

Stanton Township Board

December 4, 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: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from November 6, 2024. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

Lori read the Financial Statements. Mark **motioned** to approve the financial statements as read. **2nd** by Tina. **Approved Unan.**

Tina presented the bills to be paid Lori **motioned**. **2nd** by Jim.

Ross Cooney and Glen Ekdahl discussed the idea of having a new monument made for the veterans Honor Roll sign that was taken down years ago in Oskar. It would also need to be updated, as it was last updated with WWII veterans. This would be a multi-year project. A committee will need to be formed, including having a board member on the committee. Fundraising will need to be done, with someone to run the financial portion of this including banking for fundraising. It was mentioned to have a notice to go out with the summer taxes and/or a mailer with a survey, to get the awareness out there and to gather information for names that will be added to the new sign. It will need to be decided if this will be an Oskar sign only or to add Laminga, and/or Freda and/or Toivola veterans names to it also. Ross and Glen will look into this more and come back to the board with more information.

Marty and Lori explained the current procedures for the payment to Barr and current reimbursement process for GLFC for the Redridge Dam project. We have received reimbursement for invoice #1 & #2 for Barr from GLFC. It was decided to pay the outstanding invoices. Marty **motioned** to pay the outstanding invoices #3 & #4 and submit reimbursement to GLFC and **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

The Stanton Township Hall parking lot has been rough graded for winter and the site was stabilized for the season. Restoration will be completed in the spring along with the work between the parking lot and the firehall. Once complete the parking lines will be painted.

HCRC service agreement to be modified to include HMA shoulders on the Houghton Canal Road near the Township Hall corners and Agg Base on agg roads. Marty has signed and sent in the service agreement to HMA. This is to be signed at HCRC monthly meeting on 12/16/24.

This service agreement is required as the funds need to be obligated by 12/2024 for complete use by 12/2026.

Still waiting on Sara Topp for an answer from Trout Unlimited for an offer of services/funding for upstream rehab, if the impoundment is lowered/removed.

Still have not received any Admin billing from JP @ TES and Stan Vitton to final out the FEMA project.

Still no word yet on the Community Funding Project Grant for \$2,000,000 for canal road reconstruct. Hoping to hear something by the end of March.

There has been no response yet from MDNR or MOLPUS regarding easement or shared use language for use of the trail from the MDNR split to the old terminal. MOLPUS says washout is in Stanton Twp parcel. Will need easement agreements with MOLPUS / MDNR / Stanton Township. DNR is also working on a project in that area to restore the area.

The owner that is blocking the easement access to the Stanton Township parcel in Freda was served with a Lawsuit notice on Monday Nov 25. They have 28 days to respond. Marty asked the board members, particularly the new members, if they would like to take a field trip to the site to look at the easement or parcel access in discussion, or if any board member needs more information regarding it. Marty stated that he is available to meet to review the site. Jim and Tina expressed interest in reviewing the site. Marty said to find a time to meet.

The November Election results are now official and all the board members have taken their Oath of Office.

Mike Pionke will transfer his road mile point map to Trustees Jim Heinonen and Mark Haataja for possible implementation of the Dust Control Program for 2025. Jim and Mark need to get a hold of Mike to get this to them.

The Meeting Dates for 2025 were decided. The Board Meetings will be held on the first Wednesday of each month at 6PM, with the exception of January as it falls on a holiday. January's meeting will be on Thursday, Jan 2nd. The Budget workshop meetings are scheduled for Jan 6th & 8th at 6PM. The Truth and Taxation meeting is scheduled for Feb 5 at 5:30PM. These dates and times will be posted to the website.

There was a discussion for a possible public meeting of the Election Committee (Superintendent, Clerk and Treasurer) to determine if precinct 2 should remain open. Only 50 voters showed up in person during the 2024 Presidential Election and 45 voters voted either absentee or by early voting. A public meeting will be scheduled for 5pm on January 2nd, before the monthly board meeting. Tina will call Jennifer Kelly, the County Clerk, to see if she is available to attend and if the timeline for closing a polling location is within this meeting date. It was discussed how to go forward and to explore options for going through this process. The

meeting notice dates will be posted as soon as possible to allow enough time for the public to respond.

There is a 32 acre parcel of land that crosses over both sides of Coles Creek Road that is owned by John Childs, that he is considering donating or doing a partial donation to the township for a recreational area. John would like to see it be a non-motorized area with walking trails. A possible roadside park was discussed with fishing on Coles Creek. John also mentioned possibly selling the property to the township. There is an interest in this property if the township has ownership whether it be donation or a discounted sale. Possibly work with KEDA and Ken Vrana on obtaining a grant for a park and walking trail development, and to tie into the existing MDNR motorized trail system, as motorized traffic was part of the discussion, that a question could be brought back to John to see if he would be interested in allowing a portion of the land to have a motorized trail. Marty **motioned** that we make a sketch of a plan for this property and present it to the owner. **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

The December BOR meeting will be held on Dec 10th at 3pm.

Board Comments- Lori said that the tax bills are going out this Friday.

Lori mentioned that Paul Ek said that the Kenner Dome rink takes 1 hour to flood when it should take 15 minutes. Mark talked to Keranen to fix it. Keranen has fixed it in the past.

Lori talked to Paul about keeping the door to the mechanical room at the Kenner Dome locked. Brian Mason will make sure that the lock works and will be kept locked. This will prevent kids from going into the mechanical room and erasing the security tape.

A-1 needs to be on a maintenance schedule for the outhouses at the Kenner Dome, and that salt needs to be added to the outhouses to prevent freezing, Marty will remind A-1.

Tina mentioned that the Western UP Planning & Development Region sent out a notice for the upcoming Houghton County Local Rural Task Force Meeting being held at 10:30AM on Wed Dec 18th at the Houghton County Road Commission office. Marty and Mark plan to attend.

Roads-

Stanton VFD- None

Toivola VFD- None


Freda Sewer- Jim presented 2 months of summaries to the board. Jim said it took 6 trips for A-1 to clean out the sewer. A-1 said to keep the 5-6 year schedule for cleaning out the sewer.

Public Comment- Plowing of the side roads was discussed by the individuals in the township. Red Brick Road was plowed once during the last multi-day snowstorm. The need for more sand

and the roads to be plowed more often, was expressed. The sideroads are being neglected. Marty encouraged them to go to the next County Road Commission Meeting on Dec 16th at 1:30PM. As we feel there concern, it is the County Road Commission that controls the plowing of the roads. There was a discussion of the frost and heaving of the roads, with the possibility of the plows going too fast and poor maintenance of the roads year round.

Redridge Dam end result options were discussed.

Mark **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor