

**Draft Minutes of September 28, 2023 Special
St. James Board Meeting
St. James Township Hall | 37735 Michigan Ave | Beaver Island, MI | 4:30 pm**

Present:

Fingerroot, Welke, Cole, Gillespie
McDonough 4:38pm

Absent: None.

General

Supervisor Welke called to order a special meeting of the St. James Township Board at 4:32 pm on September 28, 2023.

Public comment: None

Finance and Administration:

Moved by Fingerroot, supported by Cole to allow Supervisor Welke to work with the township attorney to negotiate a lease modification/extension with Verizon officials that will commence 9/1/24.

Motion carried unanimous

Moved by Gillespie, supported by Cole to allow Supervisor Welke to modify the assessor's employment contract, which concludes on 10/31/23. Contract to be extended at the current rate until 3/31/24

Motion carried unanimous

Moved by Welke, supported by Cole to extend the assessor's employment contract from 4/1/24 through 3/31/26 with an annual increase each April 1, which would be the cost of inflation as published by the State Transportation Commission, an amount not to exceed 5%.

Roll Call: Welke yes, Cole, yes, Fingerroot yes, McDonough yes, Gillespie yes

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Moved by Cole, supported by Gillespie to allow Supervisor Welke to purchase a used camper to serve as housing for the campground host, amount not to exceed \$5000.

Roll call: Fingerroot yes, McDonough yes, Cole yes, Welke yes, Gillespie yes

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Moved by Gillespie, supported by Fingerroot to approve Supervisor Welke to work with Fleis and Vandenbrink engineering to negotiate a series of contracts to deliver on the capital improvement plan. Contracts will be subject to modifications if needed.

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Moved by Cole, supported by Fingerroot to authorize Supervisor Welke to work with the Peaine Township supervisor to 1. Create a new shared fulltime position, a Natural Resource Specialist to be hired 4/1/24, subject to available funding. 2. Establish a Natural Resource Advisory Committee to advise both Township Boards and the Natural Resource Specialist in planning related work.

Motion Carried-Unanimous

Public Works:

Advised of a County Hazard Mitigation Zoom meeting, October 9 5:30 to 7:30

Discussion regarding the township sewer system. Items discussed, training for Joel Meintsma, Sampling of septic field fluid, Annual testing and investigate costs of bringing a company to the Island vs an engineering firm for any update recommendations

Discussion regarding funding of a new bike path, grants are available, also possibly a Federal grant if township needs to supply a match for a grant.

Discussion on possibly replacing the golf cart at the marinas, the cart is not sufficient for the needs of the marina staff.

Moved by McDonough, supported by Gillespie to adjourn at 5:31 pm

Submitted by:

Julie Gillespie, Clerk
St James Township
County of Charlevoix