**Custer Township Regular Meeting Minutes**

**January 15,2024**

Tom Trenner called the January Custer Township Regular Meeting to order at 1:30pm, members present besides Tom Trenner were Larry Larr, Trustee; George Allsion, Trustee; Carey Jolly, Treasurer; Staci Wood, Clerk.

The minutes for the Custer Township December meeting were presented for review, with no changes or discussions, Larry Larr made a motion to approve the minutes as presented Carey Jolly seconded Ayes=5 Nays = 0 motion carried.

Staci Wood presented the bills for review, with no changes or discussions Larry Larr made the motion to approve the payables report as presented Carey Jolly seconded Ayes=5 Nays=0 motion carried.

Visitor’s: Sheriff Cole gave the monthly/ yearly incident report. Stated that they will be taking part in patrolling the river from Custer Bridge to Scottville Bridge during fishing seasons and during the summer months. He will be documenting all incidents to present to the township at the meetings.

Nancy Vandervest presented the board with the approval of the board of Review dates for 2024, the poverty exemption set asset test for boards approval.

Larry Larr made a motion to approve the Board of Review dates for 2024 and the poverty exemption set asset test at 75,000 and the resolution to allow local residents to protest to the Board of Review in writing. George Allsion seconded Ayes=5 Nays=0 motion carried.

Steve Wessel from the Mason County Road Commission came to go over the new quotes for the Stephens, Conrad and Wison roads the board is going to look over the new quotes before we make a decision.

Alesha Haner the Freesoil Village Treasurer came to sit in on the meeting to see how our township ran things and to meet with Carey Jolly for tips and advice for being the new treasurer for Freesoil.

Clerks Report:

Staci Wood stated that she met with Sarah from Lake Michigan CPA services to go over the financials for the 2023/2024 year to make sure everything looked good before the next Budget year. They also worked on end of the year tax preparations.

She stated she is having public testing on Wednesday January 17,2024 at the PM Township Hall. She is hoping to get the ballots when she goes for testing, so she gets started sending them out to the AV voters. She will be working on getting all the AV applications sent out this week. She will be meeting with Election commission to vote on election workers she plans on having a full staff due to it being a very big election. She will contact all the election workers to start scheduling them for election day.

Custer township has been scheduled to work on February 19 2024 for the 9 days early elections at the Mason County District Library. She will be there all day with three election workers. She will be in contact with them to see who can work this day.

Staci stated she has been speaking with some of the other clerks and with Cheryl Kelly about the pay for the election workers. She feels that $14.00 per hour is not enough for all the training and responsibility this is being put on the workers now with the new proposal 22-2 in process. She would like to ask the board if we could up the pay to $20.00 per hour for election workers and $25.00 per hour for the Chairperson.

If Susan Hansen takes the trustee position with the township, she will need to find a new Deputy Clerk and I do have a few people in mind that I looking to speak with. With all the new rules and regulations that have been added to the elections, I would like to ask the board to consider putting the new Deputy Clerk on an hourly pay rate giving some of the responsibilities of the election and the Cemetery to the Deputy to help with everything that now is part of her duties. After speaking with other clerks, they have done this with their deputies to help off set the amount of work there is going to be during elections. This would also put the deputy in charge of the Cemetery burials. Other townships pay the deputy $20.00 per hour.

There has not been any response to the open Trustee position for another round of interviews and is asking the board how they would like to proceed with this.

Staci stated she contacted Republic Services again because they sent a past due bill for the month of December and stated she told the lady she spoke with that the bill would be adjusted she asked for an updated invoice to be sent to the township so the remaining balance could be approved by the board and paid. This should now be the last invoice we get until June 2024.

Treasurer’s Report:

Carey Jolly presented the checking and savings accounts to the board for review.

Carey Jolly presented to the board a quote from DMC Unlimited for anti-virus protection on all the township computers we could have up to 5 computers. There will be a one-time fee of $120.00 for them to come to the hall and set up each computer then it will be $54.50 each month this will be $654.00 yearly. This will keep the computers up to date as needed with no extra charge to the township.

Staci Wood made a motion for DMC Unlimited to come out and install the anti-virus protection to the computers, George Allison seconded Ayes=5 Nays=0 motion carried.

Carey stated the township received the State Revenue Sharing in the amount of $20,589.00 in 2023 it was $19,841.00 and 2022 was $18,366.17.

She stated she received from our Assessor one principal residence exemption, now 100% pre (primary residence), one Disabled Veteran Exemption.

Supervisors Report:

Tom Trenner asked Staci Wood if she could come up with a budget for elections that will be held during the next fiscal year.

Tom Trenner asked the board where we were on filling the Trustee position and if there were any more people interested in the position George Allison stated that he thought he may have one person interested and that he would contact them and have them come to the next meeting.

Tom asked the board to look over the quotes for the road repairs that are upcoming, and the board agreed to continue with Wilson and Conrad Road repairs but put off doing anything with Stephens Road at this time.

Old Business: we had the first round of interviews with one person being interviewed we as a board felt we needed to post in the newspaper before deciding. With no one coming forth with the open ad in the newspaper there is one other person that came to George Allison with interest George and Staci Wood are going to reach out to see if that person would like to attend the next meeting for a second round of interviews.

New Business: None to report

With no other business presented to the board at this time Carey Jolly made a motion to adjourn Larry Larr seconded Ayes =5 Nays=0 motion carried next meeting February 19, 2024.

 Respectfully Submitted,

 Staci K Wood Clerk