

SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX
January 14, 2025

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** – D. Walch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call** –Lee Yelle, David Kallio, Darlene Walch, Justin Yelle and Carolyn Kerkela
Absent – None
Employees in Attendance: Randy Yelle, Pamela Roberts, Tom Wahlstrom
Public in Attendance: Karrie Heikes, Cathy Ruprecht, Thomas Ruprecht and Bob Kallio (via Zoom)
3. **Public Comment:**
Cathy Ruprecht shared information regarding the needs of animals, both household pets and livestock, in emergency situations that require evacuations. She is involved with the Red Cross and continues to work with Marquette County Emergency Management to create a safety and evacuation plan for animals in emergency situations; she will bring more information as it comes.

Thomas Ruprecht shared well test results from their home well – results were negative for PFAS.
4. **Agenda:** D. Walch moved, L. Yelle seconded, to approve the agenda with the addition of items 5d1 – Northern Natural Gas Letter and 10n – Road Sign for Hurley Drive. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0
Motion carried.
5. **Consent Agenda:** D. Walch moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
 - a. **Minutes:** December 10, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes approved.
 - i. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - ii. **Accounts Payable/General Ledger** – General Fund Checks #39256 - #39338, including the electronic liability checks, for \$160,763.97, and the Tax Collection Checks #4039 - #4047 for \$192,265.30.
 - iii. **Budget Reports**
 - b. **Department/Committee Reports:** Accepted and placed on file.
 - i. **Fire Department**
 - ii. **Sanitation / MCSWMA** –
 - iii. **Zoning** –
 - iv. **Recreation Committee** –
 - v. **Commission of Aging** -
 - c. **Correspondence** –
 - i. Letter from Northern Natural Gas
 - d. **Miscellaneous** – None
6. **Treasurer’s Report– Checking Account Balances (as of December 31, 2024):**
General Fund \$186,872.84 **Trust & Agency** \$309.00 **Fire Fund** \$28,120.25
Ambulance Fund \$16,245.96 **Parks/Rec** \$13,588.61
Sanitation \$39,149.02 **Taxes** \$607,230.15 **Road Repair Fund** \$214,309.20

CD Totals:
Ambulance \$573,314.50 **Roads** \$512,438.13 **Fire Dept** \$47,845.60
General Fund \$1,253,034.83 **Parks & Rec** \$323,668.32 **Cemetery Trust** \$2,865.63

Money Markets:

Fire \$48,901.28 Cemetery Perpetual Care \$1,100.61
Road Repair Fund \$86,276.45 General \$172,889.75

ICS Money Markets

Fire \$175,278.76 General \$917,532.61
Ambulance \$137,215.07 Parks & Rec \$8,196.04

L. Yelle reported one CD matured and was transferred from Huntington to Flagstar Bank.

7. Clerk's Report –

- a. **IRS Mileage Rate** - C. Kerkela reported the IRS mileage rate increased to 70 cents/mile.
- b. **Minimum Wage & Sick Leave Law** – Waiting for clarification on current legislation; changes coming in February.
- c. **Solar Reimbursement Update** – C. Kerkela gave an update.
- d. **Special Meeting (Work Session)** – There will be a special meeting on January 28 at 6:30 PM, which will be a work session with the Planning Commission to go over plans for a proposed development along County Road 480.

8. Supervisor's Report

- a. **Pelissier Lake Drainage** – A Flood Study report has been received, which will be addressed at the February meeting.
- b. **Well Testing** – No Update
- c. **Garbage Truck Update** – The new truck is on the road
- d. **EGLE Renewable Ready Communities** – D. Walch gave an update, and will be working on the application for the grant.
- e. **Hexagon** – A request was received from Hexagon Energy regarding leasing Township property for a solar project; No action taken.

9. Old Business –

- a. **Strawberry Lake Update** – No update.
- b. **Sanitation SOPS & Documents** – Documents were reviewed, and will be given to sanitation staff for review.
- c. **Proposed Rules for Playground & Courts from Rec Committee** – No update
- d. **Updated FOIA Policy & Procedures and Forms (2nd Reading)** – Documents were reviewed, with edits and suggestions made; will be brought to the February meeting.
- e. **Disposal of Old Garbage Truck** – After discussion, it was decided wording for disposal by bid would be brought to the special meeting on January 28th.
- f. **Inclement Weather or Declared Emergency Policy (2nd Reading)** – L. Yelle moved, D. Kallio seconded, to adopt policy as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

10. New Business

- a. **Garbage Truck – Extended Warranty** – To be addressed in February.
- b. **Winter 2025 Newsletter** – D. Walch moved, L. Yelle seconded, to approve the Winter newsletter with the noted corrections. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- c. **MTA Annual Conference** – C. Kerkela moved, L. Yelle seconded, to approve sending interested officials to the MTA Annual Conference, with them to notify Barb by February 25th if they wish to attend. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- d. **Property Survey (Township Dump Property)** – D. Walch moved, L. Yelle seconded, to approve up to \$2,000 to conduct a chain of title search and non-field review of the survey done on property adjoining the old Township dump property. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- e. **Landfill Hauler Policy** – 1st Reading; to be addressed at February meeting.

- f. **Township Email – Outlook** – No action taken at this time.
- g. **Outdoor Facility Rental** – Ideas considered for how to address requests to rent outdoor and indoor facilities together; to be discussed again further.
- h. **Assessing Contract** – L. Yelle moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to accept the proposal from the Marquette County Assessor’s office for a 3-year contract to conduct assessing services at a cost of \$30,000 per year. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- i. **2025 Poverty Exemption Guidelines** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Kallio seconded, to adopt the 2025 Poverty Exemption Guidelines as presented. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- j. **New Furnace (Township Office Building)** – Additional quotes needed.
- k. **Assessing Support Staff Training** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to approve sending Barb to the Assessing Support Staff Training in Iron Mountain on January 27. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- l. **RE-TRAC (\$750 fee)** – Darlene to gather more information related to the letter from EGLE and the RE-TRAC Notification and Registration of the Transfer Station.
- m. **Township Cell Phone** – C. Kerkela moved, D. Walch seconded, to get a cell phone through the AT&T FirstNet program for general township use at a cost of \$40/month. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried,
- n. **Road Sign for Hurley Drive** – J. Yelle moved, D. Kallio seconded, to approve the purchasing and installing a road sign for Hurley Drive. Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

11. **Public Comment** – None

12. **Adjournment** – D. Walch adjourned the meeting at 8:56 PM.

Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

Darlene Walch, Supervisor