

**SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX
February 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
Absent – Carolyn Kerkela
Employees in Attendance: Randy Yelle, Lee Yelle, Tom Wahlstrom
Public in Attendance: Carl Johnson, Courtney Timmons, Rich Vander Veen and (via Zoom):
Mary Kay Johnson, Marge Forslin, Bob Kallio and others
3. **Public Comment:** Carl Johnson voiced his concerns regarding fire hazards due to possible approval of a campground close to his property. He also requested a list of who all was contacted.
4. Rich Vander Veen gave an update on the timeline of the Superior Solar Project. Courtney Timmons also gave update relating to PA 328, the Superior Trade Zone, and how the township could benefit. Also reported possibility of project being in place by late 2024 or early 2025. Also commented how PA 328 affects the structure of taxes and that if the township desired to have council present at a meeting regarding this issue, Savion would cover the cost. Trustee D. Kallio commented that Adams Township receives taxes in the form of PILT.
5. **Agenda:** K. Koehn moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the agenda. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0
Motion carried.
6. **Consent Agenda:** K. Koehn moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
 - a. **Minutes:** January 11, 2022 Regular Meeting minutes approved as presented.
 - b. **Department Reports:** Accepted and placed on file.
 - a. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - b. **Fire –**
 - c. **Ambulance –**
 - d. **Sanitation / MCSWMA –**
 - e. **Cemetery – No Report**
 - f. **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 – No report**
 - d. **Correspondence –**
 - e. **Miscellaneous –**
 - a. **Accounts Payable/General Ledger –** General Fund Checks #36652 - #36714, including an electronic payment, and Trust & Agency checks for \$53,205.01, Road Fund check #2065 for \$100,595.45, and Tax Collection Checks #3658 - #3689 for \$630,648.16 approved as presented.
 - b. **Budget Reports**

7. **Treasurer's Report**– K. Koehn reported that approximately 86% of taxes have been collected.

Checking Account Balances (as of January 31, 2022):

General Fund \$906,116.51 **Trust & Agency** \$0.00 **Fire Fund** \$312,317.16
Ambulance Fund \$279,647.29 **Parks/Rec** \$248,879.99
Sanitation \$40,086.43 **Taxes** \$675,691.34 **Road Repair Fund** \$316,384.83

CD Totals:

Ambulance \$281,768.82 **Roads** \$273,660.42 **Fire Dept** \$216,704.11
General Fund \$670,474.20 **Parks & Rec** \$54,946.20

Money Markets:

Fire \$48,379.34 **Cemetery Perpetual Care** \$3,100.68
Road Repair Fund \$86,001.13 **General** \$169,906.49

8. **Clerk's Report**

- a. **Mqt Co Road Commission Invoice** – Reporting that the invoice submitted for road construction approved at the April 13, 2021 meeting went over by \$4,790.26 (5% of base construction bid); paid \$100,595.45.
- b. **QuickBooks Annual Payroll Subscription** –. D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve paying up to \$750 for QB Payroll subscription. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- c. **Requirement to publish minutes:** Due to the taxable value threshold, the township is now required to publish, at a minimum, a synopsis of the township board minutes.
- d. **Election Assistant Position:** J. Yelle moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve creating an Election Assistant Position and appointing Pam Roberts, with the Township paying for all necessary training. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

9. **Supervisor's Report**

- a. **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** – D. Walch moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve using approximately \$10,000 of the Township's share of ARPA funds for hazard pay for the Fire Department and EMS for hours worked during the pandemic. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- b. **Superior Trade Zone** –Update was addressed by during Savion's presentation.
- c. **COVID-19 Update** – D. Walch gave an update.

10. **Old Business**

- a. **DNR/Cliffs Land Agreement** – No Update.
- b. **Sanitation Millage** – No Update.
- c. **Recreation Committee** – List of previous members submitted. D. Walch did receive some clarification regarding old data used for grant reporting from CUPPAD representative Dotty LaJoye.
- d. **Gym Reopening** – D. Walch moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve opening the gym area to public using previous protocol, along with deferring to the Administrative Assistant's discretion. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

11. **New Business**

- a. **Resolution #02082022PE** – D. Kallio moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the Resolution to adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test (copy attached) Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

b. Salary Resolutions –

Resolution #02082022S –D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to adopt Resolution #02082022S, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Supervisor). Roll call vote: J. Yelle – yes, K. Koehn – yes, D. Walch – yes, D. Kallio – yes, (C. Kerkela – absent). Resolution adopted.

Resolution #02082022T – D. Kallio moved, J. Yelle seconded, to adopt Resolution #02082022T, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Treasurer). Roll call vote: J. Yelle – yes, K. Koehn – yes, D. Walch – yes, D. Kallio – yes, (C. Kerkela – absent). Resolution adopted.

Resolution #02082022C - K. Koehn moved, D. Kallio seconded, to adopt Resolution #02082022C, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Clerk). Roll call vote: J. Yelle – yes, K. Koehn – yes, D. Walch – yes, D. Kallio – yes, (C. Kerkela – absent). Resolution adopted.

Resolution #02082022 Trustee – D. Walch moved, K. Koehn seconded, to adopt Resolution #02082022 Trustee, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Trustee). Roll call vote: J. Yelle – yes, K. Koehn – yes, D. Walch – yes, D. Kallio – yes, (C. Kerkela – absent). Resolution adopted.

c. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Wages & Salaries –J. Yelle moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year Wages and Salaries as presented. Roll call vote: J. Yelle – yes, K. Koehn – yes, D. Walch – yes, D. Kallio – yes, (C. Kerkela – absent). Motion carried.

d. Resolution #02082022 ChtrTwp – J. Yelle moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve Resolution of Intent Opposing Incorporation as a Charter Township. Roll call vote: J. Yelle – yes, K. Koehn – yes, D. Walch – yes, D. Kallio – yes, (C. Kerkela – absent). Resolution adopted.

e. Active 911 Renewal – D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve renewal of paying for the Active 911. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

f. EMS Training (Lodging) – D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve paying for 2 nights of lodging when an EMS member attends a free 3-day course in Escanaba. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

g. Zoning Update – Randy Yelle gave update and requested board permission to pursue a zoning ordinance amendment related to shooting within subdivisions and also adding wording to the ordinance that would allow attorney expenses to be recouped in the event of having to go to court. D. Kallio moved, K. Koehn seconded, to approve proceeding with requested ordinance amendment with the Planning Commission. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried. (The attorney fee issue will be addressed at the March meeting.)

12. Public Comment – Marge Forslin (via zoom) commented that the Solar project is a win-win situation for both Sands Township and Savion.

13. Adjournment – D. Walch adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

Lee Yelle, Deputy Clerk

Darlene Walch, Supervisor