

Elk Rapids Township
Regular Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2019

The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St. Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amos at 9:00 am. The meeting was recorded to provide accuracy.

Present: Supervisor Dorance Amos, Clerk Shelley Boisvert, Trustee Richard Hults, and Trustee Aaron Isenhart

Absent: Treasurer Mike Szymanski

Also Present: B. Derman, Chief Williamson, and 2 members in the audience.

1. **Pledge of Allegiance**
2. **Public Comments:** no comments at this time
3. **Approval of Meeting Agenda: MOTION/S: Hults/Isenhart** to approve the agenda as presented.
MOTION APPROVED.
4. **Consent Agenda:**
 - A. November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes
 - B. Zoning Report
 - C. Treasurers Report
 - D. Paying of the Bills: General Fund- \$19,941.47, Fire & Rescue Fund - \$133,292.27

Boisvert requested to remove A.) November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes from the Consent Agenda and address it separately.

MOTION/S: Boisvert/Amos to remove the November 12, 2019 meeting minutes from the consent agenda and approve the remaining items. Roll Call Vote: Hults, Isenhart, Amos and Boisvert all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**

November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes: A correction needed to be made on number **10. Meeting Date Adjustments** of the minutes. The Motion and Support was to move the Tuesday March 10th Township Board Meeting to Monday, March 9th 2019 at 9:00 AM and the year should have been 2020. The minutes will now reflect that change in the year. **MOTION/S: Boisvert/Amos** approve the November 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes with the change for Item 10. **MOTION APPROVED.**

5. **Alden State Bank Account Name Change: MOTION/S: Isenhart/Hults** to approve the name change on the account from Birch Lake Sewer Fund to Township Sewer Fund. **MOTION APPROVED.**
6. **Assessor:** Report as submitted.
 - Poverty Exemption Tax Requirements: Resolution #2019-12. **MOTION/S: Isenhart/Hults** to approve Resolution 2019-12 with the 2020 federal poverty income guidelines. Roll Call Vote: Isenhart, Hults, Amos and Boisvert all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**
7. **Zoning Ordinance Amendments: Amendments as recommended by the Planning Commission.**
 - **Amendment 2019-01:** Amend Zoning Ordinance Agricultural Zone Permitted Uses to include Farm and Farm Market sales directly to the consumer, their definitions and related permitted signs. **MOTION/S: Boisvert/Amos** to approve the amendment as recommended. Roll Call Vote: Amos, Boisvert, Hults and Isenhart all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**
 - **Amendment 2019-02:** Amend Zoning Ordinance Agricultural Zone Permitted Uses to add new section Solar Energy Farms and their definition. **MOTION/S: Amos/Hults** to approve the amendment as recommended. Roll Call Vote: Boisvert, Hults, Isenhart and Amos all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**

Zoning Ordinance Amendments (continued)

- **Amendment 2019-03:** Amend Zoning Ordinance General Provisions to add new section- Residential Scale Solar Facilities, their definition and include in the Table Of Contents.
MOTION/S: Isenhart/Hults to approve the amendment as recommended: Roll Call Vote: Hults, Isenhart, Amos and Boisvert all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**
- **Amendment 2019-04:** Amend Zoning Ordinance General Provision to add new section – Wind Powered Generators, their definition and include in the Table Of Contents. **MOTION/S: Hults/Boisvert** to approve the amendment as recommended: Roll Call Vote: Isenhart, Amos Boisvert and Hults all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**

These amendments will take affect seven (7) days after publication which should b in about 2 weeks.

8. Sheriff / Commissioner Report: As submitted.

9. Ambulance Department: MMR: Report as submitted.

- Service Contract Addendums:

- There is an increase in the annual subsidy from \$225,000 to \$265,000 to begin for the calendar year January through December for the next five (5) years from 2020 through 2024.
- Building Rent from the Township to MMR will also increase from \$7,200 to \$12,000 per year.

MOTION/S: Isenhart/Hults to approve the service contract addendums and to approve giving the Supervisor authority to sign the contracts containing the new amounts for the next five (5) years. Roll Call Vote: Isenhart, Amos, Boisvert and Hults all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**

10. Fire Department: Chief Williamson: as Reported

The Board mentioned notification to property owners along private roads and long private drive ways in the Township in regards to emergency vehicle accessibility down those roads and drives. More property owners will be notified.

MERS 457 Retirement Plan: The allocation for the 457 retirement plan to fire fighters who met the qualifications was submitted for approval. An amount of \$9,000 from the Township toward the retirement funds and some training wages that certain firefighters wanted to add to the allocations in an amount of \$4,810 totaled \$13,810 to go to MERS. **MOTION/S: Boisvert/Amos** to approve the total amount of \$13,810 to be paid to MERS for 2019 for the 457 Retirement Plan. Roll Call Vote: Amos, Boisvert, Hults and Isenhart all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**

11. Agreement for Tax Collection for 2020: \$2.50 per parcel

- Agreement with Elk Rapids Schools
- Agreement with Traverse Bay Area Intermediate Schools

Both of these entities agree to pay \$2.50 per parcel toward tax collection. This has not changed over the past several years. **MOTION/S: Hults/Isenhart** to approve the agreements and continue to collect the taxes for \$2.50 per parcel. Roll Call Vote: Boisvert, Hults, Isenhart and Amos all voting Yes, 0 No (Szymanski absent) **MOTION APPROVED.**

12. Township Sewer: B. Muma-Performance Engineering

A Special Township Board meeting is set for Thursday, December 12th at 9:00 am for the Board to look at ideas and options for the possibility of expanding sewer along the Cairn Hwy corridor from Maple Harbor down to the wastewater treatment plant off of Herman Rd. Once the Board has a good understanding of the options a mailing will go out to the property owners in that area and an informational meeting will be held to see if there is interest for sewer in that area along Elk Lake.

13. Township/Wilcox Park: B. Derman has talked to one of the heirs of Mina Wilcox regarding the deeds to the park property. This property is set to go on the tax roll in 2020.

14. Government Center Building Maintenance: Hults will be meeting with an engineering firm to review all the mechanical equipment at the Governmental Center. This review will be used for our Capital Replacement Chart. Hults is also looking at the water leaking into the building.

15. Maple Grove Cemetery: It has been suggested that the Township name all the roads in the cemetery. We thought that this would be a very good idea and would help direct people looking for specific plots. This is also a first small step toward the improvements the Township is hoping to do in the future. Road name suggestions would be welcomed.

16. Attorney Report: As reported.

17. Township Board Announcements and Comments:

- There was a bright green notice sent with the winter tax bill stating that the Township Assessing department is still doing appraisal field work in the Village and the Township, so this spring property owners may see these inspectors on their property.
- There was a request for a new street light at the corner of US 31N and Sunset Drive. Consumer's Energy was contacted and gave a cost of \$100 for the installation of a six foot bracket and a light that could be installed on an existing pole. The Board agreed that the Township would spend up to \$100 toward a street light. Consumer's will be notified.
- Hults – Library Board held their first meeting at the Governmental center.
- The County Road Commission had to make some emergency repairs along North Bay Shore Drive due to the high water.
- No new news on the samples taken at Inwood Harbor at this time.
- ELSA did testing along the shores of Elk Lake near Spencer Bay and submitted a report with their speculations which included possible issues with Burnette Foods. Burnette Foods submitted a report of their own to clear up any speculation that included their operations.

Adjourned: 10:09 AM

Shelley Boisvert, Elk Rapids Township Clerk, 231-264-9333
Meeting minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Board Meeting