Escanaba Township meeting, held October 14, 2019, at the Township Hall.

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

Trustee Gareau moved to accept the Agenda adding Paul Bradfield to old business, seconded by Trustee Hughes. Motion carried.

Trustee Gareau moved to accept the September minutes, seconded by Trustee Hughes. Motion carried.

Clerk Beauchamp approved the Financial Report:

Mead Checking 19151 12,075.45

Mead Saving 19151 182,642.04

Mead Savings 12978 933.31

Building Fund C/D 117,239.89

Water Fund 43,398.78

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 547.62

FD Ladder Truck 46,101.74

T & A Fund 189.89

Fire Dept. C/D 102,050.05

Summer Tax Checking 6.07

Summer Tax Saving 40,321.75

Winter Tax Checking 957.62

Winter Tax Saving 184.88

Trustee Gareau seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Communications: None.

Public Comments: Robert Barron, Fred Asbury, Gary Way.

Unfinished Business: Attorney Burkhart asked to have a closed session. Trustee Hughes-Yes, Trustee Gareau-yes, Clerk Beauchamp-yes, Supervisor Brunette-yes for a closed session. Motion carried.

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Closed the regular meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Open the closed meeting at 7:55 p.m. Adjourned the closed meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Resumed the regular meeting at 8:25, Supervisor Brunette mentioned no decisions were made in the closed session.

Trustee Hughes moved to wave the Attorney Client privilege and explain to disclose this to the Public. This is seconded by Trustee Gareau. Roll Call: Trustee Hughes-yes, Trustee Gareau-yes, Clerk Beauchamp-yes, and Supervisor Brunette-yes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed a conflict of interest was made against Clifford Barron and Raymond Hughes being their brothers were involved with Orion project. Attorney Burkhart mentioned that neither Ray nor Cliff is benefitting from this Solar Project so they do not have conflict of interest. It is if they have benefits coming from this project. A sister, brother, mother, father doesn’t get anything they are not in Conflict of Interest for they have no gain in it. Supervisor Brunette moved that no violation was made and the Township Board should go ahead and make a policy this Conflict of Interest. Trustee Hughes seconded this motion. Motion carried.

Attorney Burkhart also mentioned that the Township Board should get on paper what Orion is going to pay for Attorney fees. The Township has been paying for it right along but nothing has come through from Orion or even if they received the payment of the bill from Attorney Burkhart’s office.

Renee Richer was put on the agenda but was not present.

Theresa Norton mentioned her thought on Conflict of interest. She asked the Board to ricin the Ordinance and start over. She also mentioned the Special Use Permit and Conditional Use Permit. She mentioned she didn’t know the time of this meeting for it is not on the Website. She had to call a neighbor to ask the time. She mentioned we should update our Township Website.

Kim Wyckoff discussed the Wood Stove Ordinance and we should follow that Ordinance for the Solar Panels.

Bob Beauchamp was present to discuss his blight ordinance complaint. He mentioned he has been putting siding up and before that he was fixing up the inside. The Board decided to check on his progress next month. There was a request from the Planning Commission to get it torn down.

The 45 acres of land off 0.8 Lane the fellow offered $45,000. Trustee Hughes moved to counter offered at $53,000., seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion Carried.

Paul Bradfield complained about Bob Beauchamp’s house and the mess it is in. He brought pictures and it did show Bob has been working on it.

Trustee Hughes move to ricin the Old Solar Ordinance being it is invalid, seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried.

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Supervisor Brunette moved to get the computers for our May election with the correct programs to run our elections in the future. Seconded by Trustee Gareau. Motion carried.

We have one opening for the Planning Commission. No one was interested in the audience.

Public Comments: Gary Way, Tom Pietsch, Claudia Bradfield, Warren Bovin, Bob Barron, Fred Asbury, and Gary Way.

Board Comments: Trustee Hughes agreed that we could do better on updating. He said two fire trucks needs repairs. One needs a gas tank before it starts leaking, and the other ones needs the engine pulled out to repair.

Trustee Gareau none.

Clerk Beauchamp mentioned they have $43,000 in the C/D water fund not enough to get started on water in our township. Bob Barron said our FOIA charge was too much. We have been giving out the video chip copies at this price for the chip alone is $35, plus someone to do the recording for us, and the cost them to do it. So this is not an unfair price.

Fire Chief Matt Rian gave his monthly discussion. They had two call out last month. They received $1,200 from the tractor pulls just from attendance. He discussed how hard it is getting to get volunteer fire fighters with all of the training they now have to do. With full time work, training and having a family it is hard to adjust the hours. Matt also discussed the Solar Panels and all that’s involved to fight a fire in those areas.

Delta County Commissioner Dave Rivard was not present.

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

Supervisor Brunette moved to adjourn at 10:05 p.m., seconded by Trustee Hughes. Motion carried.

Patricia J Beauchamp

Escanaba Township Clerk