

SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX
December 9, 2014

A. CALL TO ORDER – 7:00 PM by Supervisor B. Yelle

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. ROLL CALL: Ben Yelle, Lee Yelle, Cheryl Schram, Darlene Walch, Joe Wixtrom. **Absent:** None
Employees in Attendance: Rickey Wilson, Carolyn Kerkela, Jane Noe.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: Roni Yelle, Bob Kallio, David Kallio, Nancy Olsen, Jim Noe, Jay Johnson, Justin Yelle.

D. AGENDA: L. Yelle motioned, J. Wixtrom supported, to accept agenda as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
Motion carried.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Jim Noe asked if anything was going to be done regarding the power plant/oil refinery discussed at the Special Meeting and if a report would be given on what action has been taken.

Nancy Olsen agreed with Jim and said she has concerns after researching oil refineries online. She gave specific information regarding a refinery in North Dakota and the time frame from initial discussions through the permitting and groundbreaking phases to the first output, which is due any day. She feels the Board should take a stand against the refinery and take action so they can inform the County where they stand at the County Board meeting on the 16th.

R. Wilson said the term “fast track” was used at the meeting, which caused concern but Phil Grashoff said the ball is in the Township’s court, and they would have to approve the project. They cannot “fast track” the project.

Jim Noe said the statement Steve Foulks made at the last meeting about no refineries built in the last 40 years was incorrect. Several have been built, including the one set to begin production any day now.

Dave Kallio said thirty years ago, the County supported a landfill in Sands Township because Marquette City was in a crisis and needed a landfill. Sands opposed the original site because of water concerns. Now, with the water concerns and fire risk, he does not feel this is an appropriate location. He feels entities are looking at the benefits only, not taking the risks into consideration. He also mentioned the proximity of the airport which could affect the height of the stacks. He urges the Board to resist the project because there is no benefit to the Township; any money gain would be considerably offset by additional responsibilities.

Roni Yelle commented that Bob Myers is not listed as in attendance at the Special Meeting, but is shown to speak during Public Comment.

F. PUBLIC HEARING - VAR2014-04: B. Yelle said the requestors are not in attendance and may be changing the request. After discussion, B. Yelle opened the Public Hearing at 7:18.

G. PUBLIC COMMENT: Roni Yelle said the hearing has already been postponed and now, if the request is not finalized, how long will the Board keep postponing this and what is the provision for dealing with this?

H. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING: B. Yelle closed the Public Hearing at 7:22.

I. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. TREASURER’S REPORT – General Fund \$382,862.84 Trust & Agency \$0.00

Fire Fund \$38,241.01 **Ambulance Fund** \$55,284.70 **Parks/Rec** \$89,661.87 **Sanitation** \$42,949.62
Taxes \$31,318.65 **Road Repair Fund** \$247,844.44

C.D TOTALS: Ambulance \$256,128.27 **Roads** \$345,370.43 **Fire Dept** \$198,093.45

General Fund \$752,158.60

Money Markets: Fire \$44,481.51 **Cemetery Perpetual Care** \$2,567.45 **Road Repair Fund** \$133,416.69

2. APPROVE MINUTES:

D. Walch motioned, C. Schram supported, to approve minutes of the 11/18/14 meeting as presented, and the minutes of the 12/1/14 special meeting with the addition of Bob Myers in attendance and the noted clerical error corrected. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

3. BUDGET REPORT: L. Yelle report that the general fund is 2/3 thru the fiscal year while the total expenses are at 49% of the established budget. All budgets are looking well at this point in the fiscal year.

4. APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: L. Yelle motioned, J. Wixtrom supported, to approve accounts payable as presented; General Fund checks # 30241 - # 30302 for \$23,381.02 and Tax Collection checks #2931 - #2936 for \$4,738.60, for a total of \$28,119.62. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. FIRE DEPARTMENT

- a. Chief Rickey Wilson read report.
- b. B. Yelle reported a \$2,000 grant was received for wildland coveralls.

2. AMBULANCE:

- a. R. Wilson gave report.
- b. L. Yelle reported the computer issue was solved with a \$45 purchase.

3. SUPERVISOR'S REPORT-

- a. C. Schram motioned, D. Walch supported, to pay the Township's portion on Kevin Koch's expenses to attend the MTA Conference. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- b. L. Yelle motioned, B. Yelle supported, to advertise in the Mining Journal for the ZBA appointment. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

4. CLERK'S REPORT-

- a. C. Schram motioned, L. Yelle supported, to pay the Pomasl bills totaling \$2,106.34. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

5. LANDFILL-

- a. No Report

6. ZONING –

- a. No Report
- b. L. Yelle reported 4 were approved by phone query to attend zoning training in Chatham on December 8.

7. LIBRARY- C. Schram read Report.

8. GROUNDWATER AND WELL TESTING-

- a. Jim Noe gave information from the water testing, and reported several wells need to be recapped or have new padlocks put on, which will be done in the spring.

9. COMMISSION ON AGING –

- a. L. Yelle gave report.

10. PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE-

- a. C. Schram shared a request from the pickleball players; Board consensus is to not put shades or a sunlight blocking film on the windows in the gym at this time.

11. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – No Report**12. CEMETERY – No Report****K. OLD BUSINESS –**

- 1. The Fire Department has not found a suitable brush truck yet.
- 2. Discussion occurred on the UPAWS request for 20 acres of Township property. No action taken.
- 3. After discussion, C. Schram motioned, L. Yelle supported, to state that Sands Township is not in favor of dealing with Bison Oil or House Pacific regarding a possible power plant and oil refinery in Sands Township. Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 Motion carried. Board consensus is to have L. Yelle draft a letter to the County and City of Marquette stating our position.

L. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. B. Yelle motioned, D. Walch supported, to deny VAR2014-04. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

M. OTHER/ CORRESPONDENCE:

- a. A letter from Charter was received regarding the franchise renewal.

N. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Justin Yelle said he feels Marquette County has handled the transition since the closing of the air base very poorly, which is reinforced by them putting it in the hands of Telkite. Telkite will benefit again from this proposed project, at the expense of Township residents. He also said if the City of Marquette is concerned about electrical issues, they should consider the We Energies facility so it is in their own backyard.

Dave Kallio said he feels the best site for the UPAWS facility is the property owned by the Fair, and they should raise the funds to purchase it directly instead of involving the Township. He also said he feels the City and County may be using the refinery project to try and solve recent money woes. He thanked the Board for the action taken.

Nancy Olsen thanked the Board for the position taken.

B. Yelle wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

O. ADJOURNMENT: B. Yelle adjourned meeting at 8:32 PM.