

## NORWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: February 13, 2023

Board members present: Don Byczek, Supervisor; Joyce Giuliani, Clerk; Kristen LaValley, Treasurer; Dave Solda, Trustee; Mike Steeno, Trustee.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Supervisor Byczek. Pledge was recited.
2. Approve/amend agenda: Motion was made by Solda, seconded by Steeno, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
3. Citizens' Time: D. Curran – no trespassing signs behind his property
4. Approve minutes for last month's meeting: Motion was made by Steeno, seconded by LaValley, to approve the minutes from the January 9th meeting. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
5. Financial reports for last month: financial reports were reviewed and discussed.
6. Bills for approval: Bills were reviewed. Motion was made by LaValley, seconded by Solda to pay the bills as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
  - a) Solar project update: the right to referendum petitions filed with the township regarding Ordinance #2022-1 Amend the Norway Township Zoning Ordinance to Authorize and Regulate Transmission-Connected Solar Energy Facilities did not contain the required number of valid signatures. Therefore, the above mentioned Ordinance is now in effect.
  - b) Budget for FY23 – there will be a Public Budget Hearing on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Norway Township Hall. Notices will be posted.
  - c) School tax collection fees for 2023: notices were sent to the Norway-Vulcan Area Schools and the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District regarding the proposed increase in tax collection fees. NVAS accepted the amount approved at the last meeting (\$3.50 per parcel). DIISD contacted Supervisor Byczek with a counter offer. Motion was made by Solda, second by Steeno, to lower the tax collection from the proposed \$3.50 per parcel to \$2.00 per parcel. Ayes – 4, Naves – 1. Passed 4-1.
  - d) Road Commission – this year's road work and sidewalk work: Plans are still tentatively to pave approximately 3900 ft. of Ball Road. There will be no sidewalk work done in Norway Township this year.
8. NEW BUSINESS:
  - a) Cemetery rates for April 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024 - motion was made by Steeno, second by LaValley, to implement a 5% COLA increase in next fiscal year's cemetery rates. All ayes. Passed 5-0. Information will be sent out to local funeral directors.

- b) Complaints of WPA Road/Brickyard Road crack sealing: residents are reporting a problem with long pieces of crack sealing material in their yards after crack sealing work is done by the county. Byczek will contact the road commission with their concerns.
- c) Resolution for Escrow Fund: discussed establishing an escrow account for the solar power project. Action on the resolution will be put off until the next meeting when more information is available.
- d) Town hall redesign: Byczek will contact an engineering firm to come in and assess the building.
- e) Roads at cemetery for ice control: with the ice build-up on the cemetery roads, the City of Norway was contacted to sand/salt the roadways. Discussed purchase of a sander for the township truck. Board was in agreement that working with the city was the best solution
- f) Franczek property: John Franzcek offered to sell a piece of property along the Sturgeon River, south of the city well site to the township. After discussion, it was felt that this was not in the best interest of the township. Byczek will contact Mr. Franzcek and let him know.
- g) Tractor purchase: quotes were obtained for the purchase on 2 new riding lawnmowers, a new lawn vacuum, and 2 push lawn mowers. The cost of this equipment was approved last year. Board agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the above equipment while we can still get it. We will also be selling 2 old lawnmowers when the new equipment arrives.
- h) Highline broadband update: representatives of Highline Broadband have been invited to the March meeting to discuss their project.
- i) Retention incentive: discussed establishing a retention incentive to hourly employees that would give them \$0.50 per hour extra per year above the approved hourly rate and up to \$1.50 more per hour after three years. Board felt that this should be put into a township policy format and discussed at the next meeting.
- j) Job posting for April-November season employees: a job description will be developed for a position that extends from April – November. When this is approved, the job will be posted in the newspaper.
- k) Assessor contract: the contract with Triple A Assessing will be complete in April. Board unanimously approved giving a 1 year contract to Robert Desjarlais LLC, for our assessing needs. Bob is currently doing our assessing work, under Triple A Assessing and is familiar with our township.
- l) Budget amendments: a list of necessary budget amendments was reviewed. Motion was made by LaValley, second by Steeno, to approve the budget amendments as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0.

9. Citizens' Time: D. Curran – property description. C. Moore – engineering firms.

10. Committee Reports: **Solda:** Central Landfill Authority – no longer accepting scrap tires because there is no one to haul them away. North Alert Ambulance Authority – still having mechanical issues with their new ambulance. Sale of land next to the ambulance garage has been completed.
11. Board member comments: **LaValley:** deadline to pay taxes without a penalty has been extended to February 28<sup>th</sup>. She will be in the office on that day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m  
**Byczek:** no comments.
12. Adjournment: Being no further business, motion was made by Steeno, second by Giuliani, to adjourn. All ayes. Passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m. Next regular board meeting is on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m, due to the Board of Review meeting on Monday night. Public Budget Hearing is scheduled for 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> right before the regular board meeting.

Joyce Giuliani