton Township has previously committed (by approved motion) to \$60,000 or \$80,000 to the above-mentioned project. Board members will verify the amount prior to the MDSO grant package submission. And finally, Stan Vitton is working on the next required Dam Inspection Report for the Redridge Dam. He will need some info regarding expenditures and amounts recovered and unrecovered from state and federal agencies to date.

*John Paul (TES) and Stan Vitton are currently working jointly on payment of previous FEMA projects. There is a new program in the grants portal for accounting of costs that may help speed up the payment process according to Stan.

*JP of TES is still working on the parcel sketch.

*Nothing new to report on township easement issue.

*KEDA is still waiting for the RFP request but the township cannot supply it because we are waiting on the lease agreement and its language from the USACE.

*No date set yet with Sue Sanford for transferring our current Quick Books to the new State of Michigan Uniform Chart of Accounts.

*The upcoming budget workshop for the Stanton Township Board will be held on January 17th and 18th at 5:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall. The annual Budget Hearing will be held on February 7th at 5:30PM with the regular monthly board meeting to immediately follow upon its conclusion.

*N. Canal Park is officially closed for the season.

*The Houghton Canal Road will get HMA paving project by the HCRC/FHWA from Coles Creek Rd to Liminga Rd in 2025 due to harsh winter/spring conditions. The service contract work must be obligated by the end of 2024 and the work must be finished by the end of 2025.

*The "Redridge" sign is on order and will be hung by the HCRC when it comes in.

*The Houghton County assessor proposal has been signed and delivered.

*Kara presented the current budget amendments to the board for Marty to read out loud to all present. Lori **motioned** to approve the budget amendments as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

*Next Marty **motioned** to move excess General Fund monies to a 6 Month CD and to put excess Road Fund monies in a 6 Month CD, both at Superior National Bank. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

*Mike gave an update on the road committee meeting which can be found in the meeting minutes that will be attached for the February board meeting. The next road committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 10th at 6PM.

*The Liminga Fire Dept. is sending out a letter to remind residents that the fire millage is up for renewal on the Presidential Primary Election ballot. The election will be held on February 27, 2024.

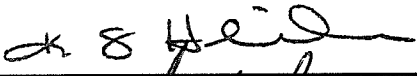
*Nothing new to report from the Toivola Fire Dept.

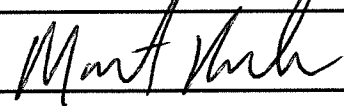
*The Freda sewer system is going along well. The tanks will need pumping this summer to a ballpark figure of \$4,000. Jim will let us know when it is scheduled.

Public Comment Accepted.

John Mattila speaking on behalf of the Toivola Fire Dept. requested that Lori transfer \$80,000 from the Toivola Fire Dept. and place it in a 5 Month CD at Superior National Bank.

Mike **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:26PM. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 17, 2024

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Budget Workshop Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 5:11PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Trustee/Mike Pionke, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Trustee/Mark Haataja and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

First up was the 2024-2025 Sewer Fund Budget and after discussion and consideration the budget was completed and ready for the Budget Hearing.

The second budget the board worked on was the 2024-2025 Road Fund Budget. After discussion the budget was completed and ready for the Budget Hearing.

The 2024-2025 Toivola Fire Fund Pct#2 Budget was next and after the budget was considered and discussed it was completed and ready for the Budget Hearing.

Fourth in line was the 2024-2025 General Fund Budget. After squaring away the income side of the budget, the board began discussion of the expense side of budget. The board went over expenses line by line and came away with a satisfactory budget. Some notable changes are as follows:

*Lori **motioned** to give all employees and board members the same cost-of-living raise of 3.2% given to social security recipients for 2024. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** on a **Roll Call Vote: 5 AYES 0 NAYS.** All salary changes are effective immediately and retroactive to January 1, 2024.

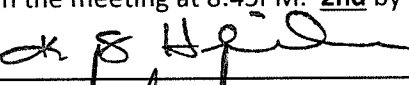
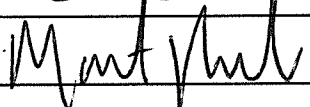
*Mark then **motioned** to pay John Mattila \$25/Hour for his duties at Agate Beach Park and to forego the cost-of-living raise. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

*Mark **motioned** to raise the Cemetery Sexton's monthly commission to \$200/Month from \$100/Month. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

The board went over the rest of the expenses and completed the budget for the upcoming Budget Hearing.

Mike printed a draft Liminga Fire Fund Budget Pct#1 Budget for all board members for the next budget workshop meeting the following evening, Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 5:00PM.

Kara **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk
Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 18, 2024

BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Budget Workshop Meeting to order at 5:14PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Trustee/Mike Pionke, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Trustee/Mark Haataja and Clerk/Kara Heinonen.

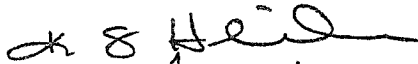
Trustee Mike Pionke turned the draft Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 Budget over for approval. The board went over the budget and approved it with the new Fire Chief of the Liminga Fire Dept. Anthony Lampinen and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Liminga Fire Dept. Frank Anderson participating. The Liminga Fire Dept. is considering buying a new (used) fire truck and they are considering putting extra money from their checking account into a CD or paying off their building loan. After the discussion the budget was finalized and ready to be approved at the Budget Hearing.

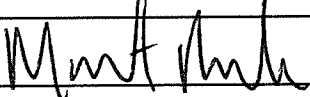
The board then revisited the General Fund Budget next. Money was added to the Boat Launch Capital Outlay category for solar lighting. Money was added to the Baseball Field Capital Outlay category for a few different items listed below:

- 1.) Have Jeffers High School shop class build a storage shed for lawn mowers and pitching machine.
- 2.) Fix the pole on the batting cage.
- 3.) Add end caps on the fences.
- 4.) Get clay hauled in to revamp the infield.
- 5.) Repair the roof on the concession stand.

The township will buy the materials and the field managers will supply the work force. The budget is now ready to be approved at the Budget Hearing.

Mike **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 5:56PM. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

JANUARY 25, 2024

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Special Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 5:30PM 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.

The board started off the meeting by discussing the Redridge Dam Project. The core group involved in the project to date is:

1. Marty Rajala – Stanton Twp Board member
2. Pete Hrodey – USFWS
3. Chris Freiburger – GLFC
4. Stan Vitton – MTU
5. Ken Vrana – Stanton Twp Grant Coordinator
6. Mike Geenan – Study Consulting Engineer
7. Other miscellaneous guests throughout the discussions

The core group reviewed the 5 Options of the feasibility study. They selected Option 4 as it meets the goals needed in Stanton Township. The goals are as follows:

1. Dam Safety
2. Reduced Liability
3. Keeping the Redridge Dam area open as a public recreation site and maintaining quality fishing opportunities
4. Maintaining the dam integrity enough for historic preservation
5. Maintaining and preserving a Sea Lamprey control device for the Salmon Trout River
6. Restoration and possible improvement of the upstream area
7. Present # 2024 - 01/25 – 2 RESOLUTION OF AUTHORIZATION – LOCAL UNIT OF GOVERNMENT MATCH for the project

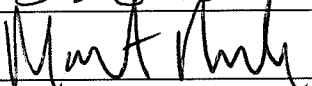
After going over the Option 5, Mark **motioned** to adopt the Resolution of Authorization – Local Unit of Government Match. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved** on a **Roll Call Vote: 3 AYES – HAATAJA, PIONKE & RAJALA 2 NAYS – ANDERSON & HEINONEN.** Marty **motioned** to submit the full application to the MDSO for funding. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved** on a **Roll Call Vote: 3 AYES – HAATAJA, PIONKE & RAJALA 2 NAYS – ANDERSON & HEINONEN.**

Kara **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 6:34PM. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The board then **reopened** the meeting to discuss the resolution and dam application in more depth. After everyone was satisfied with the details of the resolution and dam application, Marty **motioned** to take another **Roll Call Vote: 4 AYES – PIONKE, RAJALA, ANDERSON & HEINONEN (HAATAJA WAS NOT PRESENT) 0 NAYS** to **adopt** the Resolution of Authorization – Local Government Match and to submit the full application to the MDSO for funding. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

The special meeting adjourned again at 6:58PM on a **motion** by Mike. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

BUDGET HEARING MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Budget Hearing Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Trustee/Mike Pionke, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Kara Heinonen. Trustee/Mark Haataja was not in attendance.

Copies of the proposed **2024-2025 Budget** were available to the public before the meeting. Supervisor/Marty Rajala gave a brief overview of each of the budgets being presented to all attending the meeting. After public discussion, the board agreed to approve each budget as presented by a roll call vote.

Lori **motioned** to approve the General Fund 2024-25 Budget as presented. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved on a Roll Call Vote: 4 AYES 0 NAYS.**

Lori **motioned** to approve the Liminga Fire Fund Pct#1 2024-25 Budget as presented. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved on a Roll Call Vote: 4 AYES 0 NAYS.**


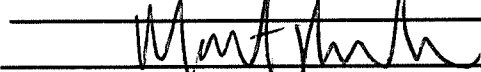
Lori **motioned** to approve the Toivola Fire Fund Pct#2 2024-25 Budget as presented. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved on a Roll Call Vote: 4 AYES 0 NAYS.**

Marty **motioned** to approve the Road Fund 2024-25 Budget as presented. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved on a Roll Call Vote: 4 AYES 0 NAYS.**

Marty **motioned** to approve the Sewer Fund 2024-25 Budget as presented. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved on a Roll Call Vote: 4 AYES 0 NAYS.**

Public Comment Accepted.

Mike **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 5:49PM. **2nd** by Kara. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk
Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

Stanton Township Board
February 7th, 2024
Monthly Meeting Minutes

Roll call was taken.

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the monthly meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 5:50 PM 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.

Lori **motioned** to accept the January 3rd,2024 monthly meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** Mike **motioned** to accept the January 17th,2024 budget work session meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.** Lori **motioned** to accept the January 18th,2024 budget work session meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.** Mark **motioned** to accept the January 25th,2024 special meeting minutes as read. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

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

Kara presented the bills to be paid. Marty **motioned** to keep our KEDA membership and to pay the bill. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.** Marty **motioned** to pay all bills. **2nd** by Mike. **Approved Unan.**

Meetings were held on January 23rd and 24th with USFWS, GLFC, Stan Vitton, Ken Vrana and the consultant who did the feasibility study to go over options and to make recommendations of the way forward with the proposal to the MDSO. Option #4 was chosen and reviewed. The board approved this option at a special meeting held on January 26th,2024 at 5:30 PM. Also, a Shared Funding Resolution #2024-2 of \$25,000 was adopted in this special meeting by the Township Board. To date, Stanton Township has received a \$1,375,000 commitment from the USFWS and the GLFC for the project. Other funding options are being explored for any possible additional work within the influence of the dam. A funding proposal was sent to the MDSO on January 31st,2024 per requirement. Confirmation of receipt of the funding proposal was received the same day from the MDSO. \$2,150,000 was requested from the MDSO to add on to the \$1,375,000 commitments to complete a fish ladder/dam safety project at an estimated cost of

\$3,550,000. No word yet on whether Stanton Township was selected for this funding. According to the USFWS, Stanton Township can transfer ownership of the dam and associated Township owned parcel(s) to another public or non-profit entity if any grant monies were to be accepted and if the board determines it is in the best interest of the Township in the future.

JP of TES and Stan Vitton are working jointly on payment of previous FEMA projects. Some information has been entered into the new reporting program. Final reporting of the FEMA contracts is incomplete as of now until a way forward is determined and if an MDSO grant is approved. We will table this until we hear from the MDSO.

JP and Stan are also still working on a sketch/parcel description of the dam property, as well as information on any relevant adjacent parcels that will help with identifying the parcel lines. Some of the USFWS grant money may be used to pay for this work, according to the USFWS Program Manager/Grant Coordinator. However, this will depend on whether Stanton Township receives funding from the MDSO to move forward on the dam project.

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

The USACE has been contacted and the lease agreement should be coming soon. The new recreation plan was adopted and forwarded on to the USACE a few weeks ago.

KEDA is still waiting for the RFP request but the Township cannot supply it as we are still waiting for the lease agreement and its language from the USACE.

Kara has heard from our downstate consultant, Sue Sanford, and Sue is planning on coming up on March 2nd, 2024 to do our QuickBooks conversion to the State of Michigan's uniform chart of accounts.

Next, Marty **motioned** to send a letter of support from Stanton Township to the MDNR to get the Freda Loop Trail repaired and open. **2nd** by Mark.

Approved Unan.

Next Marty **motion** to pass the 2024 Stanton Township Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test. **2nd** by Mike.

Approved on a Roll Call Vote: 5 AYES 0 NAYS.

The March Board of Review meetings are as follows:

March 5th@3:00 PM organizational meeting

March 11th from 2:00PM - 5:00 PM and 6:00PM - 9:00 PM

March 12th from 9:00AM - NOON and 1:00PM - 4:00PM. Everything except PRE's. Kara will send the schedule to the web coordinator to post.

Bay Electric will get an estimate for us on solar lighting. If the estimate comes back too high, we will put it out for bids.

Ethan Johnson of Superior National Bank came to the meeting to let us know that he is replacing Jay Ruohonen as a lender for the bank for CD's, loans, etc. and to thank Stanton Township for their business.

The road committee meeting was held on January 10th, 2024. The committee wants to pave a ½ mile of the Agate Beach Road. The Federal Hwy administration will do repairs from Coles Creek Rd. to Liminga Rd. Marty is attending meetings with the Board of County Road Commissioners to see if they can come to Stanton for road work and we need a road plan from the county for dust control. Kiira, the web coordinator will update the township website on dust control. She will have to take the 2023 program off the website and add the new estimated rates on to the website.

Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1...A medical 1st responder class is being held in April at the Chassell Fire Department if anyone is interested. We need to recruit 1st Responders for Stanton Township as 3 first responders have moved. We need to recruit people who are at home during the day as that is where the need is.

Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2...They have money saved up for a truck and they are looking to buy one.

Freda sewer operator Jim Morin told the board that everything is looking good.

It was mentioned that there is going to be a petition drive in the Township. They cannot solicit any money but they can accept donations. The petition is for proposed bills in the legislature to go on the November ballot (A referendum). Townships are going to be vulnerable to biomass, wind and solar. They are going to try to get these on the November 2024 ballot.

*Mark talked to Superintendent Tim Keteri of Jeffers High School about helping out at the Stanton Township baseball field.

*Lori told everyone that taxes are due this Wednesday.

*Kara mentioned that the Presidential Primary election will be held on February 27th, 2024 and we have 9 days of early voting available at the Houghton City Center ahead of that election.


Public Comment Accepted.

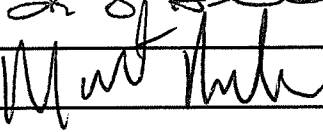
John Mattila gave the board a letter from EGLE concerning water samples.

and the procedure we need to follow to get them in on time after getting a sample.

Marty **motioned** to **adjourn** the meeting at 7:10PM. **2nd** by Lori.

Approved Unan.

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

STANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD

MARCH 6, 2024

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Marty Rajala called the Monthly Meeting of the Stanton Township Board to order at 6:00PM at the Stanton Township Hall with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: Clerk/Kara Heinonen, Treasurer/Lori Anderson, Supervisor/Marty Rajala and Trustee/Mark Haataja. Trustee/Mike Pionke was not in attendance.

Lori **motioned** to approve the 2024 Public Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes as presented. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.** Lori then **motioned** to approve the February 6, 2024 Monthly Meeting Minutes as presented. **2nd** by Mark. **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. Kara added two bills from the General Fund for Municipal Retirement Systems (\$375) and Gleaner Life Insurance Society (\$8,043.10). These bills are for our fees for processing our pension check and our proposed new pension company. After a brief discussion about the proposed pension company, Lori **motioned** to pay all bills as **amended**. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.** Lori then **motioned** to partner with Gleaner Life Insurance Society for the township pension plan pending Trustee Mike Pionke's approval. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Guest Comments: Jeffers High School coach Luke Paul told the board that his team is going to fundraise for signage at the Stanton baseball field. The signage will be mesh and it will be hung on the centerfield fence. They will take it down at the end of the season. Marty **motioned** to allow the Jeffers High School baseball team to place their sign at the Stanton Township baseball field with field manager Darren Durocher's agreement. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

JP Pietila of Traverse Eng. Svcs is still working on a sketch/parcel description of Redridge Dam property.

JP Pietila and Stan Vitton will final out the FEMA project IF the MDSO grant is approved.

Lori **motioned** to **amend** the current budget as discussed. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

*The board reviewed the items on the Stanton Township Rec Plan improvements list that Marty provided to the board members. Board members were asked to provide feedback on this list as written. Marty **motioned** to add this list as an addendum to the previously adopted 2024 Stanton Township Recreation Plan. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

*The board reviewed the ADA assessment for the Stanton Township Rec Plan addendum. Marty **motioned** to **amend** our Stanton Township Rec Plan to add an approved ADA action plan. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

*Marty told all present that he had a 5 Year Road Plan from Road Committee Chairman Mike Pionke. After he explained everything that the plan entailed, Marty **motioned** to adopt the 5 Year Road Plan. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

*Marty, in partnership with Ken Vrana, wants to apply for a **Community Funding Project Grant** (\$5,000,000 Grant) for road work in the township. The Grant Requirement has a 20% local match. The Houghton County Road Engineer has verbally committed to 10% of grant submission. We have \$510,000 with about 78k obligated, which leaves a balance of \$432,000 in the Road Fund. Lori **motioned** to have Marty & Ken apply for the Community Funding Project Grant. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

*Marty attended the February 21, 2024 MTA meeting at the Franklin Twp Hall. Kevin Harju of the HCRC was in attendance and talked about their 5 Year Road Plan, which has 2 sections in Stanton Twp. These sections are unfunded pending the federal grant submission and award. The mild winter in Houghton County should produce a savings of \$2,000,000 which could possibly go into road work. We shall have to wait and see. The HCRC did add 3 locations of road work repairs in Stanton Twp. for 2024 onto the HCRC list. Canal Rd., Obenoff Rd. & Larson Rd. are the roads on the list.

*Nothing new to report on the MDSO grant submission.

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

*The USACE Lease Agreement was signed and sent back in on February 29, 2024. The final copy should be coming as soon as the USACE signs the document.

*KEDA is still waiting for the RFP request but the Twp cannot supply it as we are waiting on the lease agreement and its language from the USACE.

*Kara told the board that Quickbooks conversion to the State of Michigan Uniform Chart of Accounts is underway and almost complete.

*The light pole quote for the Boat Launch from Bay Electric came in at 5,824 so we will go ahead with the project. Marty wants to have cameras installed on the poles to deter would-be mischief makers.

*Marty reminded all present that the Board of Review meetings are coming up in March and are posted on the township website.

*It was noted that some downed signs were replaced on the Covered Drive.

Board member comments...Lori told the board that the parking lot of the township hall needs to be addressed as it is always a huge mud bog when it rains. Voters were complaining (with good cause!) at the election in February. Mark will get prices for gravel for the next board meeting. Lori will do another 5M Range Bank CD for the General Fund as it is coming due soon and the rates are still very good.

*Road Committee Update: The dust control notice on the township website has been corrected to make residents aware of the program. Costs and billing will be finalized when the new rates are received so last year's rates can be used for a rough calculation until the final rates come in. The signs that were ordered to make people aware of dust control in the township will be going up asap.

*Lori will call for an update on when we can expect to get natural gas in the township.

*Liminga Fire Dept. Pct#1 has nothing new to report.

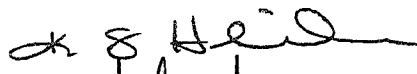
*Toivola Fire Dept. Pct#2 has nothing new to report.

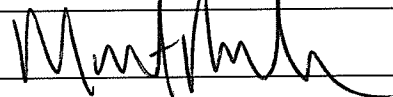
*Jim reports that the Freda Sewer is fluctuating with the weather but has had no problems!

Public Comment Accepted.

It was suggested that board members send an email to John Mattila in Toivola when exciting news is happening about grants or news from the road committee so the residents are informed. A surveillance camera is needed on our absentee ballot voter drop box by 2025.

Mark **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:06PM. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Kara Heinonen, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor