

**SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING**  
**SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX**  
**January 12, 2021**

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** –D. Walch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call** – Darlene Walch, Justin Yelle, Kent Koehn, Dave Kallio and Carolyn Kerkela **Absent** – None  
**Employees in Attendance:** Randy Yelle, Lee Yelle, Andrew Linsmeier, Pat Mager  
**Public in Attendance (via Zoom):** Rick Wilson
3. **Public Comment:** R. Wilson said he was not happy with the Planning Commission decision regarding the solar project. He shared information from an agreement between the DNR and Cleveland-Cliffs that had several requirements.
4. **Agenda:** K. Koehn moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve the agenda after moving item 8a after the Consent Agenda, adding Treasurer’s Report before Clerk’s Report, adding 9j – Library Township Advisory Committee Representative and 9k – Land Exchange between DNR and Cleveland-Cliffs, and adding Board Comment after the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Comment. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
5. **Consent Agenda:** D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
  - a. **Minutes:** December 8, 2020 Accepted and placed on file.
  - b. **Department Reports:** Accepted and placed on file.
    - a. **Fire** – No Report
    - b. **Ambulance** – No Report
    - c. **Sanitation / MCSWMA**
    - d. **Cemetery** – No Report
    - e. **Zoning**
  - c. **Committee Reports**
    - a. **Personnel** - No Report
    - b. **Parks & Recreation** - No Report
    - c. **Groundwater & Well Testing** – No Report
    - d. **Library** - No Report
    - e. **Council on Aging** - No Report
  - d. **Correspondence** – None
  - e. **Miscellaneous** – None
- 8a. **Replacement of Fire Truck** – The truck to be replaced was shown and questions were answered; Funding will be explored as different trucks are considered.
6. **Treasurer’s Report** –  
K. Koehn reported 2 CD’s at Honor Credit Union have matured and will be transferred into the CDARS account with Range Bank.  
  
D. Kallio moved, J. Yelle seconded, to look into writing off the smaller delinquent Personal Property Tax and to attempt to collect the original amount without penalties for the larger amount. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**Checking Account Balances** (as of December 31, 2020):

**General Fund** \$47,753.22      **Trust & Agency** \$1,395.00      **Fire Fund** \$232,031.03  
**Ambulance Fund** \$217,440.19      **Parks/Rec** \$198,057.14  
**Sanitation** \$21,384.18      **Taxes** \$396,532.50      **Road Repair Fund** \$167,209.34

**CD Totals:**

**Ambulance** \$274,906.70      **Roads** \$269,536.41      **Fire Dept** \$212,045.68  
**General Fund** \$664,568.49      **Parks & Rec** \$54,264.71

**Money Markets:**    **Fire** \$48,372.14      **Cemetery Perpetual Care** \$3,021.58  
**Road Repair Fund** \$85,915.18      **General** \$169,362.43

**7. Clerk's Report**

- a. **Accounts Payable** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Walch seconded, to approve accounts payable as presented: General Fund checks #35717 - #35799 for \$110,558.40, Road Fund checks #2061 & #2062 for \$154,044.25, and Tax Collection checks #3497 - #3521 for \$314,065.60, for a total of \$578,668.25. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.
- b. **Budget Report** –  
C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, amend the General Fund authorized expenses by taking \$12,695 from Contingency expenses and increasing the Treasurer expenses by \$6,000, for a total of \$32,700, and increasing the Sanitation expenses by \$6,695, for a total of \$113,778. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.  
C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, to increase authorized Road Millage Fund expenses by \$5,687, for a total of \$154,045. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.  
C. Kerkela moved, K. Koehn seconded, to increase authorized Sanitation Fund expenses by \$15,000, for a total of \$96,198. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.
- c. **Millage Renewals** – Fire, Road, Sanitation, and Ambulance millages are up for renewal this year and an August election will be explored.
- d. **Completion of FY 2019-2020 Audit** – Informational only
- e. **Closner Payment & Bittner Engineering Bill** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Walch seconded, to acknowledge payment to Closner Construction for \$58,101.39 and authorize payment to Bittner Engineering for \$1,456.50 for work on the new Recycling & Transfer Facility. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.

**8. Supervisor's Report**

- a. **DEQ Recycling Grant** – D. Walch gave an update.
- b. **Updated Road Maintenance Projects Report** – No Update
- c. **COVID-19 Update** – D. Walch gave an update.
- d. **Landfill Update** – D. Walch gave an update.

**9. Old Business**

- a. **Replacement of Fire Truck** – Addressed Above
- b. **Old Hall & Garage Property** – No Update
- c. **COVID-19 Office Concerns** – Consensus is to continue as is at this time.

**10. New Business**

- a. **Board of Review** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to appoint Gary Stevens as a member of the Board of Review. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.

D. Walch moved, J. Yelle seconded, to register for the MTA Basic Board of Review Training at the group rate of \$90 for the required training. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

- b. **Countywide Designated Assessor – Interlocal Agreement** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to accept the Interlocal Agreement for the County Designated Assessor. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- c. **Floor Mats for new Recycling & Transfer Station** – C. Kerkela moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve the purchase of a new floor mat for the Recycling & Transfer Facility from Dalco for \$293.32. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- d. **EMS AT&T Contract for FirstNet** – Waiting on additional information.
- e. **Active911 Renewal** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve the renewal of Active911 for 23 devices for a total of \$338. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- f. **Winter 2021 Newsletter** – D. Walch moved, K. Koehn seconded, to accept the draft newsletter and send it to the printer. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- g. **Fire Dept DNR Grant Award for Radios** – C. Kerkela moved, J. Yelle seconded, to accept the DNR grant with a 50% match (\$4,726 Township/\$4,726 DNR) for radios, chargers and mics, and to create the required SIGMA Account. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- h. **Fire Dept Grant** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Walch seconded, to approve the Fire Department exploring additional grant sources, but to consult with the Clerk and Treasurer if sensitive financial information is required for the application. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- i. **Ordinance 57 – Randy** – Consensus is to not explore amending Ordinance #57 to allow for consumption in a Marihuana Facility at this time.
- j. **Library Township Advisory Committee** – Lainey Stevens has resigned and a new representative is needed.
- k. **Land Exchange, DNR/CCI** – Dave Kallio shared information of his knowledge of the requirements of the land exchange between the DNR and Cleveland-Cliffs.

#### 11. Public Comment –

R. Wilson commented about the solar project and the land restrictions, its affect on the water recharge in the area, and urged the board to consult with their attorney.

D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to send a copy of the land exchange to our attorney for review and to get his opinion how we should proceed, if at all. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

**11b. Board Comment** – J. Yelle thanked board members for running for their position and appreciates the work everyone is doing as things are changing rapidly.

**12. Adjournment** – D. Walch adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

Darlene Walch, Supervisor