

SANDS TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
SANDS TOWNSHIP OFFICE COMPLEX
August 8, 2023

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance** –D. Walch called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.
2. **Roll Call** – Darlene Walch, Lee Yelle, Justin Yelle and Carolyn Kerkela
Absent – David Kallio
Employees in Attendance: Randy Yelle, Ken Contois
Public in Attendance: Ben Schimpf, Eric Sahaeman, Jackie Rule-Smith, and Bob Kallio (via Zoom)
3. **Public Comment:**
Jackie Rule-Smith shared concerns and complaints about the neighboring commercial property and what she would like to see happen regarding the issues.

Ben Schimpf, Peninsula Solar, introduced the company and gave some background and experience. He explained the two proposals – a 15kW and a 20kW solar system for the Township office complex, and the 30% rebate available.

Ken Contois asked if the meeting room would be available for the Sandstormers to have their meetings. He also asked about a new garbage truck, and if the old one could be painted. He questioned debris left on Silver Creek Road, the items collected from electronics recycling, the Transfer Station charges, the solar project on the Plains, employees for the garbage truck, snow stoppers on the transfer station roof, and shared thoughts he would like to see more information included in meeting minutes.
4. **Agenda:** C. Kerkela moved, L. Yelle seconded, to approve the agenda after moving item 9b to right after the Consent Agenda, and with the addition of 10f – Underground Utility Easement.
Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
5. **Consent Agenda:** L. Yelle moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
 - a. **Minutes:** July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting minutes and July 19, 2023 Special Meeting minutes approved as presented.
 - b. **Financial Reports**
 - i. **Treasurer’s Report**
 - ii. **Accounts Payable/General Ledger** – General Fund Checks #37958 - #38020, including the electronic liability check and Trust & Agency checks, for \$50,804.62 and Tax Collection Checks #3859 - #3870 for \$551,254.02 approved as presented.
 - iii. **Budget Reports**
 - c. **Department/Committee Reports:** Accepted and placed on file.
 - i. **Fire Department**
 - ii. **Sanitation / MCSWMA –**
 - iii. **Zoning –**
 - d. **Correspondence** – MML Risk Analysis Letter
 - e. **Miscellaneous** – None
- 9b. **Peninsula Solar Proposal** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to accept the proposal from Peninsula Solar for the 20kW grid tied system for the Township Office complex for a total cost of \$69,820.80. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

6. **Treasurer's Report– Checking Account Balances (as of July 31, 2023):**

General Fund \$123,462.74 **Trust & Agency** \$0.00 **Fire Fund** \$29,910.67
Ambulance Fund \$5,139.94 **Parks/Rec** \$17,903.66
Sanitation \$35,406.11 **Taxes** \$3,011.46 **Road Repair Fund** \$523,029.32

CD Totals:

Ambulance \$540,334.28 **Roads** \$275,302.79 **Fire Dept** \$44,470.33
General Fund \$1,185,346.66 **Parks & Rec** \$305,983.57

Money Markets:

Fire \$48,561.96 **Cemetery Perpetual Care** \$3,321.22
Road Repair Fund \$86,146.56 **General** \$170,950.39

- a. **Local Community Stabilization Authority Funds** – L. Yelle gave an update; Board consensus to agree to the remaining money due be paid with the 2024 payment.

7. **Clerk's Report** – C. Kerkela reported there will be a November election for Gwinn schools.

8. **Supervisor's Report**

- a. **Electronics Recycling**- D. Walch gave an update.
- b. **Savion Solar Project** – D. Walch gave an update.
- c. **Climate Adaptation Task Force** – C. Kerkela moved, L. Yelle seconded, to appoint Darlene Walch as a Sands Township representative on the Climate Adaptation Task Force. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- d. **425 Agreement with Marquette Township** – D. Walch gave an update.

9. **Old Business**

- a. **Strawberry Lake Update** – D. Walch gave an update; drain seems to be working fine.
- b. **Peninsula Solar Proposal** (addressed above)
- c. **Verizon Wireless Request** – No Update.
- d. **Text Service** – C. Kerkela gave an update; More information will be gathered.
- e. **Emergency Lights at Station 1** – L. Yelle moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the bid from Jesse Wright to upgrade the emergency lights at Station 1 to LEDs for \$960. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- f. **MBLP Request** – More information needed.
- g. **Garbage Truck Purchase** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to move forward with trying to acquire a new garbage truck and packer for up to \$260,000, with the remaining ARPA funds to be used and the remainder of the cost coming from the Township General Fund. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

10. **New Business**

- a. **Marquette County Road Commission Chip Seal Projects for 2024** – Board consensus to submit Silver Creek Road for an estimate for chip sealing in 2024.
- b. **New EMS Member** – C. Kerkela moved, J. Yelle seconded, to accept Spencer Crane as a new member of the EMS Department, pending clear background and driving checks. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- c. **Park & Facility Rentals** – Informational at this time; to be discussed at September meeting.
- d. **Extension for Temporary Sawmill Permit** – Surrounding property owners will be notified; to be discussed at September meeting.

e. Ordinance Amendments (Second Reading)

- i. **Ordinance #20 (Large Capacity Well) Amendment** – D. Walch moved, C. Kerkela seconded, to accept the Planning Commission recommendation and update Ordinance 20 with the new standards for a large capacity well. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
 - ii. **Ordinance #54 (Nuisance Ordinance) Amendment** – C. Kerkela moved, L. Yelle seconded, to accept the Planning Commission recommendation and add “blight” as a nuisance to Ordinance 54. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.
- f. Underground Utility Easement** – D. Walch moved, J. Yelle seconded, to approve the proposed utility easement to Colleur Contracting for Section 33 in T47N-R25W. Ayes: 4 Nays: 0 Motion carried.

11. Public Comment –

Bob Kallio commented that the audio is terrible through the speaker and requested upgrades to allow for better virtual meeting participation.

12. Adjournment – D. Walch adjourned the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Carolyn Kerkela, Clerk

Darlene Walch, Supervisor