MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP

**Board Meeting**

January 8th, 2024

1. **Call to Order.** The Maple Grove Township Board was called to order. Roll call was taken with the following members present Supervisor H. Wayne Beldo, Clerk Fran Beldo, Treasurer Karen Roy, Trustees Joe Barnett, Gary Bowling. Absent: Jason Vess, Fire Chief.
2. **Changes or Corrections to Agenda. None.**
3. **Members of the Public.** – Alin Kuuttila addressed the board with 4 questions:
* Question #1. What I presented at the August 14th, 2023; meeting minutes were not accurately reflected in the minutes. I reported that I did not feel safe with Ron Roy coming into my neighborhood. The minutes made it sound like I was referring to my neighbor Michael Padrock, and that is not true. Can we correct those minutes? Fran answered yes. Wayne made a motion to correct the August 14th meeting minutes, supported by Gary. Any discussion? AIF/AYE, motion carried.
* Question #2. I am questioning the funds being spent. On October 9th, 2023, three board members and a township employee went to the circuit court in Manistee to hear Karen Roy’s frivolous PPO against Mr Padrock. Did we pay for you to go to that meeting? The PPO was mentioned in the August 14th meeting, but the fact that it was dismissed by the judge has not been addressed in the minutes. Why is that? Wayne and Fran replied that it was a personal PPO, it wasn’t for the township board. It was from one of the members. It was not from the township board itself. Wayne added that none of us got paid for going down to the courthouse. There were no funds spent by the township board for that. Wayne made a motion that we add that the PPO was dismissed in the appropriate month. Support by Joe, any discussion? AIF/AYE. Motion carried.
* Question #3. The other question is regarding lawyer costs. I see that in the minutes quite often about how they are over budget and how they are spending so much. Alin went on to say that it was blamed in the minutes that it was because of Mr Padrock’s FOIA requests. Of course, I have made some FOIA requests also. Why does the attorney get involved in every FOIA requests when some of mine were simple accounting? Wayne replied that we must make sure we are doing everything correctly or we could be in trouble. That’s why we have legal representation. The township board in its wisdom makes sure that they have legal advice that says yes, they can do this and no they can’t do that. And that way we do not get into trouble. I think all the members will agree that we only use an attorney when it is completely necessary. We use him for leases, FOIA requests, land questions if we are buying or selling something. We as a township board try and use township funds judiciously for our attorney. We do not want to be called into account for just calling him every time something comes up. However, we do need legal opinions about certain things, or we are leaving ourselves open to the township becoming burdened with some sort of lawsuit, and we do not want to do that. Alin replied that she doesn’t understand why a lawyer should be involved when all she is asking for is W-2’s. It should be public information. Wayne replied that we must follow the timeline. If we can’t follow the timeline exactly our attorney can’t tell the court or tell you or whoever that we are working on it, and we need this much time. The attorney knows that language. The township board has errors and omissions insurance where if someone is sued or the whole township board is sued, and is no fault of our own, we have insurance that will pay for the attorney, so it doesn’t come out of our legal payments. We try to use them only when necessary. But we feel that in this day and age, they are necessary; for things that we want to make sure that we are on the right page with, and we’re following the timeline exactly.
* Question #4. I am asking about the Old Township Hall. I thought it was for sale, I thought the plan was to sell it, and according to the minutes you turned down some offers: $60,000 offer, $70,000 offer, and now you are going to use it for storage. But you sold the Community Center to the taxpayers of the township, and now you are going to keep the old building. Wayne replied, that if we don’t keep the old building, then the storage that we are incurring, we will have to build a building. The old township hall is worth more to us right now as a storage place for our records that have to be kept forever. The community is really responding well to this center, and soon we will be running out of room. The old township hall is a great spot to put our records. If we sell it for $50,000 and then turn around and spend $40,000 for a storage building, that doesn’t make sense. Right now, it is very handy for the items stored in the building already, and more items we are going to store there. Alin replied, even with all the costs I’ve seen in the minutes of fixing it, and with all the maintenance updates? Wayne replied that we have the heat on, it isn’t costing us that much, and it will keep the records stored there at a correct temperature. We have a garage that is not heated, and we have a lot of items stored there. We are going to have more stored in there because we are cleaning out a couple of rooms here. We are going forward with emergency preparedness. We might have to take some emergency preparedness items over there also. There was an offer for the building, but the person couldn’t get funding for the building. If we are looking for less money, it does not make sense to get rid of the building. We spent quite a bit of money putting on a peaked roof, this makes the building weather tight. It’s going to keep our township records, and the items we really value safe and not have to worry about them.
1. **Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda consists of minutes for January 8th, 2024. Approval of bills for 12/12/2023, through 1/02/2024 - General Fund $15,281.93; Fire Department $2,625.67; Cemetery $67.00; Transfer Station $4,997.77. MGT Community Center $8,055.49. December Payroll Fire Dept. $7,099.90. Payroll Township $8,938.57. Financial Statement – Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Motioned by Joe, Supported Gary, any discussion? AIF/ AYE. Motion carried.
2. **Fire Department Report –** No Report. Nothing done with the CPR class. We have a Mutual Aid Agreement that is signed, and it is filed.
3. **Supervisor’s Report**–
* A group of people have gotten together to plan events at the community center every quarter to bring people in. Some of the events that will be happening are a Euchre Tournament in May, the 2nd annual Spaghetti Dinner during Heritage Days weekend, another Halloween Party and trick or treating and Christmas with Santa. These events will also coordinate with the Bottle House Museum and the Art Gallery.
* Wayne is applying for a grant for the outside pickleball courts. This will be done in the spring. Working with the Community Foundation on this. If we have to match, it will be about 10%.
* KND has not talked anymore about the licensing for the HeadStart program. But when they do, we will be talking about a lease agreement. The lease agreement should be more than what the ISD pays now. The KND group will be bringing the kids here periodically, to get acclimated to the building and the ISD kids.
* The ISD is happy here, and the kids are responding well to all the people in the building.
* Wayne talked with MSP captain from Gaylord. He just wanted to tell everyone how much the State Police appreciate being here.
* Senior Meals are still going on every Thursday. Volunteers serve 15-20 people.
* Food Pantry is going strong. This is the first Friday of each month.
* Gymnasium lights will be coming in soon. Also checking out the heater in the gym.
* The generator has been ordered.
* We have a committee that will be getting together to talk about emergency preparedness. More to come on that.
* A donation was received from pickleball. Talked to Paul in charge of pickle ball, and to the ISD regarding the storage of equipment. The ISD will store their ball equipment in their room. Looking into putting doors on the storage that is used in the gym.
1. **Old Business-**
2. **Siren –** nothing to be done at this time**.**
3. **Old Township Hall –** On Hold.
4. **New Business-**
5. Charges from Maple Grove Township Community Center- Joe has some concerns but decided to table them.
6. **Correspondence –** None
7. **Adjournment-** Motion to adjourn at 6:27 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances J. Beldo

Maple Grove Township Clerk