

**Posted 6.21.23 Draft Minutes of June 14, 2023 Regular St. James Board Meeting |  
St. James Township Hall | 37735 Michigan Ave | Beaver Island, MI | 5:30 pm**

**Present:**

Gillespie, McDonough, Welke, Cole, Fingerroot

**Absent:**

None.

**General**

Supervisor Welke called to order a regular meeting of the St. James Township Board at 5:30 pm on June 14, 2023.

Supervisor Welke requested to add to the agenda the discussion of the arrival of the speed radar trailer as well as discussion and a motion regarding the rezoning of the old DNR property.

**Moved** by Welke, supported by Gillespie to approve the meeting minutes of the April 6 special meeting, May 2 special meeting, May 10 regular meeting, and the May 25 special meeting.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

**Finance and Administration**

**Moved** by McDonough, supported by Fingerroot to accept the May financial report and approve the monthly payments request.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

**Moved** by McDonough, supported by Gillespie to temporarily use \$52,500 of the Reserve Fund for partially funding the 90-Day Escrow process to purchase the Karnes Beach Property. These funds will be reimbursed by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund when this fund is released to pay their \$515,000 portion of the purchase.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ayes:** Gillespie, Cole, Welke, Fingerroot, McDonough

**Nays:** None.

Supervisor Welke summarized both the auditor visit to the township as well as the audit of the assessors in Charlevoix County, stating that there will be more information to come with the official reports, which have not been received yet.

**Public Works, Health, and Safety**

The speed radar trailer has been delivered and set up on the island, with the help of Joel Meinstma. When it is not in use, it will be stored in the Charlevoix County garage.

**Moved** by Gillespie, supported by Fingerroot to approve the old DNR property (Tax ID: 013-223-029-00) located at 38030 Michigan Ave. rezoning from Public Land and Facilities zoning district to Harbor District and Marine Related zoning districts.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

Discussion was had regarding Critical Sand Dune Area Permits; Changes will need to be made to the application for the permit. Supervisor Welke recommended declining permits currently being considered and fees refunded, due to the information not being up-to-date with the new standards recently made known to the township in the audit.

There is a Housing Community Forum to be held on June 15 with the purpose of further figure out the needs and wants of the community.

An update was given about the findings of the NMU archeological group, including the discovery of a gun. The digs were at the CMU Biological Station and the Government Center.

A Public Hearing is still to be held on June 29 regarding the contents of the updated Master Plan, however the copy released is lacking many edits made that will appear in the comments section instead.

Discussion was had about the need for more care at the Township Cemetery, especially the trimming of trees.

Cynthia Pryor shared an update on the Lighthouse. Tours will begin July 1, 2023 through the summer, open Saturdays from 1 pm-3 pm and Wednesdays from 5 pm-7 pm with 1 keeper at the top and 1 at the bottom. A liability waiver is being created.

The Historical Society will be renting a manlift for the painting of the Beaver Head Lighthouse and has offered to let the township use it after for the painting of the Beaver Harbor Lighthouse.

**Moved** by Gillespie, supported by Fingerroot to approve the lighthouse tour plan and other 'small' events at this park, subject to the Township Attorney's liability waiver development.

**Motion Carried-Unanimous**

### **TIS Program/Planning Issues**

Shelby Harris gave an update on her work. There will be a meet and greet for the new TIS interns on June 19. Shelby is working on setting up educational nature walks with experienced and educated community members to share information while walking and cleaning up the trails. The TIS Program has plans to work closely with CAKE CISMA during July 24-28 to host informational events, as well as getting their help with some removal of large amounts of invasive species. Also touched on was the TIS Program's involvement with the Historical Society and Island Roots' gardening club. The Program helped to provide information regarding native species to plant to attract pollinators. The TIS interns will be at the BI Sustainability Fair to present information. The purchase of the Little Traverse Conservancy's island vehicle is being considered, pending more insurance information.

### **Liaison Areas**

Supervisor Welke stated that there is a strategic plan in the works for the BI Rural Health Center and their operations. She noted the financial state is good.

The ESA is in need of help in figuring out a plan for their finances. Vicki Smith has joined Welke in working out a better system for tracking revenues and budgets to help improve this. The ESA is utilizing more grants and fundraising.

Regarding Waste Management, the Transfer Station and Recycling Center is in the process of being assessed currently, with data collection still happening. The process of grant application for aid with blight is in the works.

**Public Comment**

Cynthia Pryor shared that there is a charge for use of the showers at the Township Campground at \$10 per person. She asked that the board consider using the money collected from this be used for a stipend to be paid to Tony Miller for managing the campground.

Shelby Harris mentioned that she's received words of encouragement to the township for the pursuit of grants.

**Moved** by Gillespie, supported by Fingerroot to adjourn at 6:50 pm.

Submitted by:

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