

TOWN BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2024

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Board of Supervisors, Town of Florence met on the 9th day of December, 2024 with Chairman Tim Bomberg and Supervisors John Holbrook and Shane McLain present.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook the agenda was approved as posted. All in favor, motion carried.

The minutes of the previous Town Board meeting, held on November 11, 2024 were approved on a motion by Holbrook and seconded by Bomberg. The minutes of the Budget Hearing, Town Meeting and Town Board Meeting held on November 14, 2024 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

Andrew Maglio of East Shore Road was in attendance to commend the work that was done on this road this summer but brought up that the property markers have not been replaced and questioned if they would be. Bomberg stated that they should be and will follow up with the Highway Foreman.

Joe Buchanon of Spread Eagle inquired about the Patten Lake Slow – No-Wake progress with Bomberg stating there is a lot to be researched. Buchanon stated he would be willing to assist.

Operator licenses for Jolene Nanninga, Sherri Halverson and Jeevan Kadel were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Bomberg. All in favor, motion carried.

Several Spread Eagle residents were in attendance for the discussion regarding the Spread Eagle Fire Hall. Bret Whaley of LaChapelle was in attendance to provide an update on the current climate on homeowner's fire insurance premiums, stating that many insurance companies are currently re-writing policies and classifying properties over 5 miles from a fire station with an ISO rating of "10" which is the worse rating or as "unprotected". Premiums are doubling. Whaley did say that he expects a 10-15% savings for current owners within the 5- mile radius if the Spread Eagle fire station is built but added that other companies could offer up to 30%. Lengthy discussion was had as to ISO ratings and the need to understand ISO regulations and the need to update mutual aid agreements with bordering townships. Some in attendance expressed that the savings to premiums will not justify the expense on the backs of tax payers, as well as stating the response time will not change as most volunteer fire fighters are coming from Florence. A statement was made to the tax base in the Spread Eagle area and the need to protect this tax base.

Bomberg called for the vote to proceed with "Requests for Proposals" to obtain concrete costs associated with building the hall so that it could be determined if it is feasible to fund the project and options to fund the project. Holbrook made the motion to proceed with McLain supporting. All in favor, motion carried.

On a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook it was moved to increase the employer contribution to Employee Health Savings Accounts to single \$2,250 and family \$4,500. Over all savings to town and utility to insurance is approximately \$40,000 with selecting new coverage. All in favor, motion carried.

VanPembrook submitted for board review all November bank reconciliation reports and journal entries as well as the expense report dated November 25, 2024 vouchers approved by Bomberg. The report consisted of checking in the amount of \$47,396.15, ACH payments in the amount \$15,255.29 and Fire Department in the amount of \$361.85.

VanPembrook reported that Norie Neff of Buchanon Lane, dropped off information relating to the treatment and efforts to destroy European Swamp Thistle, (known as Marsh Thistle). This information was given to the highway crew as well as board members.

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Other correspondence was a Thank you received from Vonnie VanPembrook family for the sympathy gift card. VanPembrook reported that the 2024 Town Audit is scheduled for January 27-28, 2025.

Fire Department bills totaling \$2,277.28, monthly town bills totaling \$47,867.37 and ACH payments in the amount of 3,118.10 were approved on a motion by McLain and seconded by Holbrook. All in favor, motion carried.

There being no further business it was moved by McLain and seconded by Holbrook to adjourn until January 13, 2025 at 6 p.m. at the community center. All in favor, motion carried.

Submitted by:

Shelly VanPembrook
Clerk/Treasurer