

**APPROVED MINUTES  
OF THE MOORLAND TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2020**

The Moorland Township Board of Trustees met Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order by Supervisor Nutt. Nutt led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Dan Nutt, Clerk Rose Spoelman, Treasurer Maureen Hogan, Trustee Anita Knapp and Trustee Brandon Wilburn (5)

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Gary Foster, County Commissioner and wife Peggy, Sabra Guy, Administrative Assistant, Leon Wolverton, Fire Chief, Don Pant, Assistant Fire Chief, Darryl Davis, Captain of FD, Muskegon County Sheriff Poulin, ; and (5) residents.

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion by Spoelman to accept the agenda as amended, adding firefighter wage under old business; Nutt seconded the motion and the agenda passed by the following votes: Ayes: (5)

**SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 12, 2019 BOARD MINUTES**

Motion by Nutt to approve the meeting minutes of December 12, 2019 as presented. Knapp seconded the motion and it passed by the following votes: Ayes: (5)

**SUBJECT: MUSKEGON COUNTY SHERIFF**

Sheriff Poulin was present to discuss laws/regulations regarding the issue of ORV's and Golf Carts being driven on township roads. Currently these vehicles are not allowed on County Roads or State Highways and can only be driven on township roads, if that township has an ordinance. Discussion was held about the County possibly pursuing a County-Wide ordinance, so that townships would not have to create their own, also making it easier for law enforcement to enforce. Commissioner Foster stated that the Commissioners value any input or requests from the Sheriff's department and would take it into serious consideration if they requested a county-wide ordinance. The Board requested that the Sheriff and Commission Foster look into doing having a County wide ordinance.

**SUBJECT: TREASURERS REPORT**

- 1) Motion by Nutt to accept the Treasurer's Report for the Fire Fund as presented. Wilburn seconded the motion and it passed by the following votes: Ayes: (5)
- 2) There were no Fire Fund Bills for this month that needed Board approval, Hogan stated that some money would have to be moved around, but that all bills are covered.
- 3) Motion by Nutt to accept the Treasurer's Report for the General Fund as presented. Knapp seconded the motion and it passed by the following votes: Ayes: (5)
- 4) There were no General Fund Bills for this month that needed Board approval.

**SUBJECT: FIRE CHIEFS REPORT**

- 1) Fire Chief gave the report for December 2019: 12 total runs- 8 Medical, 2 Fire, 1 Motor Vehicle, and 1 call were canceled en-route. Chief Wolverton noted that 1 member left the FD, due to moving.
- 2) Hogan read a statement she prepared covering her opinion on what has been going on the past 3 to 4 months. Hogan stated "that she has been misled, told half-truths, and lied to on questions she asked of the fire personnel and others. She requested information and after 3 months be given it on board meeting night. She asked if all applicants for the open officer's position were informed to be in attendance at the meeting, she was told yes, that wasn't exactly the truth was it. There are rules and procedures that are TO BE followed. These are not my rules these are your fire department rules. When I ask a question of an individual I expect that individual to answer that question not someone else. It is my opinion that there is a person or person (case in point, the resigning of the previous chief and the problems incurred with the posting for the officer position) that have and continue to cause problems by saying things and doing things to undermine the leadership of the fire department only to enhance their personal goals, not MOORLAND TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT." Clerk Spoelman asked Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief if both applicants were told to be at the meeting to decide who the assistant Fire Chief would be. Chief Wolverton stated that at the prior fire department meeting, that he told both, that the board would be deciding who would be selected. Capt. Davis stood up and said that it was a lie, and that he was never told that he needed to be present for the interview/decision of assistant chief. Spoelman stated that an appointed official or elected official should never lie or misrepresent, and that this is an election year coming up and that the residents need to take notice. Spoelman will be contacting the township attorney with said information and find out what the ramifications, if any, will be taken.

**SUBJECT: BUILDING REPORT**

- 1) Nutt gave the report for December 2019. (1) Building permits; (2) Electrical permits; (3) Mechanical permits; (2) Plumbing Permits. Total for Township: \$721.00, with 10% payable to the township for a total of \$72.10.
- 2) Nutt also reported that 42 total building permits were given in 2019.

**SUBJECT: PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

- 1) The planning commission met on January 6, 2020 and discussed questions for the Sheriff's visit, regarding ORVs/Golf Carts on township roads.
- 2) Next Planning Commission meeting February 3, 2020.

**SUBJECT: ZONING ADMINISTRATOR**

- 1) No updates.

**SUBJECT: OLD BUSINESS**

- 1) Spoelman made the motion to table the assistant Fire Chief pay, pending an accusation that not all candidates for the position were informed of the interviews, thereby missing the opportunity to be considered for the position, and issued to be looked into, seconded by Wilburn, and passed by roll-call vote: Ayes: Spoelman, Knapp, Hogan, Wilburn, Nutt. (5)

- 2) Spoelman made the motion to increase the firefighter pay to \$28 for a call-out, and then 14\$ per hour after 2 hours, to be comparable to the area fire departments, and effective January 1, 2020, seconded by Wilburn, and passed by roll call vote: Ayes: Knapp, Spoelman, Hogan, Wilburn, and Nutt. (5)

**SUBJECT: NEW BUSINESS**

- 1) Nutt discussed a letter that was sent from the County Prosecutor's office requesting money from the township's senior millage funding to support a senior abuse task force. Spoelman stated that the money allocated to the township for the seniors should stay in our township. No action taken.

**SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 1) None.

**SUBJECT: BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

- 1) Spoelman talked about the Presidential Primary election to be held on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This election requires that a voter choose from a democratic or republican ballot per state law, and that Moorland does not have anything else on the ballot, therefore, there isn't a non-partisan option this time. Also, candidate packets are available for anyone seeking a township board position and are due April 21, 2020.

**SUBJECT: ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Nutt to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Spoelman seconded the motion and it passed by the following votes: Ayes: (5)

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Respectfully Submitted,  
Rose Spoelman  
Moorland Township Clerk