TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

ANTRIM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

APPROVED MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING 4-0 WITH CHANGES

NOVEMBER 16, 2021

COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING

TORCH LAKE TOWNSHIP

Present: Cook, Schultz, Martel, Merchant and Windiate

Absent: None

Audience +/- 19

1. **REPEATING AGENDA**
2. Meeting is called to order at 7:00 PM followed by the pledge to the flag.
3. Minutes: **Motion** to approve Minutes of October 19, 2021 Regular Meeting was seconded and passed 5-0 as prepared. **Motion** to approve Minutes of November 3, 2021 Special Meeting was seconded and passed 5-0 with corrections. In item 3, line 2, add new item #6 regarding “Board of Review December meeting date”. In item 10, last line, change “past” to “October 19, 2021” meeting. **Motion** to approve Minutes of November 8, 2021 Special Meeting was seconded and passed 5-0 as prepared.
4. Correspondence, etc. Windiate reported that all new PC and ZBA members have been given their Torch Lake Township email addresses.
5. Agenda Content: **Motion** by Cook to approve content with one addition was seconded and passed 5-0. Add item “E. 2 Cell Phone usage”.
6. Citizen Comment: Tom Stillings complements the work of Windiate, Schultz, Cook and Merchant, but is troubled by the allegation of Martel misleading the public regarding the M 88 petitions. Martel should resign or face a recall drive. Jarris Rubingh gave update of Antrim County Road Commission. They are fully staffed and are ready for snow tomorrow!! They did receive approval for State matching funds for the new salt shed in Central Lake. Alden Road is open and good for the next 100-year storm!
7. **CONSENT AGENDA:** All reports accepted by consent.
8. **SPECIAL REPORTS AGENDA:**
9. Planning Commission Report: ANDY Graves has been named Chair, Bill Dvorak as Vice Chair and Bob Hawkins as the PC representative on the ZBA. Lora Carleton will remain Secretary. The commission is working on the High-Water mark and Village Business Zone.
10. FOIA Update: 3 new requests for the month of November; we have 3 requests still open.
11. Financial Overview: Report presented by Supervisor Cook.
12. **AGENDA FOR BOARD ACTION:**

**No Old Business**

**New Business**

1. Resolution 2021-31: **Motion** by Cook to approve Petition signatures and Ballot language for the M- 88 Rezoning Referendum is seconded and passed 4-1 roll call vote, with Merchant casting the nay vote.
2. Resolution 2021-32: **Motion** by Cook to recommend 31 Scoops for a new on-premises license application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission was seconded and passed 5-0.
3. TAA Contract: **Motion** by Cook to accept the request by Township Ambulance Authority to terminate the Management Agreement dated March 19, 2019, effective November 30, 2021, was seconded and passed 5-0.
4. **Motion** to accept the contract as presented with Mike Bertram to provide emergency management oversite with the overall responsibility for ambulance operations effective December 1, 2021 at a rate of $1600 per month, was seconded and passed roll call vote 5-0.
5. **Motion** to increase the hourly pay rate of Ted Schroeder from $22.65 per hour to $31.00 per hour for the added responsibilities related to preparing ambulance payroll and other items as presented or may be assigned with an effective date of December 1, 2021, was seconded and passed 5-0 roll call vote.
6. **AGENDA FOR BOARD DISCUSSION:**
7. Content related to board discussion: Alan Martel commented about Board discussions we have around action we might take and that he likes that and misses that.
8. Cell phone usage: Martel’s comment was that he doesn’t want the reimbursement any more. The decision in the past was to do a reimbursement rather then buy everyone phones. Attorney comment was that there was no problem with the reimbursement but to remember if you use your phone for township business that makes your phone subject to FOIA. Cook will put this on the agenda for next month and we can decide at that time.
9. **AGENDA ITEM FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSE ONLY:** None.
10. **CITIZEN COMMENT:** Randy Bishop had comments regarding the phone reimbursements that are received. Legally, that makes all of your phone records subject to FOIA. Specific to Mr. Martel, he is in violation of Mr. Bishop’s FOIA request. His phone records, everyone’s phone records, should be copied and submitted to the township. Because of this Mr. Bishop will begin a recall petition next week. Bishop believes that some things that have been done have not ben in the best interest of all of the residents of this township.
11. **BOARD COMMENT:** Mr. Merchant asked if there would be an EMS/Fire Christmas dinner this year. Schultz gave a big thank you to the TAA team. Kudos from the beginning. Also, dog licenses are available from now until February 28, 2022. Applications can be found on-line. Reminder to sign up for Constant Contact; watch for the newsletter along with your tax bill. Finally, we have received ½ of our State of Michigan reimbursement of $61,702 from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We need to plan for these funds before our next budget. There are restrictions. Mr. Martel commented we had a disagreement on how to do a re-zoning. There is no clear criteria and that was his concern with the M 88 rezoning. It should be in our ordinance. He did not intentionally mis-lead the public. Zoning is difficult to explain.
12. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

These minutes are respectfully submitted and are subject to approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Kathy S. Windiate

Township Clerk