

**IDA TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING**  
**April 4, 2023**

The Meeting of the Ida Township Board was called to order at 7:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Members present were Supervisor Paul Metz, Clerk Tera Shaffer, Treasurer Kelly Elmer, Trustee Chris Curry and Trustee Tim Mata.

**Public Comment:** There were 7 public comments from neighbors of the Mudge Property on Ida West that voiced various concerns over the Township accepting an agreement to change the court injunction on the days available to ride motocross.

There were 4 public comments made that were encouraging the board to accept the proposed change of days available to ride motocross on the Mudge property.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion to amend the agenda and add a new business item numbered "7 F" in regards to the Monroe Art League charitable gaming license was made by T. Shaffer with support from C. Curry. Motion carried.

There was a discussion about removing new business item "7 A" in regards to the Motocross – Mudge Property. The board decided to leave the agenda item to be open for discussion.

A motion to approve the Agenda with the addition of 7F: Monroe Art League was made by T. Shaffer with support from K. Elmer. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the Township Board Meeting held March 7, 2023 were reviewed. A motion to approve the Minutes was made by K. Elmer with support by C. Curry.

Supervisor Paul Metz left the meeting for medical reasons. Clerk T. Shaffer was appointed to finish running the meeting.

**Building Department:** None

**Zoning Department:** T. Duby reported on the process changes being made in how to obtain a new build permit in the Township.

**Fire Department Report:** The Fire Department report was reviewed. In January 28 calls were made in Ida, 20 calls in Raisinville, 3 calls in Monroe, 1 call in LMR and 2 calls in Bedford for a total of 54 calls. There have been a total of 188 calls made this year.

Chief Horn reported a \$200,000 grant to be distributed as \$50,000 a year for 4 years so that the Fire Department can continue to cover the fire station during the daytime hours.

**Clerk Report:** T. Shaffer reported:

- The Policy Manual is being worked on.
- The Robin Grant that we helped Charter Communications apply for to bring more internet options to Ida Township was denied.
- Budget research has begun. There will be significant increases needed for elections. T. Shaffer is asking each department head to provide her with a list of proposed expenses for the upcoming year.
- A new PA 116 request has been made
- The Clerk's department is researching information to get a new website design
- 3 payrolls were presented

The following budget adjustments were presented:

Assessing Education	101-209-855-00	\$500.00
Contingency	101-890-999-00	(\$500.00)
Admin Professional Services	101-250-801-00	\$2,000.00
Building & Grounds Repairs	101-265-930-00	(\$2,000.00)

T. Mata made a motion to pay the bills and make the budget adjustments with support from C. Curry. Motion passed on a roll call votes as follows: T. Shaffer: yes, K. Elmer: yes, C. Curry: yes, T. Mata: yes

**Treasurer Report:** K. Elmer stated that winter taxes are complete and we are in balance with the County.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. T. Mata made a motion to accept the report with support from T. Shaffer. Motion carried.

**Trustee Report:** C. Curry said he is continuing to work on the retirement plan with our administrator. He also reported that there are ZBA classes in which Mr. Pete Loughney suggested for the ZBA members to take.

**Supervisor Report:** None

**Blight Officer Report:** 4 new complaints made this month. T. DUBY discussed ongoing issues with a property on Lewis Ave.

**Library Report:** The Library Report was reviewed

**Old Business:**

There was a discussion about a request made from Christmas in Ida to help cover the cost to refurbish and purchase new decorations in the amount of \$3,856.36. The board discussed waiting to see if this item could be written into the 2023-2024 Budget which will be voted on during the budget hearing in June 2023. There was also a discussion about having a meeting between the Christmas in Ida Committee and various Township Officials/Employees about the future of Christmas in Ida.

C. Curry made a motion to sign the one year contract with Digital Perspective to perform the Township IT functions in the amount of \$730 a month. Motion passed on a roll call votes as follows: T. Shaffer: yes, K. Elmer: yes, C. Curry: yes, T. Mata: yes

**New Business:**

There was a discussion about the Mudge request to change the days on the court injunction for the purpose of riding motocross bikes. The board tabled the discussion in hopes that the community members could work together to find a solution in which all parties could be happy.

The board discussed eliminating the position of Township Constable in 2024. A resolution to eliminate this position will happen in the future. The board asked the Township Attorney, Marty Kamprath if the pay structure could be adjusted during the middle of a term. The attorney advised the board not to alter the payroll in the middle of the term.

T. Shaffer and C. Curry presented the hopeful strategy for future fire funding that has been discussed with the strategic planning team (Clerk Shaffer, Trustee Curry and Chief Horn). The plan includes holding off on the pursuit of building a new fire station or renovating the existing building. The focus needs to first be placed on fulfilling the fire mileage funding and staffing the station coverage during the day long term. With the help of the four year grant, the strategic planning team is forecasting that the Township will need to increase the fire mileage from 1 mil to 1.5 – 2 mils in 2024.

C. Curry made a motion to accept the contract with Rodney Haddix as the Township Assessor for one year with support from T. Mata. Motion passed on a roll call votes as follows: T. Shaffer: yes, K. Elmer: yes, C. Curry: yes, T. Mata: yes

The Township Board scheduled the Budget Workshop for the 2023-2024 meeting to be held on Wednesday, May 17 at 7:00 pm.

C. Curry made a motion to acknowledge the Monroe Art League as a charitable organization with support from T. Shaffer. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** A motion to adjourn was made by C. Curry with support by K. Elmer. Motion carried. The meeting was duly adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tera Shaffer, Ida Township Clerk