

Sigel Township
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 17, 2025

Sigel Township Hall, 5784 Sand Beach Rd, Harbor Beach, MI 48441

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Bischer at 5:00 pm. Board members present: Bischer, Lackowski, Grekowicz, Kiehl, and Balcer. Also in attendance were Commissioner John Hunt, firefighters Rusty Lemanski and Jason Lermont, and resident Harold Cook.

Minutes were approved from the February 17, 2025, meeting. Motion Balcer, second Grekowicz to approve minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Report: General Fund starting balance \$779,245.82. Income of \$199,099.36 and expenses of \$17,213.86 for an ending balance of \$961,131.32. Fire Fund starting balance of \$461,926.01. Income of \$102,307.33 and expenses of \$913.21 for an ending balance of \$563,320.13. Road Fund starting balance \$90,967.02. Income of \$202,147.77 and expenses of \$3,673.20 for and ending balance of \$289,441.59. Total of all three ending balances of \$1,813,893.04. Motion Kiehl, second Balcer to approve all three treasurer reports. Motion carried 5-0.

Treasurer Grekowicz mentioned he was researching CD rates at various banks for the general fund prior to the current CD's expiration. Supervisor Bischer recommended a potential high-interest savings account instead; Grekowicz will search for rates.

Motion Kiehl, second Grekowicz to pay months bills in the following amounts: General Fund \$17,213.86 checks 1306-1326. Fire Fund \$913.21 checks 1937-1940. Road Fund \$3,673.20 check 1075. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Grekowicz, second Balcer to amend the 2024-2025 budget. Motion carried 5-0.

General Account Fund:

INCOME

EXPENSE

Ambulance Services: \$7,000 to \$13,000

Roads: \$899,000 to \$893,000

Fire Fund:

INCOME

EXPENSE

Road Fund:

INCOME

Interest Income: \$4,000 to \$1,000

Property Taxes: \$280,000 to \$283,000

EXPENSE

Drain at Large: \$0 to \$4,000

Road Maintenance: \$923,103 to \$919,103

2025-2026 budget will be finalized at the Annual Meeting.

Supervisor Bischer reported on road projects. Bischer received a list from Bruce Holdwick, at the road commission, of recommendations for 2025 gravel resurfacing and pipes to be replaced. Bischer will be scheduling a ride along with Bruce and will report further on the gravel resurfacing at the next meeting prior to the final decision.

Motion Grekowicz, second Lackowski to approve all seven pipe replacements recommended by the road commission for a total of \$33,500.00. Motion carried 5-0.

The board members shared their ideas for Strategic Road Improvement Planning; Bischer will compile a list to prioritize ideas to potentially be completed in the future.

The Earned Sick Time Act was briefly discussed; there is mixed information about who qualifies to earn sick time. The board will continue to research information to be implemented, as necessary, in the future.

Bischer listed township hall on Thumb Electric's website to receive information when fiberoptic internet is available, which is anticipated for June 2025.

Motion Balcer, second Grekowicz to adopt Resolution 2025.3-1, for contracting Central Huron Ambulance to provide ambulance services to the west side of the township at \$10 per resident. Motion passed on a roll call vote; 5 Ayes: Lackowski, Grekowicz, Balcer, Kiehl, Bicher. 0 Nays. Motion carried 5-0.

Bischer made a public reminder that the Annual Board meeting and Budget Meeting will be held next Monday, March 24th, 2025, beginning at 6:00 pm.

Motion Grekowicz, second Balcer to approve the 2025-2026 meeting schedule. The meeting schedule will remain the same: the 3rd Monday of the month, starting at 8:00 pm from April to October and 5:00 pm from November to March. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion Kiehl, second Grekowicz, to adopt resolution 2025.3-2, Articles of Incorporation of Central Huron Ambulance Authority, to collect special assessments. Motion was passed on a roll call vote; 5 Ayes: Lackowski, Grekowicz, Balcer, Kiehl, Bicher. 0 Nays. Motion carried 5-0.

Firefighters reported that their jaws of life are 15 years old this year and could use updating. There is a deal through the end of March with Hurst, the maker of the current jaws. The total cost for the entire jaws set is originally \$50,964, with a purchase price of \$38,000 through the end of the month, for \$12,964 in savings. Motion Lackowski, second Grekowicz to update jaws. Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Hunt was seeking opinions and concerns about the proposal for a new maintenance and fabrication building for the road commission in Bad Axe. The main concern for the board was the financial impact it would have on the township due to increasing overhead. The board agreed that there is likely a need for a larger facility, and it is the responsibility of the road commission to determine if approx. \$9 million is a worthy investment.

Hunt also reported that there have been issues arising between the Head of Equalization and treasurers due to an error on a tax bill. Treasurer Grekowicz reported that he prints the township bills himself already and does not contract another company to do so for him.

Bischer and Grekowicz inquired about the possibility of hiring a "county manager". Hunt also feels that is a good idea as there is not one currently and will suggest to the other County Commissioners as well.

Motion Kiehl, second Grekowicz to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. Adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Lauren Lackowski, Sigel Township Clerk