

Spurr Township Board Meeting
Spurr Township Hall
29257 US HWY 41
Michigamme, MI 49861



February 19, 2024

- I. CALL TO ORDER- The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Jason Killoran at 6:00 p.m.
- II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE- The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. ROLL CALL
Spurr Township Board Members: Supervisor, Jason Killoran, Treasurer, Tammy Marier, Trustee, Dennis Benti, Trustee, Joel LePage, and Clerk, Jessica Omernick. Quorum is present.
- IV. AGENDA APPROVAL- Add under XII. Meeting Announcement “e. Board of Review Organizational Meeting March 5th at 1:00, March 11th from 3-9 and March 13th from 9-3 at Spurr Township Hall.” Motion made by Trustee, LePage to approve amended agenda seconded by Trustee, Benti. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- January 15, 2024, Regular Board Meeting- Motion made by Trustee, Benti to approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee, LePage. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES- February 6, 2024, Election Commission Meeting- Motion made by Clerk, Omernick to approve the minutes, seconded by Treasurer, Marier. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- VII. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE
 - a. Motion made by Clerk, Omernick to approve Accounts Payable of \$23,256.67 and seconded by Treasurer, Marier. 5 Ayes. 0 Nays. Motion carried.
- VIII. OFFICER REPORTS
 - a. Clerk Report- Clerk, Omernick gave the Balance Sheet by Class to the board. In total the township has a positive balance of \$943,617.33 including all the millage accounts and general funds.
 - b. Treasurer- No treasurer reports this month.
 - c. Fire board- Supervisor Killoran read the fire board minutes from the 2/6/24 meeting. January Bills were approved. There was a fireman meeting on 1/30/24 and 11 firemen were present. Cory Frisk submitted his letter of resignation. They are continuing to fundraise for the rescue boat. New fireman Ethan Kniskern was voted in, and all the same officers were nominated. There were 2 calls in January: 1 house fire in Champion and 1 fatal accident at Van Riper and US Hwy41. 6 air packs and 2 tanks will be in the middle of February. Chief Perry stated that they could get a motor and trail for the rescue boat from Fish, Hunt ship and all controls for \$16,802.92.
 - d. Planning commission- Trustee, Benti gave an update from the meeting held on 2/8/24. They discussed the property owner that wants to put storage units on his property on Lake George. He will have to send a letter of intent, so the township knows exactly what he wants to do with the units. There would need to be a script change in the ordinance to allow storage units on a waterfront property. The Planning Commission will decide at the March meeting on how and if they are going to modify the master plan.
 - e. Zoning Administrator- ZA, Mike Simula gave an update. All requests are just hearsay until a formal permit is filed with the Township. It's been a pretty quiet month. Buyers and realtors are calling but no applications for permits, or zoning have been submitted.
 - f. Assessor- Supervisor, Killoran gave an update regarding the Board of Review dates for the month of March.
- IX. OLD BUSINESS- public comment after each agenda item.

- a. ORV Update- Supervisor, Killoran gave an update on behalf of the trail authority. He attended the meeting on 2/15/24. The Trail Authority met with Michigan Tech about getting to Canyon Falls through Alberta. Tech is studying birds in the area the trail would go through, so they don't want the trail to go through while they're studying birds. The Trail Authority also met with C&N Lawyers and that process is moving forward.
- b. Ohio Mine Culvert Update- Supervisor, Killoran stated that the water is moving good through there and has heard from the O'Doveros. The O'Doveros (property owners) will do something this summer to address the issue.
- c. Presidential Primary election to be held on Tuesday 2/27 from 7:00am-8:00pm
 - i. Early Voting Saturday 2/17-Sunday 2/25 at L'Anse Township Hall
 - ii. Clerk, Omernick reminded the board of the election, and the different ways registered voters can vote.
- d. Solar Power- Peninsula Solar. Supervisor, Killoran received another call from this company with a different offer for the township to put solar on the township hall building. The board discussed and decided it was not the right time and there isn't enough history on solar power in the Upper Peninsula to make a decision.
- e. Baraga County Captain for Citizens for Local Choice. Catherine Andrews was present at the meeting to present a petition to get a proposal on the November ballot regarding getting zoning decisions back in the hands of the townships. In November of 2023 the Governor signed into law a bill that took away local zoning (solar and wind energy) from the townships and planning commissions and those decisions would be made by the state. That law would take effect 1 year from when it was signed. Baraga county needs 1,200 signatures for the petition to get the proposal on the November 2024 ballot.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Trash Pickup- Supervisor, Killoran read a letter from Waste Management regarding the road restrictions. The letter reads as follows: "Due to seasonal county road restrictions and no longer having smaller equipment used in prior years, WM will no longer be able to drive on streets and county roads for the durations of the road restrictions. WM's driver can still travel on the state highway and will pick up trash along the highway within the route. There will also be a roll off container for Spurr Twp resident's use at the Spurr Township Hall. The container will be always available during the restrictions. Restrictions will be temporarily lifted the week of 2/19 through 2/23. WM will do the normal route on Friday 2/23 but will have to adhere to county restrictions after that. If there are any questions regarding billing and or service customer services can be reached at 888-960-0008." Discussion developed regarding hiring someone to go around and pick up people's trash in a pickup truck to dump at the hall. This was tabled due to the township having to have insurance for this type of service.
- b. Par Plan Renewal. Clerk, Omernick received the Par Plan renewal from Hannula agency that is due for renewal on 3/15/24. The policy went up due to underwriting increases, cost of inflation, and increased cost of construction overall. Motion made by Trustee, Bentti to accept the par plan renewal and seconded by Clerk, Omernick.

Roll Call: Supervisor, Killoran- Aye

Treasurer, Marier- Aye

Clerk, Omernick- Aye

Trustee, Bentti- Aye

Trustee, LePage- Aye

- c. Millages up for Renewal in 2024. Clerk, Omernick brought to the board's attention that the garbage, road, cemetery and fire and EMS millages need to go on the August 2024 ballot for renewal. Clerk, Omernick to check on the wording of the millage renewals that would take effect in 2025 vs 2024. In order for the millage renewals to go on the August ballot the proposal wording is due to the County Clerk by 5/14/24.

XI. Public Comment- Three Minutes

- a. 2 public comments regarding trash pickup.

XII. MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Michigamme/Spurr Fire board meeting Tuesday March 5, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Spurr Township Hall
- b. Spurr Township Planning Commission Thursday March 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Spurr Township Hall
- c. Spurr Township Board Meeting Monday March 18, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at Spurr Township Hall
- d. Michigamme/Spurr Joint Board Meeting Wednesday April 17, 2024, at Spurr Township Hall
- e. Board of Review Organizational Meeting March 5th at 1:00, March 11th from 3-9 and March 13th from 9-3 at Spurr Township Hall.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT- Meeting adjourned by Supervisor, Killoran at 7:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Omernick, Clerk