

**SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING  
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX  
March 8, 2022**

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, David Kallio, Carolyn Kerkela  
**Absent** – None  
**Employees in Attendance:** Randy Yelle, Lee Yelle, Tom Wahlstrom  
**Public in Attendance:** John Sutton, Greg McAuliffe, Bob Kallio (via Zoom)
3. **Public Comment:** Andy Griffin introduced himself as a candidate for Circuit Court Judge.
  - a. **Superiorland Pickleball Club** – John Sutton and Greg McAuliffe thanked the Township for their support of pickleball, said they would like to possibly help maintain the courts with money from the Club, and proposed some additional lines on the tennis courts that would allow for four pickleball courts instead of the current two.
4. **Agenda:** K. Koehn moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: 5  
Nays: 0 Motion carried.
5. **Consent Agenda:** D. Kallio moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
  - a. **Minutes:** February 8, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes and February 25 Special Meeting minutes approved as presented.
  - b. **Department Reports:** Accepted and placed on file.
    - a. **Fire** –
    - 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. **Commission of Aging** –
  - d. **Financial Reports**
    - a. **Treasurer’s Report**
    - b. **Accounts Payable/General Ledger** – General Fund Checks #36715 - #36791, including four electronic payments, for \$57,927.13, and Tax Collection Checks #3690 - #3714 for \$1,065,792.64 approved as presented.
    - c. **Budget Reports**
  - e. **Correspondence** –
    - a. **SAVION Information – Act 328**
  - f. **Miscellaneous** – None
6. **Public Hearing: FY 2022-2023 Budget** – D. Walch declared the Public Hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget open at 7:18 PM. D. Walch presented the General Appropriations Act/(Budget) as follows: Anticipated General Operating revenues of \$743,335.00 and expenses of \$583,283.00 and, anticipated revenues and expenses for: Ambulance Fund - \$45,968.00, Fire

Fund - \$92,000.00, Parks/Recreation Fund - \$49,551.00, Sanitation Fund - \$100,741.00, Library Fund - \$104,599.00, and Road Fund - \$184,075.00. Anticipated allocated millage at 1.1630 and voter-authorized millages of 6.2784.

Public Comment: None

D. Walch closed the Public Hearing at 7:19.

**7. Treasurer's Report– Checking Account Balances (as of February 28, 2022):**

**General Fund** \$1,005,286.92    **Trust & Agency** \$0.00    **Fire Fund** \$347,427.25

**Ambulance Fund** \$297,651.43    **Parks/Rec** \$267,947.18

**Sanitation** \$65,969.45    **Taxes** \$14,272.72    **Road Repair Fund** \$388,492.71

**CD Totals:**

**Ambulance** \$282,181.43    **Roads** \$273,660.42    **Fire Dept** \$216,861.18

**General Fund** \$670,563.52    **Parks & Rec** \$54,946.20

**Money Markets:**

**Fire** \$48,379.34    **Cemetery Perpetual Care** \$3,100.68

**Road Repair Fund** \$86,022.81    **General** \$169,906.49

- a. **Bank Account Signatures** – D. Walch moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve the addition of Carolyn Kerkela as Clerk to all bank accounts, and to remove Lee Yelle from all accounts, except for the checking account. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.
- b. **Tax Account Money** – to be addressed in April.

**8. Clerk's Report**

- a. **Budget Amendments** – C. Kerkela moved, K. Koehn seconded, to take \$1,290 from the Accounting expenses, leaving \$8,210, and to use it to increase expenses in the Cemetery line item by \$40, for a total of \$2,299, to increase expenses in the Public Works line item by \$250, for a total of \$9,170, and to increase expenses in the Transfer Station line item by \$1,000, for a total of \$38,718. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.
- b. **Minutes on Website:** C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve the posting of Draft minutes on our website. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.

**9. Supervisor's Report**

- a. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** – D. Walch gave an update
- b. **Superior Trade Zone** – to be addressed in April
- c. **EMS Grant-** D. Walch gave an update on the grant application.

**10. Old Business**

- a. **DNR/Cliffs Land Agreement** – No Update.
- b. **Sanitation Millage** – to be addressed in April
- c. **Recreation Committee** – D. Walch gave an update, and will bring updated By-laws to the April meeting.
- d. **MTA Annual Conference** – D. Kallio moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve sending interested officials and employees to the MTA Conference, either in person or virtual. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.

**11. New Business**

**a. Fire Department**

- a. **Washing Machine Disposal** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, to list the washing machine for sale on Facebook for \$25, first come basis/as-is condition, and to re-address in 30 days if it does not sell. Ayes: 5    Nays: 0    Motion carried.

- b. **New Member** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Walch seconded, to accept the recommendation from the Fire Department and approve Donald Eplett as a new member. Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 Motion carried.
  - c. **Cadet Program** – D. Walch moved, K. Koehn seconded, to authorize the Fire Department to investigate a Cadet program, and to bring additional details to the Township Board. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
  - d. **New Truck** – D. Walch moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the Fire Department gathering information and putting together a proposal for the purchase of a new truck to replace 2123. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
  - b. **Pickleball Request** – D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to allow the Superiorland Pickleball Club to put in additional lines to expand pickleball on the tennis courts, and to welcome any donations for maintenance they may make. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
  - c. **Resolution #03082022GA** – J. Yelle moved, K. Koehn seconded, to adopt Resolution #03082022GA, the General Appropriations Act, and the proposed Budget for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year. Roll call vote was unanimous.
  - d. **MCRC Dust Control** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve partnering with the Road Commission for 2022 dust control, with an estimated Township share being \$335.16 plus an 8.5% overhead charge. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
  - e. **Cemetery Plot Sale** – More information will be gathered, along with input from the Sexton.
  - f. **Dollar General Request** – Consensus is the Township is not interested in selling any part of the property the Office and Recycling/Transfer Station is located on.
  - g. **Zoning Update** – Randy Yelle gave an update on several issues – Sands Speedway, proposed amendments, an upcoming Special Use Request, and the Marquette County Solid Waste Authority's recycling efforts.
- 12. Public Comment** – Bob Kallio (via zoom) said there is a history of D. Eplett as a past employee and suggested investigating before spending money on gear.
- 13. Adjournment** – D. Walch adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

Darlene Walch, Supervisor