

**SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX
February 11, 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, and Carolyn Kerkela
Absent – Justin Yelle
Employees in Attendance: Randy Yelle, Pamela Roberts, Tom Wahlstrom, James Ledford
Public in Attendance: Cathy Ruprecht, Thomas Ruprecht, and Ian Lewis and Bob Kallio (via Zoom)
3. **Public Comment:**
Cathy Ruprecht shared her Disaster Preparedness Plan and hopes the board approves it.

James Ledford questioned if residents are given priority for employment, and commented that no one paid for him to get his CDL.

Bob Kallio commented the audio is terrible coming through the computer (issue resolved).
4. **Agenda:** D. Walch moved, L. Yelle seconded, to approve the agenda with the addition of items 7b – Budget Amendment and 8e – Disaster Preparedness Proposal. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
5. **Consent Agenda:** L. Yelle moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
 - a. **Minutes:** January 14, 2025 Regular Meeting and January 28, 2025 Special Meeting minutes approved.
 - i. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - ii. **Accounts Payable/General Ledger** – General Fund Checks #39339 - #39392, including the electronic liability check, for \$43,588.27, and the Tax Collection Checks #4048 - #4061 for \$753,962.81.
 - 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. Forsyth Township Fire Department Letter
 - ii. MQT County Public Hearing on ORV Ordinance Notice
 - iii. SEMCO Construction Project Request
 - iv. U.P.S.E.T. Letter
 - d. **Miscellaneous –** None
6. **Treasurer’s Report– Checking Account Balances (as of January 31, 2025):**
General Fund \$303,411.71 **Trust & Agency** \$309.00 **Fire Fund** \$74,535.28
Ambulance Fund \$40,640.21 **Parks/Rec** \$34,887.67
Sanitation \$80,240.52 **Taxes** \$569,167.73 **Road Repair Fund** \$326,861.73

CD Totals:
Ambulance \$573,439.16 **Roads** \$512,438.13 **Fire Dept** \$47,845.60

General Fund \$1,255,650.49 Parks & Rec \$327,548.16 Cemetery Trust \$2,865.63

Money Markets:

Fire \$48,913.74 Cemetery Perpetual Care \$1,100.61
Road Repair Fund \$86,276.45 General \$172,999.83

ICS Money Markets

Fire \$175,576.69 General \$919,092.38
Ambulance \$137,448.32 Parks & Rec \$8,209.95

L. Yelle reported on a possible CD opportunity at Honor Credit Union.

7. Clerk's Report –

- a. **Election Update** – The Gwinn schools will hold an election on May 6.
- b. **Budget Amendment** – C. Kerkela moved, L. Yelle seconded, to increase the budgeted expenses for the Public Works line item in the General Fund by \$9,775, for a total of \$19,250, and to take that money from the Contingency Line Item, leaving \$2,015 remaining. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

8. Supervisor's Report

- a. **Pelissier Lake Drainage** – D. Walch gave a brief update.
- b. **RE-TRAC** – D. Walch gave an update and shared a letter she wrote to EGLE on the RE-TRAC requirement.
- c. **Minimum Wage & Sick Leave Law** – D. Walch gave an update, with more information coming as legislation may change some of the requirements.
- d. **Highline** – D. Walch gave an update on a high-speed internet project.
- e. **Disaster Preparedness Proposal** – L. Yelle moved, D. Kallio seconded, to accept the proposal and look into what it will take do. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

9. Old Business –

- a. **Sanitation SOPS & Documents** – Additional changes to be made after comments from employees and board members.
- b. **Proposed Rules for Playground & Courts from Rec Committee** – C. Kerkela gave a brief update; waiting on additional information.
- c. **Updated FOIA Policy & Procedures and Forms (2nd Reading)** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to adopt the updated FOIA Policy & Procedures and Forms as presented. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- d. **Disposal of Old Garbage Truck** – Two bids were received – one from Bob LaJeunesse and one from the Village of Laurium. L. Yelle motioned, D. Kallio seconded, to award the winning garbage truck bid to the Village of Laurium for \$6,400. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- e. **Garbage Truck Extended Warranty** – D. Walch motioned, C. Kerkela seconded, to purchase the extended warranties for the new garbage truck, except for Item 4, selecting the longer length of time option on all items, for a total of \$18,315. Cost for the warranties will come from the Sanitation Fund. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- f. **Property Survey** – R. Yelle gave an update; additional information will be coming.
- g. **Outdoor Facility Rental** – A subcommittee of Lee, Carolyn, and Barb will review and make a recommendation for changes to our facility usage and rentals.
- h. **Furnace in Township Office** – L. Yelle motioned, C. Kerkela seconded, to accept the Proposal #2 from Duquaine for \$7,150 plus the Air Conditioner replacement for an additional \$5,730. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

10. New Business

- a. **Wages for '25 – '26 Fiscal Year** – D. Kallio motioned, C. Kerkela seconded, to adopt the proposed wages for the '25 – '26 Fiscal Year, including the suggested increase in hourly pay beyond the Cost-of-Living Adjustment due to the increase in Michigan Minimum Wage. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- b. **Salary Resolutions for '25 – '26 Fiscal Year**
 - i. **Resolution #02112025S, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Supervisor)** – L. Yelle motioned, D. Kallio seconded, to adopt Resolution as presented. Roll call vote was unanimous.
 - ii. **Resolution #02112025C, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Clerk)** – L. Yelle motioned, D. Kallio seconded, to adopt Resolution as presented. Roll call vote was unanimous.
 - iii. **Resolution #02112025T, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary (Treasurer)** – D. Kallio motioned, D. Walch seconded, to adopt Resolution as presented. Roll call vote was unanimous.
 - iv. **Resolution #02112025Trustee, Resolution to Establish Township Officials Salary** – C. Kerkela motioned, L. Yelle seconded, to adopt Resolution as presented. Roll call vote was unanimous.
- c. **Active911 Renewal** – C. Kerkela motioned, L. Yelle seconded, to approve renewing the Active911 subscription for \$409.50/year. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- d. **Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines (1st Reading)** – Presented, with a 2nd reading to be at the March meeting.
- e. **Assessing Contract with Marquette County** – C. Kerkela motioned, D. Walch seconded, to approve the contract with Marquette County for assessing services. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

11. Public Comment – None

12. Adjournment – D. Walch adjourned the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

Darlene Walch, Supervisor