

**Approved 11.13.23 Draft Minutes of October 11, 2023 Regular St. James Board Meeting**  
**St. James Township Hall | 37735 Michigan Ave | Beaver Island, MI | 5:30 pm**

**Present:**

Gillespie, Welke, McDonough, Cole

**Absent:**

Fingerroot

**General**

Supervisor Welke called to order a regular meeting of the St. James Township Board at 5:31 pm on October 11, 2023.

**Moved** by Cole, supported by Gillespie to approve the meeting minutes from 9/13/23 as presented and 9/28/23 with the correction of changing State Transportation Commission to State Tax Commission.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

**Finance and Administration**

**Moved** by McDonough, supported by Gillespie to approve the payment of the annual Chamber of Commerce membership fee of \$150.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

**Moved** by Gillespie, supported by McDonough to accept the September Financial Report and approve the Payments request.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

Supervisor Welke noted that the lease agreement for Verizon is being reviewed by the attorney before it is sent on to Verizon.

**Public Works, Health, and Safety**

Supervisor Welke updated that the zoning ordinances are in the process of being updated through work with Peaine Township and there is consideration of engaging a consultant.

Discussion regarding the Hazardous Mitigation Plan Zoom meeting and what the purpose of the plan is.

Shelby Harris gave updates on her work as planning assistant and with the TIS program.

TIS: The TIS season is coming to an end. With additional help from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative over the last two years, all of the outer islands have their shorelines mapped which will allow work to begin as far as removing invasive species. Shelby has been working on applying for many grants including one in collaboration with CAKE CISMA. The Great Lakes Coastal Summit Assembly was held at CMU and was considered very successful among the many research entities that attended. Compliments were received regarding the natural state of the Archipelago. A Northern

Lake Michigan Island Collaborative meeting is to be held October 23 and October 24 at the Beaver Island Community Center; It will involve presentations and discussions of various concerns.

Planning: There is progress being made in the Energizing Rural Communities Project. Assessment results are still in progress. There has been difficulty in getting the new benches for the Township, so the process is still in the works.

There have been issues recently with the bubbler equipment for the marina, notably the blowers. Supervisor Welke suggested the purchase of 2 new bubblers to be replaced before winter.

**Moved** by Cole, supported by McDonough to approve the purchase of 2 new blowers for the marinas, if necessary, at a cost of \$2980 each.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

Trustee Cole left the meeting at 5:57 pm.

Cynthia Pryor provided an update about the Campground. Discussion was had regarding the fee structure and a possible increase in prices for next year. Ultimately it was decided to leave them as is for the 2024 season. Also noted were requests for the spring such as signage for speed limit and ORV prohibition in the campground.

#### **Public Comment**

Joe Moore encouraged the involvement of EMS and BIFD in the Hazardous Mitigation Plan. He also inquired about the progress on parking downtown and was informed that it is in the works to have lines painted, denoting proper parking spaces.

**Moved** by McDonough, supported by Gillespie to adjourn at 6:06 pm.

Submitted by:

Tessa Jones, Deputy Clerk  
St. James Township  
COUNTY OF CHARLEVOIX