

Gourley Township Menominee County Michigan DRAFT Minutes of October 14, 2024 Regular Meeting Columbus Day

Supervisor Steve Wery called the meeting to order at the Gourley Township Hall at 6:00 p.m. and then, asking all to stand, Steve led in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Steve Wery, Supervisor
Stephanie Walechka, Treasurer
Ivy Netzel, Clerk
Dan Cordy, Trustee
Jesse Wery, Trustee

Absent:

Also Attending: Fire Chief Brian Mack

Agenda: Steve presented the agenda and after review, Stephanie made a motion to accept the agenda with Dan supporting the motion; it carried.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 9, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were presented and after review, Stephanie made a motion to accept the minutes. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.

Treasurer & Clerk Report:

NOTE: The clerk checks the tax fund check book monthly.

- The Financial Report for September 2024 was reviewed and there was \$551,668.32 in the General Fund and \$387,615.81 in the Fire Fund. Steve made a motion to accept the Financial Report and place it on file. Ivy supported the motion; it carried.

Fire Chief Report:

- There was 1 fire run for the month: assisting Bark River with a grass/woods fire.
- Austin Neeley has met the requirement to become an official volunteer fire fighter for Gourley Township, and is now on the roster.
- The fire department will purchase more helmets and boot chains with the remaining balance of the Hannahville grant 046-24-0524-053M. They would also like to purchase a chimney brush.
- NKS Tire Service came out to reset the new tires on the fire truck because they were riding a little rough.
- The Regular Meeting of the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department will be Wednesday, October 15, 2024 at the fire house at 7:00 p.m. CDT.

Supervisor's Report:

- Shed Dormer Project: Steve provided an update on the township and fire hall shed dormer project. It is expected to be finished before winter.
- The generator needs service, and Master Electric will be performing the maintenance on the unit.
- On Monday, October 21, Steve and Peggy will do property checks and building permit checks.
- There will be a Board of Review in December.
- At the upcoming January Road Commission meeting, the township will decide what projects will be scheduled for next summer.

New Business:

- F-65 and Biennial Audit: The township's auditors failed to submit the F-65 and Biennial Audit Report to the State of Michigan by the due date of September 30th. The Clerk supplied the financial information to Johnson & Rennie on July 11th, and sent an email on September 9th to confirm that they would meet the September 30th deadline. Johnson & Rennie responded that they would be able to complete the F-65 and audit on time.

On October 2nd, the township received delinquency letters from the State of Michigan, requiring a 30-day response. On October 2nd, the Clerk contacted the auditors to request that the F-65 and Biennial Audit Report be filed promptly and within the 30-day response time. The Clerk asked if there were any problems or more documentation that the township needed to supply in order to complete the work. Johnson & Rennie assured the Clerk that no additional information or actions on the part of the township were required and the reports would be filed. They also stated that they would communicate with the State of Michigan Department of the Treasury, and that the Clerk need not respond to the delinquency letters.

The auditors are working on the required reports and as of October 13th, the F-65 and Biennial Audit Report have not been filed.

The Clerk is recommending to the board that a search for a new auditor be conducted.

- Snow Plow Bids: there was only one bid for snow plowing submitted by Russ Berger Jr. for \$200 per plow. Jesse made a motion to accept the bid, Dan supported the motion and it carried.
- November 2024 General Election: The General Election will be held on Tuesday, November 5th from 7 am to 8 pm central time. Early voting at the Stephenson Annex will begin on Saturday, October 26th and run through Sunday, November 3rd. The hours for early voting are from 9 am to 5 pm central time.

Preliminary Accuracy Testing was conducted satisfactorily in September and Public Accuracy Testing was conducted satisfactorily earlier today.

There is an Election Commission Meeting immediately following tonight's board meeting.

Clerk hours to support voter registration will be Sunday, November 3rd from noon to 8 pm central time.

- New Electronic Pollbook (EPB) laptop: The existing EPB runs on Windows 10 and is not upgradable to Windows 11. In 2025, Microsoft will no longer support Windows 10 operating system with security updates and so it is necessary to replace the EPB laptop for future elections.

There is a new Election Security Grant available to municipalities for \$1000 that would be requested to pay for the new EPB laptop. This grant runs from late November 2024 until February 2024. The board agreed to purchase a new EPB laptop and apply for the Election Security Grant to pay for it.

Old Business:

- Hannahville Grants: the township requested video conference equipment for the township hall, so that the hall may be used for virtual meetings, training, etc. The Fire Department requested SCBA air bottles.
- Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department banquet: The banquet was held October 12th at 6:00 p.m. central time at the township hall. Linda Otradovec was honored for her 35 years of service on the Gourley Township Volunteer Fire Department. Many thanks to Jesse and Roger Janofski for writing the policy. Also many thanks to Trustees Jesse Wery and Dan Cordy, and Supervisor Steve Wery for coordinating and supporting the event. The banquet was a huge success with many in attendance and the Fire Chief thanked the board for the banquet.
- Township Hall and Fire Hall Heating System Improvement: The JAMAR Company installed two new 155,000 Btu boilers to replace the existing smaller boilers and the township hall and fire hall are now being heated adequately. The two smaller boilers that were replaced will be sold.

Public Comment

- none

Correspondence:

- none

Pay the Bills:

- Ivy made a motion to pay the bills. The motion was supported by Steve. The motion carried.

Adjourn:

- Steve moved to adjourn. Jesse supported the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm CDT. The next meeting will be November 11th which is Veterans Day.

Respectfully submitted,

Ivy Netzel, Clerk

Date Approved