

Torch Lake Township Board Meeting

DRAFT

APPROVED  
M. J. [Signature] 5/26/24

May 15, 2024

Hubbell Community Building

The Meeting was called to order by Township Clerk Lou Ambuehl at 6pm.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge Of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Supervisor Brian Cadwell (Absent), (Medical Excused), Township Clerk Lou Ambuehl, Treasurer Kathryn Moore, Trustee Scott Sapino, and Trustee Tim Reitz were present.

The Agenda for tonight's meeting was accepted as presented on a motion from Kathryn Moore, and seconded by Tim Reitz. Motion passed.

The April 2024 Minutes were accepted as read on a motion by Tim Reitz and seconded by Kathryn Moore. Motion passed.

Lou Ambuehl read the Correspondence. There are new channels coming from Spectrum. A motion was made by Scott Sapino, and seconded by Kathryn Moore to place the correspondence on file. Motion passed.

The Bills were presented by Lou Ambuehl. There were prepaid bills from the General Fund in the amount of \$13,910.43, Bills from the Garbage Fund in the amount of \$19,852.08, and Current Bills from the General Fund of \$22,180.13. A Motion was made by Kathryn Moore and seconded by Tim Reitz to pay the bills. Roll Call: Reitz, yes. Ambuehl, yes. Moore, yes. Sapino yes. Motion passed. There was also a bill for repair to the new Boot Jack Fire Department Rescue Truck in the amount of \$2,939.00. A Motion was made by Tim Reitz and seconded by Kathryn Moore to pay this bill. Roll Call: Reitz, yes. Ambuehl, yes. Moore, yes. Sapino, yes. Motion passed.

Kathryn Moore gave the Treasurer's Report. Office hours will change from 9am-4pm on Thursdays to 10-4 on Thursdays. Summer Taxes will be out on July 1, 2024. A Motion was made by Tim Reitz and seconded by Scott Sapino to accept the Treasurer's Report. Motion passed.

**Committee Reports:Sewer.** The workers are trying to keep the dust down during construction of the new lagoons. The project should wrap up this year.

**Refuse.** New hire Mike Rode will start on the crew Monday, May 20. Pick-up for snowbirds has restarted.

**Fire.** Hubbell fire Department. Chief Dessellier was wondering if we could add outlets at the park pavilion before they host the Copper Country Firemen's Tournament on June 22, 2024. Clerk Ambuehl will talk to Don LaVergne, Public Works Supervisor. Judges are needed for the parade during the tournament. Boot Jack Fire Department. Paul Bilkas reported that their pumps passed their annual tests.

**Parks.** Garbage cans are needed at the Hubbell Boat Launch.

**Roads.** Nothing to report.

**Old Business:**

The seaplane situation was readdressed. There is a Public Hearing online and by phone on May 23, 2024, at 6pm. More information is available at the Township Office or on the Township Website. This hearing is for the dock at the facility only.

**New Business:**

A Motion was made by Scott Sapino, and seconded by Kathryn Moore to Donate \$100 to the Hubbell 4<sup>th</sup> Of July Committee. Roll Call: Reitz, Yes. Ambuehl, yes. Moore, yes. Sapino, yes. Motion passed.

A Motion was made by Kathryn Moore and seconded by Tim Reitz to pay for dust control on Rabbit Bay Rd, and Paradise Ln. in the amount of approximately \$40,000.00 Roll Call: Reitz, yes. Ambuehl, yes. Moore, yes. Sapino, yes. Motion passed.

Natalie's Horse Rescue of Dollar Bay is applying to have a raffle for the rescue. It is the only one in our area. They are a 501(c)3. A Motion was made by Tim Reitz and seconded by Scott Sapino to approve the application. Motion passed.

The Hubbell Fire Department needs to have approval for a Temporary Liquor License for the Copper Country Firemen's Tournament. A Motion was made by Tim Reitz and seconded by Scott Sapino to approve the license. Roll Call: Reitz, yes. Ambuehl, yes. Moore, yes. Sapino, yes. Motion passed.

**Public Comment:**

Julie Sanderson addressed the board regarding PA233. Storage and zoning laws for renewable resources like wind and solar have changed. Now corporations have the final say, not individual communities like before. The goal was for Michigan to be totally using renewable resources by 2025. That goal will not be met. The U.P. has more renewable resources than Ohio and Wisconsin put together. There is a petition for us to sign if we wish to try to change the law back. 150k signatures are needed by July 1<sup>st</sup> to force a vote in the 2024 Election Cycle. If that goal isn't reached by then, it will have to wait until the 2026 Election Cycle. All 83 counties in Michigan want this law to revert back.

Paul Bylkas asked if the road between DeMar's Market and Traprock Road was being replaced. Clerk Ambuehl said he didn't know.

Dave Halonen spoke about the seaplane situation. There is a rule from 1996 that says that seaplanes must be up to 1,000ft (about 304.8 m) to fly over a residential area. That is 100 ft lower than Houghton County Airport. It can be lower for take-offs and landings. The planes must take off and land into the wind. There are also eagle's nests nearby, which means they also must be 1000ft (about 304.8 m) to fly over those.

Erik Kiilunen of Tamarack City asked if we could make a Noise Abatement Resolution. Gary Marcotte said he isn't bothered by them and he's right next to it, and that Koppers is way louder.

Jeff Hilss said the planes start the season on May 19, 2024.

Amy Johnson asked if property values will decrease because of this. Treasurer Moore said no, our township is growing, and doesn't see that anytime soon. She also asked if fishing will be impacted. No one knows.

Gary Marcotte asked about what can be done with all the junk cars in the township. Clerk Ambuehl said to forward a complaint to the Township Office or to Supervisor Cadwell. There are a few letters that went out to several individuals regarding their junk cars.

A Motion was made by Scott Sapino, and seconded by Kathryn Moore to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

The Meeting was adjourned at 649pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Sapino