

Stanton Township Board

March 05, 2025

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. Roll call was taken. Board members present: Trustee/Jim Heinonen, Trustee/Mark Haataja, Supervisor/Marty Rajala, Treasurer/Lori Anderson and Clerk/Tina Hatman.

All present read over the Budget Hearing Meeting Minutes from February 05, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

All present read over the Meeting Minutes from February 05, 2025. Lori **motioned** to approve the meeting minutes. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

The Board revisited the current budget and Lori **motioned** to amend the budget items. See attached for amendments. **2nd** by Marty. **Approved Unan.**

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

Tina presented the bills to be paid. Mark **motioned** to pay all the bills. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Baraga Telephone (Koray Inal) gave a presentation of their planned upcoming work to extend the fiber optic cable in Stanton Township. Baraga Telephone requested a letter of support from Stanton Township for their application of a grant to extend their service lines out to other areas of Stanton Township. The approval letter for the grant is needed by April 19th. Mark **motioned** to approve sending a letter of support to them for this grant application. **2nd** by Lori. **Approved Unan.**

Public input period was held with questions and discussion regarding the creation of a park/trail system to be named Hemlock Springs - Coles Creek Park and Preserve. And the subsequent submission of a grant application to the MNRTF (MiDNR) and/or any other possible funding partner agencies. Conceptual sketch of parcel and details of sketched facilities were also provided for public review.

Input Received By: Jeff Churchill, Stanton Resident.

A discussion to adopt a Resolution for supporting the submission of application of the proposed park Titled: Hemlock Springs - Coles Creek Park and Preserve, grant submission to the MNRTF. Stanton Township will contribute 25% matching funds toward the project. Ken Vrana will explore other possible donors (MTU Trails Club) to the local match portion of the grant requirement. The Project Estimate is \$475,629 from M.M. (OHM); Grant request to MNRTF would be for

\$356,721.75; Stanton Township would need to fund up to \$118,907.25 Lori **motioned** to approve the adoption of the Resolution. **2nd** by Marty on a **Roll Call Vote: 5 Ayes 0 Nays** Marty received Letters of Support from the City of Houghton which will be included and forthcoming for inclusion in the grant submission package.

OHM has an "As needed" contract signed, as previously approved by the Board, to assist Ken Vrana with development/sketch/estimate/preliminary survey work, and items necessary to submit the MNRTF grant as required.

Ken will work with Mike Markham @ OHM to assure the package is submitted prior to the April 01, 2025 deadline for possible selection this coming fall. Marty will provide Grants portal access to Kev Vrana and OHM. Marty will contact Ken and OHM in regards to what will be needed for the completion of the grant request package. Final package to be submitted by Marty's submission according to Grant Application requirements.

The Childs Park parcel Letter of Intent and a purchase agreement was signed and sent by Marty Rajala as previously approved by the Board for the parcel.

Marty will need a final check from the Clerk in the amount of \$30,017.73, which is the sale in entirety plus closing costs, as previously approved by the Board. Closing set for March 19, 2025 at Keweenaw Title Agency. There was a \$100 holding fee that was made to the Childs for the purchase agreement. No other parcel purchase is possible at this point in time, so the \$10,000 will no longer be held for the acquisition of an adjunct parcel. Marty Rajala, as Stanton Township Supervisor, is authorized to sign the deed and any/all transfer papers for this property purchase.

Marty mentioned that Barr Eng Work Orders #6 & #7 for RedRidge Dam will be signed and returned to Barr Eng this week. These are for design WO6 – Hydrology and Hydraulics (H&H) and WO7 – Structural Analysis, and to be paid 100% by EGLE (MDSO).

The package for Invoice #5 for Redridge Dam for \$7699.50 was submitted to the MDSO. Payment was received in a timely manner through SIGMA. The reimbursement process is established and working well.

Payments for the project to Barr Eng starting with Invoice #6 and any following invoices through the remainder of March 2025, will be submitted after March 31st, which is the end of the 1st quarter of 2025.

Tina will send documentation and a copy of the cancelled check for Invoice #6 and #7 and possibly #8 (after Barr invoice(s) and payment) to Marty and Barr for submission to MDSO (Mason Manuzak, EGLE) for reimbursement when it is received.

Project final completion order for projects #1 & 2, were signed by Marty, and TES sent this to MSP/FEMA in Mid February. The Outstanding/Unreimbursed funds are \$20,561.60 & \$46,800.00 for these first 2 projects. We have been working on getting the reimbursement funds since 2019. There are also \$16,000 in outstanding admin fees.

No word yet on final award or approval of our **Community Funding Project Grant** of \$2,000,000 for Canal Rd reconstruct. Based upon a legislative vote approving the funding. This is supposed to happen soon, as Marty has been told by Congressman Bergman's office. We should know by the end of March.

Blocked easement litigation ongoing still. No final action as of yet.

Marty mentioned that he was unable to get ahold of Anthony Lampinen to see if he has someone lined up to get the Kenner Dome Cameras up and running. Tina will call Anthony to see what the status is.

All of the BOR Trainings have been completed. BOR members sent their Certificates to Mary. The March BOR meetings which are also published on Township website, are all held at:

Township Hall: March 04, 2025 3:00pm – Organizational Meeting held
 March 10, 2025 2:00pm-5:00pm & 6:00pm-9:00pm, - BOR
 March 11, 2025 9:00am-Noon & 1:00pm-4:00pm- BOR

Supervisor, Marty, completed a wish list of Stanton Township ice rinks with improvements needed of approx. \$141,000 for funding of Kenner Dome (\$75,000) and Toivola (\$66,000) rink projects, as previously approved by the Board. This was sent to a private donor, together with cost estimates. No word yet on the Donor's name or if anything has been awarded. Marty can send a copy of these lists if they are interested. Paul Ek did not get back with a list.

Mark said there is no progress on the Kenner Dome test pump. Mark will also do a walk-through with Wall Street Construction to get an estimate for projects needed to be done. Other construction companies were also mentioned and can also do walk-throughs with Mark, if interested.

Ken Vrana is working with John Mattila on a Passport grant for Agate Beach Boat Ramp.

Board Comments- Lori closed out 2024 Tax Year and will balance with the county this month.

Tina mentioned that there will not be an election this May, but will most likely have elections in August and November this year.

Tina ordered a laptop through Up and Running and it will be delivered tomorrow. She also mentioned the option to have Township emails through Microsoft which would cost \$10/month per email. It was decided to keep the emails we currently have, as this is working well.

Tina mentioned that the Earned Sick Time for employees in Michigan most likely will not affect us. She will update if anything changes.

Mark mentioned that a Stanton resident would like to see a playground at the Kenner Dome.

Jim gave a shout out to the Stanton Volunteer Fire Department for responding to a chicken coop fire at his home.

Roads- Trustees Jim Heinonen and Mark Haataja presented the finalized spreadsheet for a list of roads to receive Agg Base for the Dust Control Program for 2025. Marty **motioned** to approve the Finalized 2025 Dust Control Location map estimate and to authorize Marty to sign a

service agreement up to \$45,000 for all Dust Control areas with the Houghton County Road Commission (HCRC). **2nd** by Mark. **Approved Unan.**

Marty **motioned** to approve a posting for the 2026 Dust Control, with a 50/50 Cost Share Program for smaller homeowners' requesting dust control. As well as announcing it on the Stanton Township website with a link for the 50/50 Cost Share Program form, to fill out. With Mark and Jim to look over this program. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Marty suggested locations of Agg Base placement to be reviewed in the spring time are McKilligan Rd. (swampy, low area), NC Park Hill (where left off through low area to the P Lot), Niemi Rd (if needed), Eilola Rd. & Ruohonen Rd. (if needed), Covered Drive (in low or wet areas). It was decided to skip paving if we do not receive the grant. Mark mentioned that Red Barn Road needs gravel.

Jim will talk to the HCRC to see which roads they will be painting lines on this year. He will also ask if the white lines are being painted, or only the centerline. Mark and Jim will come up with a list of roads that need painting done this year.

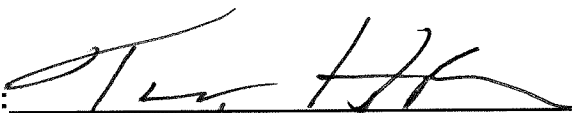
Stanton VFD- None


Toivola VFD- None

Freda Sewer- None

Public Comment- None

Lori **motioned** to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm. **2nd** by Jim. **Approved Unan.**

Submitted by:  Tina Hatman, Clerk

Approved by:  Marty Rajala, Supervisor

Amended budget changes - 03/05/2025

Stanton Township General Fund - April 2024- March 2025

Code:	Title:	Change:
<u>General Fund</u>		
101 Legislative		
101-703	Salaries	\$12,000 up to \$14,000
101-750	Bank Charges	\$200 up to \$262
265 Building and Grounds		
265-804	Plowing	\$6,000 up to \$8,500
265-970	Township Property Purchase	\$0 up to \$30,300
751 Kenner Dome		
751-804	Snow Plowing	\$2,000 up to \$3,400
751-920	Kenner Dome Utilities	\$2,000 up to \$2,483
756 Toivola Rec Center		
756-921	Toivola Rec Center Electric	\$1,500 up to \$1,938
<u>Liminga Fire Fund</u>		
342 O.C. Exp.		
342-802	Plowing/Snow	\$3,000 up to \$4,000
342-922	Electric	\$2,200 up to \$2,412
<u>Toivola Fire Fund</u>		
336 Fire Protection		
980	Equipment	\$5,000 up to \$23,532
342 O.C. Exp.		
342-921	Heat	\$2,400 up to \$2,800