



ALBERT TOWNSHIP

Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Albert Township Hall

April 15, 2025

ROLL CALL: Board Members: Clerk Sandy Raffin, Treasurer John Righi, Trustee Marsha McDonald, Trustee Mark Bowser. Also, in attendance were Fire Chief Doug Baum, Financial Processor Laura Schrader, Secretary Hope Rosso. 2 employees from the Fire Dept, Yvonne Swager from The Montmorency County Tribune and 1 resident.

ABSENT: Supervisor Michael Szukhent, excused.

ORDER: The regular board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Raffin.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the flag was led by Raffin.

Motion by Raffin to have Righi lead meeting as Chair. Second by McDonald.

Vote: 4 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

1. Agenda.

Motion made by Raffin accept agenda for April 15th. Second by Bowser.

Vote: 4 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

2. Public Comment: Righi opened public comment. No Comments. Righi closed public comment.

3. Approve Minutes.

Regular Meeting March 18, 2025

Special Meeting April 7, 2025

Special Meeting April 9, 2025

Motion by McDonald to approve minutes for March 18, 2025, April 7, 2025 and April 9, 2025 as presented, second by Raffin.

All in favor: 4 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

4. Update on the Ice Storm Recovery Efforts

Fire Chief gave updates on how we are doing in general.

- Brush is being taken in Vienna Twp, at the County Pit on Buttles Road.
- Fire Dept and DNR helped do welfare checks, delivered many items such as food, gas, water, and oxygen.
- On 1st day of storm Fire Chief reached out to St. Francis to see about being a temporary shelter. St. Francis did an amazing job all the way around.
- Community came together very well.
- Road Commission helped clear the roads, along with the DNR and National Guard.
- Talley's stepped up with getting and distributing many supplies needed in our community.

- Biggest disappointment was at the County Level, with the fact we do not have an Emergency Manager, things were not organized, resource book has not been updated in 5 years.
- County Board needs to take the Emergency Manager position very seriously.
- We, as a Township, were making our own Emergency action plans, and so were the other Fire Chiefs in the County.
- Overall response went well, but could have been better, there is room for improvement.
- My hope is for an after-action review at the County level, County wide.
- After that hopeful for an after-action review at the Township level for our community. See how did we do? What can we do better? Perception of the community.
- This will not be the only disaster we have.
- Fire Season is on us now. We are susceptible to some severe wild fires, due to so much fuel on the ground.

5. Bearded Vinyl

Motion by Raffin to pay Bearded Vinyl half of both bills for now, until progress is made and a time frame has been established to get the website up and running. When it has been completed, they will be paid in full. Second by Bowser.

All in favor: 3 Yeas, Raffin, McDonald, Bowser 1 Nays, Righi **Motion passed.**

6. Approve List of Bills.

Motion by Raffin, seconded by McDonald to approve list of bills as presented apart from the double print of the ambulance \$300,662.00. The payroll in the amount of \$49,527.00. And approve the list of additions as presented.

All in favor: 4 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

7. Treasurer's Report.

Accepted as presented, received, and filed.

8. Clerk's Report.

Raffin reported she asked for a few things to be put on the agenda but it did not get put on. So, she is bringing it up now. Raffin called several Board Members and had conversations during the ice storm because there were a couple things to be purchased that were already approved. In conversations, Raffin received a go ahead for purchases. Raffin is asking the Board for approval of the purchase of the fuel tank, the \$427.00 tools and the extension saw. Righi questioned that it was supposed to go on the new budget, Bowser agreed. Raffin stated it is on the new budget. Righi said Jamie purchased it on 3/31/2025 which is the prior budget and will cause problems with submission to the auditor. McDonald stated she did not get that text. McDonald questioned if the price is \$1,179.00 from Amazon. Raffin stated Jamie got it from Farm and Fleet there was one on sale for \$899.00 when Jamie got to the counter, they gave him half off that, so \$600.00 for a pump and fuel tank. Bowser asked about the auditor and the State. Righi confirms issues with submission.

Motion by Raffin to approve the fuel tank and tools that were purchased. Second by McDonald.

All in favor: 4 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Raffin presented a quote from Stephen's Shop for tires on the dump truck. Raffin made a motion to approve the dump truck to get tires for \$2,003.62. Second by Bowser.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Yeas, Righi, Raffin, McDonald, Bowser 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Raffin presented a quote from Chris Stark Construction, for \$5,424.13. Raffin made a motion to approve to order \$5,424.13 that includes product and labor to get these ordered with the agreement a workmen's ship certificate. Second by McDonald.

Roll Call Vote: 4 Yeas, Righi, Raffin, McDonald, Bowser 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Raffin presented an Amazon flyer with the floating safety line for the swim area at the beach.

McDonald made a motion to approve appropriate swim buoys and 3 ropes at \$368.42 as listed on flyers for a total of \$1,250.00. Second by Bowser.

All in favor: 4 Yeas 0 Nays **Motion passed.**

Raffin presented a quote from USA Trailers Grayling for an enclosed trailer for Jamie. There is \$10,000.00 in the budget for a trailer for the lawn mowers and other equipment. Righi asked what Jamie has for trailers already. Raffin stated we have 2 trailers. This quote is for an enclosed trailer. Jamie would keep equipment in there. Righi asked how much of the Maintenance Budget would be left. Laura showed budget for buildings and grounds. Righi viewed, and stated it would wipe it out. Righi asked if we can wait on this, worried about additional expense with the ice storm and clean up. McDonald made a motion that this is tabled until the next Board Meeting.
Motion tabled.

Raffin has asked Dan Anderson the electrician for a price for a transfer switch at the well house for a generator in the future. Quote will be coming soon. Baum asked to make sure we will know what size generator we will need also for future reference.

9. Staff Reports:

a) Zoning

Jeff McDonald, Zoning Administrator, information is in the packets.
Accepted as presented, received, and filed.

b) Fire & EMS

Doug Baum, Fire Chief, gave hard copy of report to the Board.

- Ambulance is going to be delivered on Friday.
- Employee reviews have been turned in regarding wage steps.
- Chistian Ministries is still here and set up behind the Fire Station.
- There are storm chasers that are coming in stealing, and taking advantage of our community members.
- Paperwork submitted for 3% cost of living.

Accepted as presented, received, and filed.

McDonald made a motion to update the pay scale for the Fire Dept and the Township employees reflecting the 3% raise across the board, and include these step increases for these fire fighters. Second Bowser.

Discussion: Righi recited the motion to be clear for understanding. This is for all employees' whether they be Fire and Ambulance or Township in this building that all the salary scales will be increased 3% and where appropriate employee will also move up from one step to the next based on evaluations. Board agreed and understood. Motion will start next pay period.

All in favor: 4 Yeas

0 Nays

Motion passed.

Righi complemented Baum and his people for the response during the ice storm. Retiree from the fire dept helped tremendously regarding the shelter. Righi commented that the County missed the boat when they did not accept our proposal for Emergency Manager. McDonald addressed Yvonne Swager from The Montmorency County Tribune, told her that Albert Township sent a proposal about 3 months ago to the County to become the hub for the Emergency Manager and we were turned down by the County Commissioners. Baum informed the Board the Commissioners are looking into contracting with Alpena County.

- Fire will be an issue going forward with all the debris on the ground. Not a matter of if it happens, it is a matter of when.
- Looking forward from the economic view for our township, our businesses will need help. Due to the fact our trails are not usable, for side by sides or snowmobiles.

c) Maintenance

Righi informed the Board Jamie has requested we get quotes for a lift rental, and tree service companies. This is for the trees on Township properties that were damaged during the ice storm. Will be bringing those quotes to the next Board Meeting. McDonald wants a list of where there is damage and it will help bring the quotes in faster.

d) Road Commission

No one present.

10. Board Comments

McDonald stated the debris site does not have enough hours of operation. When you add it up, they are only open 32 hours a week for people to clean their yards. Sides of the roads are only going to be cleaning to the shoulder/gravel. There will be serious injuries if that does not get taken care of. Baum stated they are clearing shoulder to shoulder. They may come back and clean later. McDonald is worried about miss information about people piling their debris next to the road, people think either the County or Township will be picking it up. McDonald brought back issues with the hours especially during the week 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm is not enough time when there are contractors here all week long, sun up to sun down.

Righi address the Board, brought up regulations about special meetings, that were also brought up at the last special meeting. When Righi talked to the Attorney about other business he asked the attorney for their opinion. Righi asked the Attorney about one meeting that was held that was primary for interviewing, there were four Board Member in the room, it was not posted. The Attorney said that is a red flag, you need to post it. Interview was remedied by removing 2 Board Members. Meetings must be posted when there is a quorum of Board Members. McDonald responded that her first phone call to the MTA she was informed incorrectly and she called back again, and was corrected.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Raffin, to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

Minutes Submitted by:

Hope Rosso, Albert Township Secretary