

CUMMING TOWNSHIP
Regular Meeting

December 7, 2023

The monthly meeting was called to order at 6:29pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: All board members present. Others present were: Matt Polzin; Randy McCrite; Jan Thompson; Rose Quackenbush; Debby & Ray Grant; Lucinda Morrison; Chase Wiltse; Jim & Norma Morris; Louanne Rosebrugh; Representative Mike Hoadley; Michelle & Cal Berk.

Ron questioned if there were any additions to the agenda; there weren't any additions.

Reid made a motion, seconded by Ron, to accept the previous monthly meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

Shari made a motion, seconded by Ron, to accept the November 14, 2023, Special Meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

Shari made a motion, seconded by Jan, to pay the bills. Roll Call Vote: Fred, Shari, Ron, Reid, Jan – All Yes. Motion carried. Jan explained the bills paid after the November meeting: General Fund: payment to Consumers Energy, bill received after the meeting; payment to United States Treasury, penalties through September. Jan received said bill and was told that the Township is now monthly depositors instead of quarterly depositors for the Federal withholding taxes, a form was completed for possible reimbursement. Also, e-payments listed are for Federal withholdings made for October and November.

Chase Wiltse reported that he and Fred met with Troy from USDA regarding a 75% grant, with 25% payback. He suggested getting three (3) pumps and a control panel while going for said grant. Chase Wiltse reported he has contacted engineers from OHM and Spicer's Group, and will meet with another engineer. He stated the date to submit the grant is February 2024. Ron questioned if the two engineering companies could get the work completed by the February deadline; Chase stated yes. Discussion was held when the grant would be awarded; it is an open-ended grant but submitting early, better chance to receive. Jan questioned how much the grant would be; Chase stated the City of Rose City will go for \$800,000-\$1,000,000, Cumming Township would be an additional \$60,000. Jan questioned when the grant would be awarded; Chase stated could be up to one (1) year. Discussion was held. Fred distributed an agreement with Rose City, which will need to be updated. Jan presented loan information from Huntington Bank; there are 5yr, 10yr and 15yr loans available, but she suggested the 5yr loan at 5.45%. Jan discussed the Rose City sewer rates and maintenance fees, which are billed to the Township sewer users, the Township maintenance fees, which needs to be created, and the proposed USDA grant and loan. Jan suggested keeping with the Rose City sewer rates and maintenance fees, creating the Township maintenance fees, and obtaining a loan for the pumps. Fred stated he would like to see \$20-\$25 per quarter for maintenance fees. Jan stated the information presented should state 22 REU's, not 29 REU's. Discussion was held. Ron stated the wording for maintenance fees would need to be sent to the attorney; Fred stated he didn't think that needs to happen yet. Ron stated he, Fred, and Jan should meet to go through the Rose City Sewer Agreement, the ordinance for maintenance fees and set up Public Hearings. Fred stated this should wait until after the first of the year. Jan gave the dates sewer bills were due and what months were included in each quarter. Ron questioned the cost of new pumps; Chase Wiltse stated \$12,000-\$17,000 each. Cumming Township would need two (2) pumps and one (1) would be added on the grant, to have on hand. Ron stated there will be a Special Meeting on Monday, December 18, 2023, at 1:30pm, to discuss the Rose City Agreement, maintenance fees, and Public Hearings.

Ron questioned if Matt Polzin completed the outside work on the hall; Matt Polzin stated he used all the mortar.

Jan stated that the AV Dropbox has been delivered, but now needs to be installed. Also, a camera needs to be installed, this is per the new Election mandates. Jan also stated a printer needs to be purchased for elections, the old one quit. These items will be reimbursed by the State. Jan stated

she would like to hire Joe Walker to install the Dropbox and install the camera; he is a township resident and a contractor. Jan made a motion, seconded by Ron, to hire Joe Walker to install the AV Dropbox and security camera, and to purchase a printer for elections. Roll Call Vote: Reid – No, Fred – Yes, Ron – Yes, Shari – Yes, Jan – Yes. Motion carried.

Reid gave the RC Fire report, which included: slow; two (2) fire runs, one (1) Cumming Township. Discussion was held regarding fire runs.

Ron gave the OCOA report, which included: the Christmas Party will be held on December 21, 2023, 10am-2pm.

Jan Thompson gave the Transfer Station report, which included: everything is going good; the Tire Grant has been approved for up to 1,000 tires, at no cost up-front, it is open to all not just Cumming Township. Jan Thompson stated the tires will have to be up to a certain size, which a cardboard sample will be sent to the Transfer Station. Also, rims will cost \$0.50 per each rim. Ron stated the Tire Clean-up will be published in the paper closer to June.

Ron stated the December BOR will not be held. He reported that Bruce Schneider, a BOR member passed away. He also stated that there will be a posting on the website for a new BOR member, who will be appointed in January 2024. Jan stated that, according to Allison Thompson, Assessor, all BOR members will need to be appointed in January 2024.

Ron introduced Representative Mike Hoadley, 99th District. Mr. Hoadley stated he is in Lansing every week on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. He spoke on the following issues, which he voted no on each:

- 1). Repeal Right to Work, prevailing wage.
- 2). Changes in Election Laws (Proposals 1, 2, 3)
- 3). Wind & Solar – mandated MI to be carbon neutral by 2040. Removal of local authority for large farms, wind - 100mw and solar – 50mw; smaller farms must go the townships first, County to write the ordinance for this. Much discussion was held, including: Jim Morris stating it is terrible that the State can go over local authority, should not have time limits for wind & solar. Louanne Rosebrugh question if there is a plan for disposal of wind/solar equipment, when they don't run anymore; Mike Hoadley stated no. Ray Grant questioned isn't the energy from solar on demand; Mike Hoadley stated some storage will be needed. Reid stated the Fire Dept must go through special training for electric vehicles. Mike Hoadley stated to have the State of MI be Wind/Solar 60%-70% dependent, 375,000 acres will be needed for the wind/solar farms. Ron questioned how Gladwin Co is going to build the dams; Mike Hoadley stated they received \$400 million from State money and Special Assessments will also help. He also stated that they have a much larger tax base to repair the dams compared to other counties to repair their dams. Ron questioned if Consumers is looking to the State to pay for licensing; Mike Hoadley stated no, DTE/Consumers will have a 10% profit margin. Cal Berk questioned where we will get energy if we don't have solar/wind; Mike Hoadley stated Natural Gas, Propane. Cal Berk questioned the security camera for the AV Dropbox, who is responsible for checking and monitoring it; Jan stated the clerk, the video will be kept for 30 days. Mike Hoadley stated the clerk is responsible for the monitoring, video of the security cameras for 30 days. Ron thanked and appreciated Mike Hoadley for attending the meeting.

Randy McCrite questioned 29 sewer users, put in three (3) buckets; there are 25 currently with a 10% surcharge. Jan stated there are only 22 REU's and questioned what form he was speaking about; Fred showed Jan a billing for 2021. Jan stated that she was not the clerk at the time and the bills were sent out incorrectly; they have been rectified.

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Fred stated he contacted GFL for an account statement; GFL stated he cannot get a statement as Jan Fritz and Jan Thompson are the only contacts. Jan reported Fred looks at the bills every month and questioned what he is looking for; Fred stated he wants a statement. Jan stated she doesn't get statements and has never received a statement. Fred stated he received a statement before. Jan stated she did not contact anyone to put names on or off the account. Jan Thompson stated she is only a contact for the Transfer Station. Ron will contact GFL.

Ron stated the rules regarding what townships can use marijuana monies are used are being worked on. He stated years ago the township opted out, the owners of a grow operation sold, and it is suspected they are still growing inside the building. Mike Hoadley stated if they are running a grow operation, the MSP can be contacted. If it is a caregiver situation, it may be ok to grow.

Jim Morris questioned how long the Township/Rose City has had the Sewer Agreement; Ron stated since 1989.

Jan made a motion, seconded by Ron, to adjourn at 7:40pm.

_____, Clerk