

Regular Monthly Meeting of the Windemere Township Board - February 9, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM by Chair, Alan Overland. Others present were Supervisors Heidi Kroening, Tony Bakhtiari, Clerk Cindy Woltjer, Treasurer Ron Mossberg, Road Coordinator Scott Danelski & Zoning Administrator Dennis Genereau.

Also, in attendance were 16 Windemere residents and 24 participants via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA :

A change was made to move Zoning Update and Caleb Anderson County Zoning to after Treasurer's Report on the agenda. A motion was then made by Bahktiari, seconded by Kroening to approve the agenda with said change. Vote Taken: Overland – Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Minutes from the January 12, 2023 regular board meeting were tabled until the March meeting to allow Supervisor Bahktiari time to review them.

A motion was made by Kroening, seconded by Bahktiari to approve the January 24, 2023 Special Meeting minutes. Vote Taken: Overland – Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Treasurer Mossberg gave the report for January 2023 stating he completed year end reports for 2022. Deposits consisted of the last half property taxes from Pine County, including delinquent taxes and misc. interest received. Expenses consisted of bills from the December snow storm and the Workers' Comp. Insurance policy. He also reported that the current investments of just over \$500,000 are yielding about 4.37% interest. Motion made by Bahktiari, seconded by Kroening to accept the Treasurer's report as given. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

ZONING UPDATE :

Zoning Administrator Genereau reported that the final draft of the STVR Ordinance is ready for legal review before presenting to the Township Board for final approval.

He said the DNR mediation has been set for mid-March with the trial scheduled sometime in November. Attorney fees for this are being covered by MAT.

Permit applications have started coming in. Going forward he will be enforcing the camper ordinance from 1996 stating all campers need to be permitted. Campers set after this date need to comply with the ordinance and he is working on a solution for campers set before that date. He has also reported all permits to the Pine County Assessor.

Caleb Anderson County Zoning :

Caleb Anderson from Pine County Planning & Zoning gave a presentation with comparisons between the county ordinance and the township ordinance should the township board decide to turn over the Planning and Zoning to Pine County.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Planning Commissioner Cindy Carlson said she was surprised at how quickly the board was willing to act to move the zoning to Pine County and said that the Planning Board wasn't even notified of that action. She felt that zoning is as essential to the township as general administration and road maintenance. A lot of work has gone into developing the Comprehensive Plan and Township Ordinances, including the recent work done on the STVR (Short Term Vacation Rentals) section, both of which would disappear if Pine County takes over.

OLD BUSINESS:

Sign Inventory :

Road Co-ordinator Danelski recommended doing a sign inventory and has received five (5) quotes for the board to consider at the March meeting.

2023 Meeting Dates :

It was decided to add the Board of Equalization date to the list of meeting dates, along with the time of the meetings, to be posted at the hall and on the website.

Compensation Rates for Township Officers & Employees :

Clerk Woltjer asked the board to reconsider the salary only compensation and to reinstate the hourly rate stating the amount of hours that the clerk works each month would put her at a lower per hour rate than the previous years. The request was declined.

Clerk Woltjer then reported that the Zoning Administrator position pay range was posted to be from \$21-\$30 per hour. She asked that they consider raising that position to \$30 per hour.

A motion was made by Overland, seconded by Bahktiari acknowledging meeting fees only for public meetings that are noted or approved by the board. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Nay, Bahktiari - Aye. Motion Passed 2/1.

NEW BUSINESS :

Set Board of Audit :

A motion was made by Bahktiari, seconded by Overland to hold the Board of Audit on February 21, 2023 at the township hall at 6:30 p.m. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bahktiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Annual Meeting :

The Annual Township Meeting will be held on March 14, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the township hall.

Snow Plowing Contract :

A motion was made by Bahktiari, seconded by Overland to pay the difference of \$4140 to Sandberg Construction, Inc. that was shorted on his December invoice. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bahktiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Board of Supervisors Other :

Supervisor Kroening brought up an issue with the way Supervisor Bahktiari questioned Road Supervisor Danelski at the January meeting. Kroening provided additional information to Steve Fenske further explaining the situation that Bahktiari had ask of him in December and of which he read during the January 2023 meeting. The additional information that Kroening provided to Fenske changed his original response to Bahktiari as a result. Kroening read out loud Fenske's email based upon the additional information that Kroening provided to him in January.

Chair Overland stated that in moving forward on the sale of the township equipment he would like to have the equipment cleaned for an upcoming online sale. A motion was made by Bahktiari, seconded by Overland to spend up to \$2500 to get the township equipment cleaned and listed for an upcoming online sale in March. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bahktiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Supervisor Kroening then asked that Treasurer Mossberg, since he has been hired as the new IT person, sign a non-disclosure/confidentiality agreement with the township. A copy of the agreement was given to Treasurer Mossberg to look over before signing.

ROAD UPDATE :

Road Supervisor Danelski reported that on December 31, 2022 the governor had declared the December snow event a State of Disaster, therefore the Dept. of Homeland Security/Emergency Management would be reimbursing the township for 75% of the December storm damage. Mr. Danelski gave them an early estimate of \$100,000 but said with the spring R.O.W. tree clean-up it may actually be more than that.

Mr. Danelski had put together a bid package for all the possible work for the upcoming season and asked that a pre-bid meeting be scheduled to go over the bidding process with any interested contractors. A motion was made by Bahktiari, seconded by Overland to put out bids for the various road work to be handled for the upcoming year. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bahktiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

Mr. Danelski again recommended to the board that we purchase and provide GPS tracking devices for the road vendors to be able to keep track of the progress on the roads. He also stated he received 15 complaints regarding road issues.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE :

Planning Commissioner Dianna Sandstrom reported the STVR Ordinance was ready to send to the attorney for him to look over before presenting to the township board. Chair Overland stated he would like to look it over before it is sent to the attorney.

FIRE DISTRICT UPDATE :

Supervisor Bakhtiari stated the Fire District Meeting would be held the following week so no report was given.

PUBLIC INPUT :

The first person stated he listened to Chair Overland and Supervisor Bakhtiari say numerous times that they were worried about spending township money. He then encouraged them to wait until the bidding process is complete before selling any township equipment. He felt that the current cost of the contractor model is costing more than the old employee model and buying new (used) equipment in the future would cost the township even more. He would also like to see a comparison of the two models before selling the equipment. He also stated he was annoyed with the new salary structure recently approved by the board.

There were no comments from zoom.

CLAIMS :

January 2023 claims were reviewed. Motion made by Bahktiari, seconded by Kroening to approve the January 2023 claims as provided. Approval of Payroll #PAY 23-02, EFT #s 23-04 & 23-05, Check #s 13291 through 13310, & Direct Deposit #s DD1553 through DD1559 for a total of \$61,165.02. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

TOWNSHIP MAIL :

There was no township mail to review.

ADJOURN :

Motion made by Kroening, seconded by Bahktiari to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 PM. Vote Taken: Overland - Aye, Kroening - Aye, Bakhtiari - Aye. Motion Passed 3/0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED :

APPROVED :

Clerk, Cindy Woltjer

Chair, Alan Overland