Escanaba Township meeting, held November 11, 2019, at the Township Hall.

Supervisor Ken Brunette called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., led in the Pledge of Allegiance and a short prayer. Other Board members present: Clerk Patricia Beauchamp, Treasurer Linda Trombley-Robitaille, Trustee Alfred Gareau, and Trustee Raymond Hughes.

Treasurer Trombley-Robitaille approved the Agenda with additions, seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried.

Trustee Gareau moved to approve the October 2019 minutes, seconded by Treasurer Trombley-Robitaille. Motion carried.

Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Trombley-Robitaille:

 Mead Checking 19151 1,089.56

 Mead Saving 19151 191,046.21

 Mead Savings 12978 934.43

 Building Fund C/D 117,239.89

 Water Fund C/D 43,499.30

 Cemetery Fund 13,041.56

 Cemetery C/D 10,849.19

 Liquor Law Fund 8,678.83

 Liquor Law C/D 16,498.12

 Jaws Equipment Fund 548.65

 FD Ladder Truck 46,112.79

 T & A Fund 207.92

 Fire Department C/D 112,307.88

 Summer Tax Checking 37.62

 Summer Tax Saving 54,319.18

 Winter Tax Checking 957.74

 Winter Tax Saving 184.97

Clerk Beauchamp moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried.

Communications: None.

Public Comments: Rene Richer, Maradee Luft.

Unfinished Business: Barry King was not present to discuss his topic.

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Corry Nelson and Jake Culliton gave a bid for plowing the Township Hall and two Fire Halls for $60 an hour. We will write up a one year contract. Trustee Hughes moved to accept this bid along with their 2 Million Dollar Insurance package, seconded by Trustee Gareau for a one year contract for $60 an hour. Motion carried.

Bob Beauchamp was present to update on his house repairs. The siding is 95% completed. The Board will check on this again next month.

Chairman Jack Penegor gave the names of the Ad Hoc Committee for the Solar Panels. They are Orion, Brett French from Uppco, Larry Klope an Ag. Engineer, Dennis Bittner an Architect, Glen Brown an Engineer, Kelly Levely a Natural Resource Specialist, Linda Howlett a retired CUPPAD Natural Resource Specialist, Lori Tourangeau an affected Landowner, and Jack Penegor the Planning Commission Chair. Questions from the audience asked why the people were picked and someone that didn’t know anything about solar. Supervisor Brunette asked the Board which way we should go by Ordinance or by the same By Laws for everyone. Clerk Beauchamp mentioned to have this by Ordinance which covers for everybody not just the Planning Commission. All that wanted this as an Ordinance is Treasurer Trombley-Robitaille, Trustee Gareau, and Trustee Hughes. Clerk Beauchamp made a motion to adopt an Ordinance, seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried.

An offer was made on 45 acres of the Township land off 0.8 Lane. Trustee Hughes moved to accept the $50,000 bid, seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried. Four and a half acres is left and all is sold on this piece of property off 0.8 Lane.

New Business: The computers are still being looked into for the Election Process. We need four of them at the cost of $350 each. The computers we have now cannot be updated to Windows 10.

Trustee Hughes discussed the new truck for the fire department that is rusting out and falling apart. We are still looking into purchasing a new truck in the future. This one cost $139,000.

Billie Electric will be called to fix the light in front of the Township Hall. It comes on but goes out and doesn’t stay on.

Trustee Gareau moved to purchase Law Labor Posters for the year at the cost of $84, seconded by Treasurer Trombley-Robitaille. Motion carried.

Warren Bovin shared some good information on the Solar Panels and where they thought the best place to locate them in the Upper Peninsula. In Indiana the solar panel people asked for a Tax Abatement will they ask for one here? In Texas they are suing the Solar Panel Companies.

Public Comments: Kim Wyckoff, Theresa Chenier, Rene Richer, Tom Peitch,, Nancy Chenier, JoAnn Chenier, Warren Bovin, Vickie Gobert, Fred Knauf.

Supervisor Brunette mention that a Quorum is 2/3s of the Board voting. If a five member board three voters can vote out of the five if two are missing. The Supervisor also mentioned that he heard that Orion was starting to drill in the areas that solar panels will go.

Trustee Hughes mentioned that the Shooting Range is looking good for going forward.

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Township Board Comments: Treasurer None, Trustee Gareau None, Clerk thanked Tom Peitch for paying for the sign taken warning of the horse and buggy’s on the roads that were taken. The hardest part of my career with the Township is this Solar Panels. We just can’t please everyone and we just have to do it together for the Ordinance.

Fire Chief Matt Rian was not present to give his report and Trustee Hughes gave a little on for him.

Delta County Commissioner Dave Rivard was not present to give his County Report.

Trustee Gareau moved to pay bills, seconded by Trustee Hughes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Trombley-Robitaille moved to adjourn at 9:25 p.m., seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried.

Patricia J Beauchamp

Escanaba Township Clerk