

CUMMING TOWNSHIP  
Regular Meeting

March 7, 2024

The monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: Ron, Jan, Shari, Reid – Present. Fred – Absent.

Others present were: Rose Quackenbush; Matt Polzin; Randy McCrite; Chase Wiltse; Jim & Jane Redmond; Lucinda Morrison; Pat Robinson; Corinne Maher; Michelle & Cal Berk; Bill & Wendy Clark; Bob & Debbie Donaldson. Roger Mayhew, Commissioner.

Ron questioned if there were any additions to the agenda; there were no additions.

Shari made a motion, seconded by Reid, to accept the previous monthly meeting minutes, with the following corrections: page 1, paragraph 5: increased the sewer rates by \$5.00, beginning...to: increased the sewer rates \$5.00 increments billed each quarter... Also: sewer rates will increase \$5.00 each year...to: sewer rates will increase \$5.00 increments, billed each quarter... Paragraph 11: delete entire paragraph. Motion carried.

Shari made a motion, seconded by Jan, to pay the bills. Reid questioned the tax payments; Jan stated they were deposited into the incorrect accounts, so needed to be deposited into the correct accounts. Ron questioned if the DNR monies had to be shared with the County; Shari stated yes. Roll Call Vote: Reid, Shari, Ron, Jan – All Yes. Fred – Absent. Motion carried.

Chase Wiltse reported that the Control Panel went out at the Sewer System, it is not working. He stated they are manually pumping the system twice per day. Ron questioned if the pumps work simultaneously; Chase stated they alternate, there are three (3) floats – two (2) floats for the pumps which tell which pump to work. Chase Wiltse reported the grant with Rose City won't happen this year; Rose City is doing other projects. An engineer is needed to do an assessment for Rose City's sewer system; the assessment may be done this year, but a grant for the sewer system could be 1-3 years. Rose City is working on a Huron Pines Grant to take out the dam in Rose City. Reid questioned where the extra water is coming from; Chase stated they found a manhole that can't be seen, with a driveway covering the manhole. They believe the man-hole needs repairing. Discussion was held regarding the water running to the south side of Duane's Iron Anchor. Chase Wiltse reported that Rose City will annex the M33 Corridor, with the sewer system as is, if Cumming Township wants; the board is opposed to this. Jan questioned exactly where the manhole is; Chase thought it could be in the road right-away. Jan questioned if it was an MDOT issue. Chase Wiltse stated the Township doesn't have a contract with the Miss Dig Program. Discussion was held. Jan questioned if Chase was the maintenance person for the sewer system; he answered no, he just monitors the system. Jan questioned if a letter could be sent to the sewer users, indicating the increase in fees; Ron stated yes.

Ron reported that Eric Ireland, put motion sensors in the restrooms, will come back to complete. Ron questioned the security cameras; Jan stated she received information for an individual to install them.

Ron reported that GFL will send a summary of statements to him, for Fred.

Reid gave the RC Fire report, which included: seven (7) fire runs; two (2) \$100 runs for Cumming Township. There was a Special Meeting at Rose Township regarding the Lupton Fire Dept, how taking taxpayers money to pay for Lupton Fire Dept, looking at Rose City Fire Dept to take over the entire township. Reid stated Lupton Fire Dept fills the cans for \$40.

Ron gave the OCOA report, which included: audit went well; grant money is down some this year, due to the increase for COVID; meal numbers have been good, could be due to the cost of groceries.

Ron gave the Assessor's report, which included: BOR Organizational Meeting was held on March 5; BOR will be held on March 13 from 3-9pm and March 14 from 9am-3pm; Taxable Value went up the

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full 5%; miscellaneous paperwork that BOR did in the past has been handed over to the Assessor, by the State.

Ron reported that he received a call from an individual buying property on M33, across from the Vet Clinic, for Mobile Home Sales and wants to change from Agriculture to Commercial; Ryan Veeder will be contacting Ron. Ryan will want the Board's feeling regarding rezoning said property.

Bill Olsen gave the HL report, which included: the ice is off the lake; weed crop will probably start early this year.

Jan reported there will be an Election Commission Meeting on April 4, 2024, at 6pm, to appoint Election Inspectors and Receiving Board for the May 7, 2024, Special Election.

Roger Mayhew gave the Commissioners' report, which included: security cameras will be installed in the hallways, doorways, stairways, at the cost of \$8,500; discussion for a new internet system in Equalization; Administrator wants to close the jail, it costs \$65 per day to house an Ogemaw inmate, \$31-\$32 per day to house outside the County inmates, the State will pay \$35 per day and Federal will pay more; if the contract with Kalkaska would have gone through, they would be in the black; the Contingency Fund was \$29,000, \$10,000 was spent to put the Road Patrol millage on the ballot in February. Ron questioned where the Opioid money went; Roger stated the Administrator will only use that money for the Opioid Program. Ron stated if the jail closes, the mortgage payments will need to be paid; Roger stated yes. Discussion was held regarding the Commissary Fund. Reid questioned if someone took money from the jail; Roger stated yes.

Bill Clark stated he overheard a conversation at the Transfer Station regarding someone going around asking about wind turbines and solar power; he questioned if it was Consumers Energy; Reid stated it is not the power companies. Jan stated she contacted the Ogemaw County Building Dept regarding running cables on anyone's property; only Consumers Energy has the authority to run underground wires, without permission. Jan also stated she contacted Consumers Energy regarding if any underground electricity is being done in Cumming Township; it is not. Ron stated there is a lot of activity going on with wind turbines and solar power. Ron also stated there is a group that is circulating petitions to repeal what the State took away from the local zoning and planning commissions regarding wind turbines and solar power; Roger Mayhew stated Brenda Simmons has said petitions. Discussion was held regarding wind turbines, solar power, and Consumers Energy. Connie Maher questioned who Roger Mayhew is; Ron stated he is our County Commissioner. Randy McCrite reported he was visited by an individual to run transfer cable across his property. Reid stated that 4,000 acres have been signed up for wind turbines or solar power; they are three (3) year leases, if there isn't enough that sign up, the companies can pull out. Discussion was held regarding the previous lease, which is about 10 years old, for 13 wind turbines in Cumming Township. Lucinda Morrison questioned if it is hard getting someone to install the security cameras; Jan stated no.

Ron made a motion, seconded by Shari, to adjourn at 7:21pm

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk