

# SOLON TOWNSHIP

## Monthly Staff Meeting

Solon Township Hall  
15185 Algoma Avenue  
Cedar Springs, MI 49319  
616-696-1718

### Minutes March 4, 2020

#### CALL TO ORDER 10:00 A.M.

**Present:** Gunnell, Hoskins, Ellick, Gerhardt, Poulsen, Willoughby, Doane, Drake

**Public:** G. Skelonc

#### Departmental Activities

- Assessing – Notices all sent out. Board of Review meets Mar 9& 11. No appts scheduled, some calls with basic questions. 1 petition dropped off.
- Zoning – Still very busy. Judge told resident at prop on corner of 22 mile and Algoma he had 30 days to clean up or would levy fines (approx. \$4,000). Couple of abandoned/dilapidated structures at Olin Lakes, some issues on Simmons between Upper and Middle Lakes – talked to attorney – has private road agreement pre-90s, road is inadequate, especially for emergency response vehicles – bridge won't hold much. Ordered work stopped on pole building that hasn't met zoning requirements.
- Building – up from last month. Still soft.
- Fire Department – 17 inquiries on truck for sale since September 2019. Discussion with firefighter resulted in resignation – stemming from inappropriate facebook comments. New Lieutenant taking on training responsibilities – good comments from other firefighters. Working on graphs/reports to include in this month's report. Several assists to Algoma last couple of weeks. 800mg radios program on pause because issues. Testing mobile radios and should be preparing portables in next few months. Train the Trainer soon and then 8-hour class for firefighters. Sophisticated system that can reach out of state with very clear communication. Grant paid for 1<sup>st</sup> wave of radios – should last up to 10 years – replacements will be township expense. LED replacement – hard to get quotes from installers, but still working on that.
  - \* Public comment – current FD staffing – are hours we *need* someone to staff the station the hours we have someone scheduled? Chief Drake believes so.
  - \* Supervisor asked if we have harness for use to clean gutters, etc. Wondered if OSHA would not like use of ladder without harness.

#### Business/Topics of Discussion:

- **Motion by Ellick** to set date of Budget Public Hearing March 24, 7:30pm, second by Gunnell, motion carried 5-0.
- **Motion by Poulsen** to adopt Resolution #20-02 for Property Tax Poverty Exemption, second by Ellick, roll call vote results: Gunnell-Y; Gerhardt-Y; Hoskins-Y; Ellick-Y; Poulsen-Y. Motion carried 5-0.
- Lime Lake Dry Hydrant Lease expiration
- Cost Recovery – Chief suggested increasing fees.

- **Motion by Poulsen** to change Payroll Policy as presented (to pay hourly and salary employees bi-weekly within 7 days after the last working day of the pay period and Fire Department by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the following month), second by Gunnell, motion carried 5-0.
- Lawncare – waiting for response from last year’s lawncare person asking about renewing at last year’s rate.
- Vista View escrow requirement – refer to attorney.
- Board discussed website updates and felt Administrative Assistant schedule can handle that duty along with Community room reservations. Supervisor will talk with Cathy and may approve extra work hours if needed.
- NKCE support payment - \$7,000

Items for the Regular Township Board Meeting:

- Lime lake Dry Hydrant Lease expiration
- Appoint park committee members
- NKCE support payment
- Set hourly wage for future help in clerk’s office
- Transfer support to Velzy Park Fund

Public Comment: G. Skelone asked if payroll raises for the Fire Department are included in the proposed budget for the Budget Hearing. Are ordinances good re: sludge/water runoff into road and include provision for fines, etc.? Right now, for instance, Cedarfield doesn’t have to notify us when problems occur – just tells DEQ who also doesn’t notify us. Are we following through to close gaps in procedures like this in our ordinances. Does our insurance cover replacement of new expensive radios?

ADJOURNMENT Motion made by Gerhardt, seconded by Poulsen. Motion Carried.

NEXT MEETING - April 1, 2020