**Custer Township Regular Meeting Minutes**

**March 18, 2024**

Tom Trenner called the Custer Township Regular Meeting to order at 1:30pm. Members present besides Tom Trenner were, Sue Hansen, Trustee; George Allison, Trustee; Carey Jolly, Treasurer; Staci Wood Clerk.

The Custer Township Regular meeting minutes for February were presented for review, with one change. The time for the Mason County Township Officers Association was is actually Thursday, April 18th at 6:00pm. Carey Jolly made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction. George Allison seconded Ayes=5 Nays=0 motion

Staci Wood presented the bills for review; discussion of payables report was tabled until the end of the meeting to review the Budget for the end of 2023/2024 and the Budget for upcoming fiscal year 2024/2025. After reviewing the budgets, the board agreed to make a $40,000.00 principal payment to West Shore Bank on the note for the township hall. Carey Jolly made a motion to approve the payables report with the addition of the West Shore Bank payment, George Allison seconded the motion. Ayes =5 Nays=0 motion carried.

Visitors: Ron Bacon spoke more on the chill grant that Mason County has received to help with distressed properties stated the county will be working with Five Cap to distribute the funds to those who apply and are excepted for the grant money.

Mark Anderson, previous Supervisor, has been going over the budget Tom Trenner. Mark explained how important and mandatory it is to keep the budget up to date. He stated that it should be a team effort by the clerk and supervisor to meet and approve all entries each month before the meeting, so the budget is set by meeting time.

Clerk’s Report:

Staci Wood attended the quarterly clerks meeting last week and we addressed our thoughts on the EV site and how things went all the clerks had the same issue it was too small of an area, and it was not handicap assessable, so the vote was to cancel the contract with the Mason County District Library and go with the backup location which is Custer Township. The county is asking the board if this is still ok to continue with the signed contract we have with the county.

The Custer Township board has agreed to still honor the contract that was signed to host the EV elections at the Custer Township Hall. We will be adding coded lock to the storage room to accommodate the election equipment. The board has also agreed not to charge a fee for the use of the building.

I spoke with Randy Wyman and asked him if he would like to be the guest speaker for the township association meeting Custer township will be hosting on April 18th and he said he would love to.

I want to welcome Susan Hansen to the board. I spoke with Cindy Hopkins, and she has agreed to be the new Deputy Clerk. I will meet with her this week to get her sworn in and I will contact Cheryl Kelly Mason County Clerk to update the changes to the board.

I forgot to mention last month the I met with Larry Crawford and got him sworn in as a board member for the Board of Reviews.

Staci Wood stated she the board received a letter from Debbie Howe asking why the township hall does not fly an American flag outside of the building. The board has agreed to place a flag on the outside of the building that will be attached to the building and not put up a flagpole. George Allison checked in to see if we needed to put a light on the flag to illuminate the flag at night, he did not find a rule that this was necessary, but the board agreed that this is something that we should do as well.

Treasurer’s Report:

Tax collected at the Custer Township by the treasures was final on 2/29/24. I was at the

hall from 9am – 5pm and had 2 payments. Taxes owed are now delinquent. 2023

delinquent taxes will now be payable to the Mason Co. Treasurer in Ludington. Call

there for a payoff total 231-843-8411

All 2023 personal property in Custer Twp. was paid to us in 2023.

 I settled the tax roll at Mason Co. Treasurers on March 11, 2023, and we balanced. All

tax accounts are at $0.00 except for outstanding checks.

I have the Allocation Board Request form. We are going to take the full 1 mill. for the

2024 tax season. I will need signatures on the allocation board request form, and I will.

return the necessary forms to the Mason Co. Clerk and the Equalization Dept. on

Tuesday.

 In Tax Year 2023, the SBTE (small business tax exemption) was expanded to allow claims.

by taxpayers that own, lease, or possess eligible personal property having a combined.

true cash value equal to or greater than $80,000 but less than $180,000.

A small business earning up to $80,000 can request an exemption form from the

assessor. Once the form is completed, returned and accepted by the assessor then they

will no longer have to fill out the form yearly, it will renew yearly automatically. A small

business that earns over $80,000 and only up to $180,000 will still need to complete the

from yearly.

 The 12-month CD worth $70460.58 matured on 3/13/24, our earned income is $2794.92.

for the 12 months. Last year we earned roughly $720.00 for the year, with a difference.

of roughly $2074.00 more. I have moved the $70460.58 (original amount) in to a new

CD at the rate of 4.250000% for 12 months. I chose to compile the interest so we will be.

making money on the interest that is being earned.

The Revenue Sharing check came this month from the State of Michigan. The check was.

in the amount of $18698.00, last year 2023 was $19236.00 and 2022 was $16332.57.

We also received the Local Stabilization Metro Act check in the amount of $196.48, year.

2023 the amount was $83.48, and 2022 was $110.33.

Made quite a few changes to the website. Updated the tax information now being delinquent. Those still needing to pay can now call Mason Co. Treasurer and get the total still owed. Updated the board members from Mark Anderson to Tom Trenner and Larry Larr to Sue Hansen. Added the Cardinal Restaurant to the about the area. Added some indoor pictures of the portion of the building that can be rented, so renters can get an idea of the layout for decoration and set up. Put a welcome to the board for our new Trustee Sue Hansen.

Supervisors Report:

The Board of Review received seven people on the first day and one person on the second day. They had one person that was very upset with his tax allocation and stated that he would be contacting a lawyer for review. The Board of Review instructed him that this was his right to do so.

Tom Trenner stated that he was upset with the Mason County Road Commission about the brining contract the Custer Township has with them and there will be a meeting between the townships and Mason County Road Commission Steve Wessel on March 27th at 6pm to discuss how we can fix the issue of the cost of the new brine and to possibly be able to apply the old brine this year instead of the new, or split up the applications to make it more cost effective.

Discussion on the Junk Authority position for Custer Twp. We would like to fill this position on an irregular basis. Get individuals who will be proactive in their pursuit. George made a motion to fill the Junk Authority position on an irregular basis, Carey Seconded, Ayes=5 Nays=0 motion passed

Old Business: none to report

New Business: Budget for upcoming fiscal year and the closing of the fiscal year 2023/2024.

With no other business presented to the board at this time George Allison made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sue Hansen seconded Ayes =5 Nays=0 motion carried next meeting April 15,2024

Respectfully submitted,

 Staci K Wood Clerk