DRAFT MINUTES



**Regular Board Agenda**

**February 10, 2020 – 7:30 p.m**.

Meeting call to order by Supv. B. Moore, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: Brian Moore, Richard Hitchingham, Judy Wheelock, Keith Moore, Penny Nelson

With no additions or corrections to the agenda either by Board and/or audience, a **motion by K. Moore, 2nd J. Wheelock to approve the agenda as presented. Carried.**

**Motion by J. Wheelock, 2ndK. Moore, to approve minutes of January 13, 2020 meeting. Carried.**

**Treasurer’s report.** R. Hitchingham reviewed last month’s operating statement, balance sheet which shows a CD maturing at the end of the month, which is to be increased to $75,000 as previously discussed. Half of income is a swamp land payment from the state.

**Motion by K. Moore, 2nd J. Wheelock to pay all bills presented using checks #8188-8210. Carried.**

**Cleon Fire Department** report. Capt. Dave Saunders reviewed last month’s activities. No responses in January. Got new handheld radios from the county to replace the old ones. Question: anything resolved about the Benzie-Manistee emergency response? No talk about how to fix it.

**Manistee Road Commission presentation**: Mark Sohlden, Manistee Road Commission Manager and Bob Rishel, Commission Chair. Reviewed past year’s work and the proposed new projects for this year. Discussion centered on the condition of both Big Four and Springdale Rds. Asked if we had 2020 season work. MRC has a little set aside for local roads. K. Moore interested in working on Springdale Rd (50% township) or Big Four Rd to Norconk Rd. (30% township). K. Moore to email MRCM with what we’re interested in pursuing. Questioned about whether Woods Trail is county road (it is) and Springdale Rd at the far west end of the road. Is the seasonal section of Springdale Rd, the county road’s responsibility? M. Sohlden will check and let B. Moore know about that section of road. Questioned about Kurick Rd bridge and culvert replacement. Said that the estimate was 1.8 million. It’s considered a big bridge project. MRC keeps reapplying for grant monies.

**Officers and committee reports:**

* 1. Caretaker – Tom Lipinski reviewed his work for last month. Replaced all thermostat batteries. Checked Healy Lake Campground and the cemetery.
	2. Betsie Valley Library— None.

**Correspondence and communications:** Certificate of compliance from the state (given to treasurer), Michigan Focus magazine, Country Lines, Revenue Sharing grant application.

**Old business: None.**

**New business**

1. **Motion B. Moore; 2nd J. Wheelock to renew contract with Tobin & Co.** (Discussion whether to stay with the same auditor or to get fresh eyes and get bids from other auditors.) **Carried.**
2. 2020 Poverty exemption resolution

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**OF**

 **SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP, MANISTEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of Springdale Township, Manistee County, Michigan

Duly called and held on the day of February 10th, 2020, there being present:

Supervisor: Brian Moore, Clerk: Penny Nelson, Treasurer: Richard Hitchingham, Trustee: Judy Wheelock, Trustee: Keith Moore. Absent: None.

SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING POVERTY GUIDELINES FOR EXEMPTION**

**FROM PROPERTY TAX CONTRIBUTIONS**

**WHEREAS,** the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is within the purview of the township

board; and

**WHEREAS,** the homestead (PRE) of persons who, in the judgment of the supervisor and board of review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under Public Act 390, 1994(MCL 211.7u); and

**WHEREAS,** pursuant to PA 390, 1994 Springdale Township, Manistee County adopts the following guidelines for the supervisor and board of review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the assessor, supervisor or board of review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in a current year.
3. Produce a valid driver’s license or other form of identification if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
5. Meet the federal poverty income standards as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
6. The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1 but before the day prior to the last day of the board of review.
7. The guidelines apply to individuals and not to corporations, partnerships, associations or trusts. In

the event that a partnership, association, or co-owners apply, the guidelines apply to the total assets of all individuals involved.

1. The guidelines apply to both an owner of a life estate and all remainder interests together.
2. Many factors will be weighed to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an exemption. Factors analyzed will include the following:
3. Income levels
4. Total value of liquid assets
5. Total non-homestead real property
6. Total acreage owned
7. Non-essential personal property
8. Total value of all assets
9. Gifts made within 10 years
10. Employability
11. Retirement account value, IRA, 401K, etc.
12. Other factors suggesting an individual’s worth, including but not limited to life insurance, businesses, lawsuits, judgments due, etc.
13. Total liquid assets must not exceed the value of $10,000. Assets beneath $10,000 shall be considered together with other factors to determine eligibility. Liquid assets shall be considered cash, unrestricted deposits and accounts, securities, bonds, promissory notes, stocks, and other similar type of assets.
14. Total non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural real property shall not exceed the value of $10,000.
15. The non-essential personal property shall not exceed $5,000. Non-essential personal property includes but is not limited to horses, snowmobiles, boats, motorcycles, jet skis, all terrain vehicles. The purpose of this factor is to exclude from poverty consideration those individuals who have purchased recreational, hobby or sporting property which is not related to essential needs.
16. Total net assets must not exceed $50,000. Total net assets below $50,000 shall be considered together with other factors to determine eligibility.
17. The following are the poverty thresholds as of January, 2020 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2020 assessments:

 **Size of Family Unit Annual**

 **Household Income**

1. $12,760
2. $17,240
3. $21,720
4. $26,200
5. $30,680
6. $35,160
7. $39,640
8. $44,120

 For each additional person add $ 4,480

1. The guidelines include employability of the individual applicants as well as other adults living in the residence. Factors here include but are not limited to attempts to find employment; physical, mental and experiential abilities, voluntary loss of employment or employment opportunities, etc.
2. The guidelines shall include an analysis of all gifts given by the applicants within ten (10) years. An applicant cannot divest him or herself of assets and then claim poverty. No fixed amount is set as a factor as each applicant must be handled on a case by case basis.
3. It is possible for an applicant to qualify under each separate factor but not qualify when all factors are considered together. The following are examples of how a combination of factors may disqualify a person:
4. An applicant has a total asset value of $40,000 but gave away $20,000 within the last ten years.
5. An applicant qualifies under income or asset factors but recently spent $10,000 for a life insurance policy with his or her children as beneficiaries.
6. The applicant qualifies under the asset or income levels but voluntarily quit from a well-paying job.

In addition to weighing the individual factors, the Board of Review and Supervisor shall evaluate all the factors together to determine if the applicant is in a poverty condition.

1. Any tax exemption given to an individual under these guidelines shall be for the one (1) year’s taxes. A new application will be required for the next year.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the board of review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the board of review determines that there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and those are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member, Richard Hitchingham and supported by Board Member­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­, Keith Moore.

Upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Brian Moore, Richard Hitchingham, Keith Moore, Judy Wheelock, Penny Nelson

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Township Clerk

CERTIFICATION

 I, the undersigned and duly qualified and acting clerk of the Springdale Township, Manistee County, Michigan (the “Township”) do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on February 20, 2019, the original of which is on file in my office and that public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with Act 267 of the Public Acts of Michigan of 1976, as amended.

 **IN WITNESS THEREOF,** I have affixed by official signature this 10th day of February 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Township Clerk

* 1. **Recycling bin ordinance** – first reading. Some wording needs to be changed. Question about who will be the enforcement officer.

**Public comments**. None.

**Brief board comments**. K. Moore suggested that B. Moore attend road commission meetings to raise our visibility. Comments about the ice on our gravel roads, making driving difficult.

**Adjournment**: 8:40 pm.