Torch Lake Township

APPROVED Minutes Annual Meeting of Electors WITH CORRECTION +/- 16 YAY

Tuesday, March 17,2020

Present: Martel, Cook, Petersen, Schultz (Board excused themselves)

Absent: None

Audience: 18

Meeting called to order by Windiate at 7:05 pm

Martel **moves** to waive reading of minutes - seconded by Barr– 16 yeas’, zero nay’s

**Motion** to approve minutes of 03/19/19. S. Schultz motioned to approve as prepared seconded and passed – 16 yeas’, zero nay’s

Bob Spencer distributed a summary of three similar townships in Antrim County. In Torch Lake Township the proposal is to raise the supervisor salary by 4.1% Without the proposed increase, Torch Lake Township supervisor would still be the highest paid in comparison to surrounding townships.

**Supervisor Salary Vote** – Be it resolved that the Supervisor salary for the year 2020/2021 be $28,000 – Barr moved, seconded and passed – 12 yeas’, 3 nays’

**Clerk Salary Vote** – Be it resolved that the Township Clerk salary shall be $26,500 for 2020/2021 fiscal year. Mr. Spencer raised the question with the clerk’s extra help, we should look at the wages of the Clerk position. Mr. Cook asks if the resolution is defeated what is the next step? Salary would remain the same from previous fiscal year. Mr. Spencer spoke at February Board meeting regarding Dave Barr’s question as to why the full minutes are not posted in the newspaper. Per Clerk’s response that the minutes are posted in their entirety on the website with a summary posted in newspaper due to cost effectiveness. Mr. Spencer went back a couple of years and presented statistics regarding minute drafts and approved minutes. He suggests that the high portion of draft minutes are causing confusion as to what was changed and approved. On the 2019 calendar there were six minutes that were not found on the website. He takes issues with the clerk’s comments. Tom Stillings stated if you look at 2/18/20 minutes; they are completely “butchered” (MS Beitner’ s comment was that those were her first minutes). Mr. Martel clarified question of salary resolution being defeated according to Roberts Rules. Rules state the salary would remain the same of the previous fiscal year. K. Windiate spoke to this motion stating the assistance was added by the suggestion of Mr. Cook. Ms. Windiate appreciates the additional assistance of an intern especially pertaining to this year’s election. The Deputy Clerk does not work on the election at all. Bob Cook spoke to the fact that Ms. Windiate had a difficult time taking minutes for the last 18 months and being able to participate in the meetings. He further noted that the filing was falling behind and he suggested adding an assistant. He further stated that the payroll was not being completed accurately so the auditor was brought in. Mr. Cook further states that most recently Ms. Windiate had an error in a current FOIA report. He goes on to state that he feels Ms. Windiate is not fulfilling her duties. Tom Stillings made a motion to veto the Clerk Salary resolution and that the salary remain at the previous fiscal year salary of $25,200. Jill Spencer seconded. 8 in favor, 7 nays. Motion passes.

**Treasurer-** Bob Spencer moves to approve the treasurer $28,000 salary resolution for 2020/2021. Passed 15 yeas’, zero nays.

**Trustee:** Resolution that salary of trustee for 2020/2021 be increased to $5,200 per trustee. Jill Spencer moves to accept the resolution as presented. Motion passes 16 yeas’, zero nays.

Testimony and comments: Sharon Schultz points out that the census is coming around. Revenue sharing depends on this. 2010 figures show 1,194 people were counted and we have many more than that. Bob Spencer spoke to Central Lake recycling center not taking yard waste and grass. Torch Lake Township was to look at what we could do per previous discussion. He asks to put this back on table. Second there was a conversation of hostile work environment at the Township Office. Third he handed to board members a booklet regarding Standards of Ethics to develop an Ethics policy. He pushes this out there again for the Board to do. Bob Cook mentioned that the Board has now received a draft of the employee handbook. It is still in review.

**State of the Township** Mr. Martel commented that hopefully soon we will be ALS certified. Day Park Committee working on a park that is extremely expensive and not a money maker. The committee has done a great job working on this and keeping the park safe. He feels with the buildup of the area; we are no longer a true rural county. We must make sure the lakeshore is preserved and that citizens remain friendly (healthy community) Property values are going up. There is a lot of value here and property needs to be protected. We are in good shape and community has been extremely supportive.

Tom Stillings – Lot 13 on Golden Beach Drive. Is there some way the township can get into a legal position to sell? Township would benefit with revenue from sale and tax income. Property has been vacant for 11 years. Mr. Martel spoke to local zoning rules that limit usage of property. Ms. Schultz would like to say it was a pleasure to work with Bob Cook on the ALS certification and addressing needs of township.

Kari Ragsdale, Torch Lake Township taxpayer stated that what she witnessed tonight was inappropriate. Salary decisions should be based on fiscal responsibilities and what job entails along with cost-of-living increases. She feels the community owes the clerk an apology.

Tom Petersen – Feels we need more access to the waters. He would like to see the township purchase the DNR property, Lot 13 for swimming and kayak access but no boat access. Tom Stillings stated it is a plotted residential area. Mr. Petersen stated people are already using this as an access point to go swimming. It would be a loss to the greater township community if we were not allowed to utilize. Tom Stillings mentioned that the end of Barnes Road has access to the lake.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Veronica Beitner

Recording Secretary