

SPECIAL MEETING

March 6, 2014

The Alpena Township Board of Trustees met in special session on Wednesday, March 6, 2014, at the Alpena Township Offices, 4385 US-23 North, Alpena, Michigan. Roll call found present: Supervisor Twite, Clerk Dubey, Treasurer Diamond and Trustees: Dunckel, Fournier, Mischley and Poli. Attorney James Florip was also present.

Adopt Agenda: It was moved by Trustee Mischley, seconded by Trustee Fournier to adopt the agenda as presented in printed form and add: Fire Department Budget Items. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Public Comment: None.

Contract (Phil Heath): It was moved by Trustee Dunckel, seconded by Trustee Fournier to enter into a contract made between Alpena Township Water Department, 4385 US-23 North, Alpena, Michigan, and Philip A. Heath, 225 McKinley Street, Alpena, Michigan. Philip A. Heath, will provide consulting services, Operator ID#2841, will provide a S-2 Operator Classification to the Alpena Township Water Department for a cost of \$200.00 per month beginning February 22, 2014, and will continue providing S-2 Certification until the Alpena Township Water Department has secured an S-2 Operator Classification. The only other provision in this contract will be an additional \$100.00 on July 1, 2014, for this contract. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yeas: Poli, Fournier, Twite, Mischley, Diamond, Dubey and Dunckel. Nays: None.

Letter of Engagement (William K. Fahey): It was moved by Trustee Fournier, seconded by Trustee Dunckel to authorize the supervisor to sign a letter of engagement with Attorney William K. Fahey who will work as special legal counsel in the City of Alpena and Township Water and Sewer Contract. The hourly rate is \$225.00 per hour. The firm will also bill for out of pocket cost items. Invoices will be sent at the start of each month. Invoices not paid within sixty (60) days will be charged interest of 1% per month. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote. Yeas: Fournier, Twite, Mischley, Diamond, Dubey, Dunckel and Poli. Nays: None. Attorney Florip will also be on the side lines supplying any information Attorney Fahey may require. Attorney Florip wanted the supervisor to attend any meetings Fahey has with City Attorneys. He did not feel comfortable with the two attorneys sitting down and discussing the contract without any representative from the Township being present.

Water/Sewer Discussions: Board members who attended the Public Hearing at City Hall concerning increases in sewer/water rates voiced their opinions on the hearing.

Trustee Dunckel felt the city should gently have presented why the water/sewer rates have to be raised. He felt they should look into the future on what needs to be done in their infrastructure and do it over a period of years not all at once by raising rates as high as 62%. He also felt that when another company, such as Earth Tech runs a system, they can cannibalize the system and when it goes to heck, just walk away. He feels the city wants to take over the township system to pay off their other obligations within the city.

Trustee Poli felt the city needs to breakdown the costs on what it takes to operate their system and show justification of the rates they are proposing. Attorney Florip once again stated that the formula that was developed for working out the rates took politics out of the negotiations. Florip felt if the city used this same formula they would have been in basic good shape.

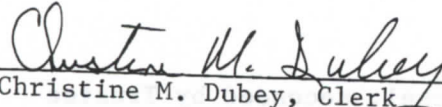
Trustee Mischley asked if we go into good faith negotiations, do we have any assurance from the city that they won't raise our rates in the next two weeks? Nothing is sure.

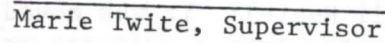
Fire Department Equipment (Budget Session): All the items John Clements requested for station #3 (M-32 West) were put into the budget, totaling approximately \$5000. The supervisor had met with Captains of the fire department and they decided what their priorities were. The air packs in the amount of \$91,300 and the Power Stryker Cot in the amount of \$14,000 are going to be applied for through a grant. The other items on the list were: Infrared Cameras (2) \$13,500, 40 foot ladder already approved, Stair Chair for B-2 - \$3,200, RIT Package - \$3,600, Stokes Basket - \$750, Jaws of Life (2) - \$30,000, Helmets (12) - \$3,972 and Hose - \$1,000, total for equipment is approximately \$63,000 including M-32 stations items. Items to be placed in the budget.

Fire Department Millage: Board members talked about possibly going for an additional millage to get needed equipment. Trustee Poli said if the board decides to go for another millage, they have got to educate the residents on why the millage is needed and how it will benefit residents of Alpena Township. The other point would be not to run a millage request when another request is going to be on the ballot. A stand alone request usually gets best results.

County Reimbursement for Township Fire Runs: Supervisor informed the board that the County would continue to pay \$50.00 per run to Alpena Township, until further notice.

Adjourn: It was moved by Trustee Dunckel, seconded by Treasurer Diamond to adjourn at 10:50 a.m. Motion carried by unanimous vote.


Christine M. Dubey, Clerk


Marie Twite, Supervisor