

ARTHUR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 4, 2019 7:00 PM

Township Hall 3031 S. Athey Ave, Clare, MI 48617

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Schunk with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Anna Sharp, Erma Kleinhardt, Lee Schunk, Andrew Verhage present; Lamar Gunden absent.

AGENDA: Fire Protection Communication, Poverty Exemptions, and Fire Report added to agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Lori Martin, County Clerk, gave an update on preparations and training for spring elections.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: February 4, 2019 regular meeting minutes and special meeting minutes from February 18 and 25, 2019 approved as presented.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Balance sheets for the General and Road Funds along with a spreadsheet listing all revenue and expenses from Dec. 2017 through Feb. 2019 were presented and accepted.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Voucher list of accounts payable and February payroll totaling \$50,472.12, which included the County invoice for \$41,362.50 for road clearing on Athey and Clarwin was presented. Payment for the December 2018 Board of Review, reimbursement to Bill Strouse for ink/toner and March 2019 Board of Review were also added.

Motion to approve payment by Sharp, seconded by Schunk, roll call made – all ayes, CARRIED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Fiscal 2018-19 Budget Amendments:** Income/Expense report was discussed. There is a deficit in the general fund once the total owed the garbage restricted fund is made whole. Plans were made to create a cash flow analysis.
2. **Fire protection contract communication:** Letter to the residents was presented along with a survey created by Brenda Poet. The contents were acceptable to the board and Brenda was thanked for her efforts.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Open/change additional bank accounts for restricted funds:** Sharp moved to have Mercantile Bank road savings account changed to a money market account from which checks to pay road invoices can be directly made. Verhage seconded, approved unanimously.
2. **Poverty Exemptions:** Property taxes can be reduced or forgiven according to federal poverty standards. Schunk moved to adopt the standard federal rates for poverty exemption on property taxes due. Sharp seconded, roll call was made – all ayes, CARRIED.
3. **Fire Report:** Schunk received a list of fire runs made in the township in January and February. Additional details will be requested so the residents can be contacted for possible run billing.
4. **Financial Position of Township:** In light of the deficit in the township's general fund and the resulting inability to continue to pay any portion of the fire protection contract nor pay all projected expenses of the next fiscal year, Verhage motioned that the board request Schunk to call the Harrison Fire Department and inform them of our inability to continue the monthly contract as of March and also to contact the Michigan Dept. of Treasury to let them know about our financial general fund deficit and request advice and assistance on how to proceed. Sharp seconded. Roll Call: Kleinhardt -yes, Schunk -yes, Sharp -yes, Verhage -yes. Carried.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 P.m.

Submitted by Andrew Verhage, Clerk

*Approved 4/1/19
w. spelling correction*