

**Erie Township Board
Regular Meeting
Erie, Michigan**

July 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Erie Township Board was held Tuesday, July 13, 2021, at the Erie Township Hall, 2065 Erie Rd. Erie, Michigan. Township Supervisor Gary Wilmoth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll was called, and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. Prayer provided by Danny Taylor.

Gary Wilmoth, Supervisor – Present
Cindy Wisbon, Treasurer- Present
Kimberly Cousino, Clerk- Present
Steve Mishka, Trustee - Present
Paul Perry, Trustee – Present

Also present was Township Attorney Phil Goldsmith.

Cousino moved supported by Wisbon to amend the agenda adding item #6: American Rescue Plan funds. Motion carried.

B. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Minutes approval from June 8, 2021, Regular Meeting and June 29, 2021 Special Meeting
- 2) Building Report, June 2021
- 3) Treasurer’s Report, June 2021
- 4) Revenue and Expense Report, June 2021

Wisbon moved supported by Cousino to approve consent agenda items 1 – 4 waiving the reading. Motion Carried.

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) MI Department of Treasury CIP Best Practices Webinar
- 2) EGLE – Upcoming Webinars
- 3) MTA – Upcoming Webinars
- 4) Legislative Updates

5) ARPA – FAQ (as of June 24, 2021)

K. Cousino moved supported by Perry to accept and place on file correspondence items 1-5 waiving the reading. Motion Carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

D. La Plante commented on the training opportunities included in this month's correspondence, education is important and webinars are convenient.

E. BUSINESS:

1) Bills Approval:

C. Wisbon made the motion to approve checks #34726 - #34813 from the general fund including payroll and ACH & EFT in the amount of \$170,293.13. Checks #1614 - #1616 in the amount of \$1,738.69 from the Trust and Agency account. K. Cousino supported the motion. Roll was called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

2) South County Water Board Bond:

Deputy Drain Commissioner Tim Csurgo, Chris Schmidt South County Water Supervisor, and Jeff Aronoff from Miller Canfield were present to discuss and answer questions in regards to the South County Water Board's approval of a project to acquire and construct improvements to the System, consisting of new water mains and valves to close the loops to improve the reliability of the System. The project will consist of 17.5 miles of water lines with an estimated cost being \$19 million, bonded over 20 years. The debt service will be paid from rates and charges from users of the system, it is estimated to cost each user an additional \$6.65 per month at a bond rate of 2.75%. Each local unit is required to pledge its limited tax full faith and credit in support of their share of the bond debt service in order for the project to move forward. Act 342 contract allocates the costs between the local units based on the 2020 usage of the System, Erie Township share being 7.31%. The project consists of five locations where the water line loops will be closed. The line will be extended North on Telegraph Rd. in Erie Township from Lakeside Rd. into LaSalle. If all jurisdictions agree the project is expected to begin in October and take approximately thirteen months to complete.

Cousino moved supported by Perry to adopt the Resolution Approving Act 342 Contract and Publication of Notice as presented, waiving the reading. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

3) Settlement Agreement and Release:

Attorney Phil Goldsmith explained to the board that the settlement agreement and release has been supplied by the Township's liability insurance provider's legal counsel. The agreement does not admit the township of wrongdoing or liability. The agreement is to amicably resolve disputed issues of fact, liability, and damages in the best interest of all involved parties without additional legal expenses and litigation costs. The settled payment will be paid by the insurer.

Perry moved supported by Cousino to accept the settlement agreement and release as presented for case of Patrick W. Smith vs Tim Ames, Erie Township as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

4) Provident Accident & Health Policy:

Cousino explained that the accident and healthy policy for the Fire Departments is up for renewal, this is a three-year policy. The expiring premium is \$4,195 per year and the renewal offer is \$4,186 per year.

Cousino moved supported by Wisbon to accept the accident and health policy renewal with Provident, same policy coverage, in the amount of \$4,186 per year. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

5) Consideration of the Termination of Dean Ansel's at-will Employment Agreement with Erie Township. Possible closed session pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Meetings Act (MCL 15.268):

Attorney Phil Goldsmith asked Dean Ansel if he would like to enter into closed session for the purpose of reviewing his at-will employment agreement; Dean Ansel responded that he preferred to remain in open session.

Phil Goldsmith explained that Dean Ansel's employment with Erie Township is at-will and will take four affirmative votes, super majority, of the township board to terminate the employment agreement.

Perry moved supported by Wilmoth to terminate Dean Ansel's at-will employment agreement as the Erie Township Police Chief, as provided for in the February 11, 2014 written Employment Agreement entered into by Erie Township and Dean Ansel. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

6) American Rescue Plan Funds:

Cousino explained that the American Rescue Plan funds need to be accepted by July 27, 2021. Erie Township is estimated to receive \$453,006. The board does not need to decide at this time how the funds will be spent, treasury has been releasing regular updates on the funding as well as approved expenses.

Cousino moved supported by Mishka to accept the American Rescue Plan Funds. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

PUBLIC AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

Dean Ansel addressed the board.

ADJOURNMENT:

Cousino moved supported by Perry to adjourn at 8:38 pm. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Kimberly Cousino
Clerk