**GILFORD TOWNSHIP**

TUSCOLA COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present: D. Strasz, Treasurer; D. Spencer, Clerk; J. Stockmeyer, Supervisor; A. Goss, Trustee, K. Houghtaling, Trustee. The order of Agenda was approved.

**Public Comment:** Is there a wheelchair available from township? Any progress on the noise from jake breaks? Any update on sidewalk up town?

**Minutes of Previous Board Meeting**: Motion by D. strasz, second by K. Houghtaling to approve minutes. Motion approved.

**Special meeting minutes:** Motion by A. Goss, second by J. Stockmeyer to approve minutes. Motion approved.

**Treasurers Report**: Motion by D. Spencer, second by K. Houghtaling to accept treasurers report Motion approved.

**Supervisor:** Zero Reese fire runs. Received new cemetery markers. Cemetery ordinance is still being revised. Will hold a special meeting on Tuesday Sept 19@ 7:00p.m. to continue discussion. It was decided to move the cement dirt storage area and replace it with a new one. D. Strasz motioned, A. Goss second to have R. Haines build a new storage area for sand, black dirt, and fill dirt. Motion approved. The planning commission approved the changes to the zoning ordinance regarding solar. A. Goss motioned, D. Strasz second to accept the changes presented. Motion approved. Contacted our lawyers and are looking into Safe Built to help address blight issues in the township. Columbaria will be completed later this month. Discussion on fees. J. Stockmeyer motioned, D. Strasz second to charge $1200.00 per niche to residents, $1600.00 to non-residents; opening and closing costs will be $300.00 for both residents and non-residents; Cremation remains containers will be $200 for both residents and non-residents. Motion approved. Received letter from road commission requesting plans for 2024 road projects.

**Treasurer:** Today was the last day to collect taxes. Will investigate having credit card payment options to residents to pay taxes.

**Clerk:** Reminder balance of ARPA Dollars need to be allocated by 12/2024. Extended METRO Act permit to expire 12-31-2028. Presented Resolutions 2023-19 and Resolution 2023-20 that the Tuscola County Board of Commissioners adopted. Need to amend the budget regarding the audit line item, charges were more than we budgeted. D. Spencer presented, K. Houghtaling second Resolution 2023-16, to amend the budget by adding $600.00 from general fund misc. to the audit line item. Roll call vote; 5 yeas, 0 nays. Resolution declared adopted. Tuscola County Canvassers reported we did a good job on August election and there will be no township audits for August election. Election equipment preventative maintenance was completed on Sept. 7. Submitted an election reimbursement form for August election. County clerk meetings Sept 5 and Sept. 14 regarding election changes for 2024. Townships will be consolidating for 9 days of early voting. Agreements are still being worked out and need to be signed by the end of September. Presented the bills. A. Goss motioned, D. Strasz second to pay the bills. Motion approved.

**Trustees**: Reported on Reese parks and Rec; Purchased ball field bases with Petro grant. Installed sign at playscape. There is a temporary pickle ball court available to use.

**Ambulance Representative:** One emergency run for Gilford. Because of increasing costs and lack of financial support from some service areas the VAAS is struggling financially.

**Fire Department Representative**: Fairgrove: Had hose and ladder testing, Labor Day pancake breakfast was a success, Received Modern Woodsman grant. Reese: Had huge turnout for the pop-up pantry; Gearing up for coverage at football games; looking for more volunteers to hire.

**Zoning Administrator**: No report

**Public Comment**: None

**Motion for Adjournment**: D. Spencer motioned, J. Stockmeyer second to adjourn. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Diane Spencer

Gilford Township Clerk