

Monday, March 9, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
Riga Township Hall, Board Room
7817 Riga Hwy, Riga, MI 49276

MINUTES

Call to Order: Supervisor Gary Kastel called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The pledge to the flag was recited.

Members Present: Supervisor Gary Kastel, Clerk Natalie Thompson, Treasurer Katy Gust, Trustee Brenda Delgado, and Trustee Karlene Goetz. Absent: None

Others Present: 7 guests

Clerk's Report:

- Minutes from February 10, 2020 and March 2, 2020 were presented. Delgado moved with support from Goetz to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.
- Thompson reviewed the month's correspondence. She noted that the ISO rating for Riga Township was reduced after a recent Fire Department audit, this is favorable for home owners' insurance rates.

Treasurer's Report: Gust presented the Treasurer's Report which included balances, deposits, and expenditures. She commented that about 941% of taxes have been collected to date. Balances as follows:

- General Checking 916: \$98,574.73
- Fire Dept. Checking 7773: \$14,036.52
- TLC Fire Checking: \$120,808.05
- Road Improvement 1054: \$232,646.71
- Tax Account 908: \$20,622.73
- Fire Equipment 2356: \$87,126.69
- Sewer/Water Hookup 2445: \$97,291.18
- Fund Raising Committee 7960: \$40,355.22
- First Federal Bank CD 6157: \$101,385.80
- Old National General 9322: \$122,679.98
- TLC CCU Savings 9488: \$50,577.55
- TLC CCU CD: \$511.11

Request a copy of the treasurer's report by e-mail: rigatreasurer@gmail.com

- Thompson moved with support from Goetz to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Two Riga Village residents were present with questions about water and sewer rate changes and the removal of the debt line item on the bill. They also had complaints about calcium buildup and air in the lines.

Planning Commission Report: Goetz gave the planning commission report:

- There were about 50 guests present at a joint meeting of the Planning Commission and Township Board. There were 2 presenters with information regarding commercial solar development. Next month Kevon Martis will be making a solar presentation. The PC will be discussing possible amendments to the current solar ordinance.

Board Action:

- Ordinance Violations: Kastel presented a signed agreement between Henry Smith and the Riga Township Fire Department. The fire department will be burning the dilapidated buildings on Mr. Smith's property on Mulberry Rd for the purpose of fire training.
- Thompson presented three unpaid ambulance bills. All bills are for non-residents and show no indication of insurance money collected thus far. Goetz moved with support from Thompson to send all three bills totaling \$2,033.00 to collections. Motion carried.
- Thompson presented proposed dates for regular board meetings for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Goetz moved with support from Delgado to set the Riga Board regular meetings as the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. Motion carried.
- Thompson presented a budget update for all accounts except Water and Sewer. She noted that all accounts balance and are within budget.
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Water and Sewer Report:

- Kastel reported ditch flushing of 245,329 gallons @ 3.65/month = \$895.45 and additional hydrant flushing of 382,653 gallons @ 3.65/month = \$1,396.68. He noted that this accounts for 52% of the month's usage.

Grounds and Maintenance:

- Thompson reported back on her discussion with Mr. Al Smith regarding the Park Project contract. Mr. Smith is ready to start as soon as the weather is favorable and his insurance company has all the terms required and just needs a start date to activate coverage. Mr. Smith would like to have at least 1/3 of the total payment up front to cover initial expenses. He suggested an option with 3 payments or 2 payments, with the final payment issued after completion and inspection of the project. After some discussion, the board decided to offer a contract that split the project into 2 payments. Thompson will fill in the terms of the contract and have it ready to sign at the next meeting.
- Kastel requested that Mr. Aden Porter is requesting a \$50/month increase for lawn care. The board agreed to review the contract at the April board meeting. It was noted that there would be some additional landscape needs when the park project is complete.

- Gust will examine the park ball fields to check the infield stones and will find out options for new bases.
- Kastel noted that he replaced the metal flowers on the play barn with steering wheels.
- It was also noted that work on a Park Ordinance should begin soon that includes park rules for things such as open/closing times, pets, and smoking.

Fire Department Report:

- Dan Schwyn reported from the Fire Committee. They are working with the Fire Department to develop a capital improvement plan based on the current inventory, state equipment replacement schedules, and the Fire Department wish list. Dianna Raine is also working on a photo display board of the fire personnel.
- Chief Norman presented the fire report: There were 7 calls in the month of February: 2 medical, 1 PI Crash, 1 transfer, 1 possible fire, and 1 citizen assist.
- Chief Norman reported that all of the Mobile 800 MHZ radios have been installed in the trucks. A second base radio was installed in the radio room. All units are working. The county should be completely switched to 800MHz by the end of spring.
- The department is now up to date with NFIRS reporting. The ImageTrend software was a great choice and is very user friendly. The company also offered excellent customer service during set up.
- Goetz moved with support from Gust to approve the purchase of \$1,459.00 of miscellaneous fire supplies from TheFireStore.com. The items are the remaining items that were on the budget list from the beginning of the fiscal year. Motion carried.

Cemetery

- Kastel is seeking bids for removal of the tree stumps remaining at the cemetery. Goetz mentioned that we need to keep an eye on one of the large cedars and Ron Cambal will remove the dead shrub stumps in the new part of the cemetery. Mr. Cambal also noted that he will be seeding new graves soon and he requested signs for the cemetery that say "No Pets".

Approval to Pay Bills:

- The following warrants were presented: Fire Checking checks 2291-2305 totaling \$2,872.51 and General Checking checks 11740-11773 totaling \$22,365.20.
- Goetz moved with support from Delgado to pay the warrants as presented. Motion carried.

Public Comment: No additional comments were made.

Adjournment: Gust moved with support from Delgado to adjourn at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Natalie Thompson, Clerk

Gary Kastel, Supervisor