

Webber Township

2286 W. Springtime St.

Baldwin, MI 49304

231-745-3471

March 2, 2022

Special Meeting

Purpose: To discuss with the attorney, the status of the GEO Tax Tribunal, and discussion of use of the ARPA funds (American Rescue Plan).

Call to Order: 1:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jim Cochran absent, Dan Cousar absent, Pat Williams present, Kathy Young present, Ernie Wogatzke present.

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to approve the agenda. Roll call vote: Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea, Jim Cochran absent, Dan Cousar absent. 3 yea, 2 absent motion carries.

Ongoing Business:

GEO Tax Tribunal: Attorney Seth Koches gave a status report on the Tax Tribunal. Because of the Executive Order from the White House, they will not renew private contracts with the government (federal). At the last Tribunal, GEO was appraised at \$68 million dollars, and have since added additions to the prison costing over \$60 Million. With these additions, GEO claims that they are only worth \$38 million dollars. Anything over a \$10 million dollar difference automatically goes to the Attorney General, who steps in. GEO will need to justify their numbers. The Attorney General is advising that we get an outside appraisal, possibly done by someone out of Detroit area. The approximate cost for the appraisal would be upward of \$25 thousand dollars. The Attorney General is represented by Department of the Treasury. Should GEO be successful, this would affect the whole county, and school district, along with Webber Township. Attorney Koches recommends that we offer to pay up to \$3000.00 for the appraisal, the rest coming from the department of the Treasury.

Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to approve up to \$3000.00 dollars towards the appraisal amount. Roll call vote: Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea, Jim Cochran absent, Dan Cousar absent. 3 yea, 2 absent motion carries.

ARPA Funds: Attorney Koches gave a rundown on what the funds may be used for. Webber Township was awarded \$115 thousand dollars, which needs to be spent by December 31, 2026. Things that the money may be used for are: Road improvement, Broadband internet, and Essential workers pay. Other possibilities may include: affordable housing (pocket homes), and Grant match.

The board will need to schedule a meeting to discuss their options, and get public input on where they would like to see the funds go.

Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to adjourn. 3 in favor, 2 absent, motion carries.

Adjourned: 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Young, clerk