

**Regular Board Meeting Agenda
February 13, 2023 – 7:30 p.m.**

Meeting called to order by Supv. Brian Moore followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: __ Brian Moore, __ Kimberly Jones, __ Judy Wheelock, __ Keith Moore, __ Penny Nelson
Additions or corrections to the agenda by Board and/or audience. P. Nelson: Add Poverty exemption guidelines resolution under new business, Cap's Pumping bill. **Motion by J. Wheelock; 2nd K. Moore to approve agenda with the additions. Carried.**

Motion by K. Jones; 2nd K. Moore to approve the January 9, 2023 minutes. Carried.

Treasurer's report. Treasurer reports that taxes coming in with more and more using Point & Pay, especially since the check service costs just \$5.00. **Motion by J. Wheelock; 2nd K. Moore to pay all bills presented using checks # 9114-9130. Carried.**

Fire department report. Chief Mark Griner reviewed last month's activities. USDA is finally getting on with their review of the new building. Applying for revenue sharing grant to repave Imhoff Rd. Looking like bids will go out later than expected.

Blight Enforcement Officer. Kenneth Millard's written report distributed to the board. Clerk reviewed status of the two Springdale Rd properties; Healy Lake Rd red house is being sold; Kurick Rd is required to clean up before May 1, 2023.

New business.

- Snowbirds. Tom Picchotti, representing the group explained that they are applying for a Minger Grant to purchase a tractor with a boom arm mower costing \$156,000. This tractor will greatly help improve and maintain trails used year around by many. **Motion by K. Moore; 2nd P. Nelson to send a letter of support for this project to the Snowbirds. Carried.**
- Invoice from Cap's Pumping. Township has been billed for four outhouses and 1 portable toilet. Questioned whether the outhouses at the campground were actually pumped. Hosts attest that Cap's was onsite for less than 10 minutes. Board agreed to pay only for the one portable and to refer Cap's to the supervisor.
- Poverty Exemption.

**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.
- 8) The guidelines apply to both an owner of a life estate and all remainder interests together.
- 9) Many factors will be weighed to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an exemption. Factors analyzed will include the following:
 - A. Income levels
 - B. Total value of liquid assets
 - C. Total non-homestead real property
 - D. Total acreage owned
 - E. Non-essential personal property
 - F. Total value of all assets
 - G. Gifts made within 10 years
 - H. Employability
 - I. Retirement account value, IRA, 401K, etc.
 - J. Other factors suggesting an individual's worth, including but not limited to life insurance, businesses, lawsuits, judgments due, etc.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Total non-homestead and non-qualified agricultural real property shall not exceed the value of \$10,000.
- 12) 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.
- 13) Total net assets must not exceed \$50,000. Total net assets below \$50,000 shall be considered together with other factors to determine eligibility.
The following are the poverty thresholds as of January, 2022 for use in setting poverty exemption guidelines for 2023 assessments:

Size of Family Unit	Annual Household Income
1	\$13,590
2	\$18,310
3	\$23,030
4	\$27,750
5	\$32,470
6	\$37,190
7	\$41,910
8	\$46,630
For each additional person, add:	\$4,720

- 14) 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.
- 15) 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.
- 16) 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:
 1. An applicant has a total asset value of \$40,000 but gave away \$20,000 within the last ten years.
 2. 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.
 3. 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.
- 17) 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, Keith Moore and supported by Clerk, Penny Nelson. Upon Roll Call vote, the following voted:

Aye: Brian Moore, Keith Moore, Judy Wheelock, Kimberly Jones, Penny Nelson

Nay: None.

Absent: None.

The supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

Penny Nelson
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 13, 2023, 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 13th day of February 2023.

Penny Nelson

Township Clerk

Old business.

- Update on cemetery records. Reviewed the discussion from the earlier budget workshop. Agreed to add both David Purkiss and Kenneth Moore to the cemetery subcommittee.

Library report. None.

Correspondence. MTA Focus; Country Lines.

Public comments. Comment about the increased daily rate for the campground.

Board comments. K. Moore: The cost of zoning is considerably higher than enforcement of the blight ordinance.

Adjournment: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Penny Nelson

Penny Nelson
Township Clerk