



Beaver Island
Michigan

Supervisor's Lens

Notes to St James Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

NOVEMBER 2021

Volume 6, Number 9

SJTGC = St James Township Governmental Center

SJTH = St James Township Hall

PTH = Peaine Township Hall



Wednesday
November 3 @
5:30PM @ SJTH
Regular Board Meeting

St James Township Board

Wednesday
November 17 @
11:00AM @ SJTGC
Public Works Committee



THE NOVEMBER BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

Finance Attached is the monthly finance report. The clerk will send the monthly Standard Budget Report which shows adopted budget revenue and expenditure categories compared to what has been received and spent each month. She will also forward a copy of the bills for payment – please contact her if you have questions about the bills.

Also attached are proposed amended budgets for the General Fund and the Municipal Dock Fund. I will spend time at the meeting reviewing those documents and answering questions you may have. Both funds are in great shape! I will present resolutions for repayment of all 'Due To' the general fund from the municipal dock fund; for the final repayment of the historic payroll tax debt and for the full repayment of the \$50,000.00 the general fund put forth as a match for the Waterways Commission Grant. I will also be drafting a resolution suggesting potential designated uses of the GF fund balance.

As you may be aware, the township has received the initial payment of \$98K of the American Rescue Plan Act; the township will receive the same amount next fiscal year. I will be drafting a procurement 'conflict of interest' policy for board adoption; this is necessary prior to spending any of the funds.

Also, on the agenda under the finance section of the meeting, is consideration of formalizing the \$10,000.00 commitment to Pickle Ball Courts in Peaine Twp. This was an item on our list of potential budget items during the budget planning process last year. The planning group for this project is busy raising funds and applying for grants and I think it would good for them to have a formal motion from our board in support of the project.

Public Works Harbormaster Marlene Wiser will present an end of season report via phone. McNamara will provide an update on the Campground project. Maintenance Director Darrell Butler has give verbal notice of his intention to end his employment with the township as of March 1, 2022.

Airport Commission McNamara will give an update on progress relative to the property acquisition and upcoming court hearing.

Township Cemetery I mentioned at our last meeting, the owner of property adjacent to the township cemetery is selling and the board consensus was to look into it and to confer with Peaine Township about their possible interest. I will provide the board with an update at the November meeting; if we are interested it will likely require timely action to keep the property from being sold to someone else.

Monday
November 22 @
1:00PM @ SJGC

Finance
Committee
Meeting



2022 Fireworks Board member Diane McDonough has been working on all aspects of bringing the fireworks to the island next summer. She will provide an update at the meeting.

Snow Removal and Cleaning Levi Connor was the only bidder for snow removal; he did this for us last year too. The clerk will report details for approving a contract with Levi. Brianna Maudrie was the only person expressing interest in weekly cleaning at the governmental center and monthly at the township hall. I recommend we hire Briana for this position. She has filled in when needed in the past and is very capable.

Appointment of Supervisor As you all know, there are two candidates who have shown interest: Trustee Joe Moore and Richard Gillespie -- you have received copies of each candidate's letter of interest. My plan is to read each letter out loud at the meeting and then open the floor to board discussion. I will not allow public comment during this part of the meeting as this is strictly a board decision. At any point during the discussion a board member can make a motion such as "I move to appoint X candidate as township supervisor to hold the position until the general election in November 2022". If there is a second, I will ask if there is further discussion, and if there is none, I will ask for a vote. I will not be able to vote, but all other members, including trustee Joe Moore, will be obligated to vote.

Here is some language from MTA's Document (attached) which details information about filling a vacancy:

Q May a township board member vote to appoint him or herself to another board office vacancy? Yes. MCL 168.370, the section of the Michigan Election Law governing vacancies in elective township office, states that a vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the township board. (MCL168.370(1)) This means that it is the duty of each board member to vote on the appointments to the township board.

MCL 168.370(3) also specifically addresses a situation when a township board member submits a written resignation in advance of his or her effective resignation date, and the board appoints a person to fill the vacancy within 30 days prior to that effective date:

"If a township official submits a written resignation from an elective township office, for circumstances other than a resignation related to a recall election, that specifies a date and time when the resignation is effective, the township board, within 30 days before that effective date and time, may appoint a person to fill the vacancy at the effective date and time of the resignation. The resigning official shall not vote on the appointment."

So the "resigning official shall not vote on the appointment" of his or her successor. According to MTA Legal Counsel, this prohibition is limited to voting, and does not require the person to recuse themselves from discussions on the appointment, just abstaining from voting.