

South Branch Township
January 14, 2025
Regular Board Meeting
Approved

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. Attending: Sylvester, Nelson, Barkley, Barritt, and Janisse.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Guest Speaker: Tim Maylone, Cherry Capital Connections

Motion by Nelson and second by Janisse to accept agenda as presented. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Motion by Janisse and second by Barkley to accept consent agenda, December Regular Meeting Minutes, December bills and invoices paid, the Treasurer's Report, Fire/EMS Report, and projected bills for January, as presented. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion passed.

Guest Speaker: Tim Maylone, Cherry Capital, presented their plan for providing broadband to Crawford County residents that may not be served by other providers in the area. They are looking into grant monies and other funding to provide services. The specifics are not complete as to how our township residents would be served and if all would be served.

Fire/EMS:

Reviewed Arbor Professional information and per Chief Umphrey's guideline on communication wires the township should decline to proceed. **Motion** by Janisse, second by Nelson to follow Chief's guideline. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion passed. FEMA grant was completed with other departments for radios. Paper work has been submitted for a cost share grant from MI DNR. Chief noted a meeting scheduled with Munson Health for the mandatory health physicals.

Reviewed Committee and Commission reports. Reviewed Planning Commission and Zoning Reports. No ZBA. Road Committee submitted priorities for 2025. Finish resurfacing Deerheart Valley, resurfacing Steckert Bridge Rd. from county line to East River Rd, paving Townline Rd. M-18 to Pioneer Rd, remove sand and add gravel to East Pioneer at west township line. Old 144 quote last year for ditching, grubbing, and gravel was near \$340,000, we declined due to lack of funds. The committee will follow up with possibly working with the USFS for funding if it is available.

Old Business: Supv. Sylvester followed up with a draft agreement with forester, Ivan Witt, to manage forested areas by Pioneer Cemetery and Transfer Station. **Motion** by Janisse, second by Barritt, to proceed with the tree removal. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion by Barkley, second by Janisse to approve payment to: Crawford County for 2024 tax billing, 2682.58, Crawford County early voting Aug/Nov 2024, 1825.52, and KCI for mailing of 2025 tax assessments, 2407.48. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Motion passed. Reviewed Minimum wage increases for 2025. Reviewed retirement letter from township attorney.

New Business:

Public Comment.

Meeting adjourned 8:25 pm