

**Lake Township-Roscommon County
Special Meeting
November 26, 2019 @ 10am**

The Lake Township Board met on Tuesday, November 26, 2019 for a special meeting. Tonya Clare called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States of America was recited.

Present: Dave Emmons - Supervisor absent, Tonya Clare-Clerk, Harry Trier-Treasurer, Chris Lukatch-Trustee absent, and Anthony Farhat-Trustee.

Discussion: In absence of Emmons, Supervisor, Clare, Clerk, will chair the special meeting.

Discussion: Northern Exposure to refund site plan monies, site plan review did not take place. **Motion:** Clare to approve Northern Exposure site plan refund in the amount of \$300.00. **Second:** Farhat. **All in Favor.**

Clare introduced Jackie Morgan and Bryce Paulsen from the USDA Rural Development Division. Jackie thanked the Township for having them. Jackie explained programs available to the community regarding housing, new homes and repairs/improvements. In addition, she spoke about a Business program to help local business's with a guaranteed loan program. She also stated USDA has community programs. This information is available at the township office.

Jackie continued with a direct loan program, that can help fund township hall, fire trucks, and libraries for example. She does have grant programs available, average 5k-30k, its never a 100% grant. Examples would include emergency back up generator, kitchen equipment, fire department gear such as turn out gear, breathing apparatus, and radios. Lake Township qualifies for 55% of cost. For example, if you had 50k in equipment needs, grant may cover 25k. The grants are a pretty simple process, application, one to two paragraph narrative, copy of budget, public notice, and cost estimates. Township can apply year round, they are funded once or twice a year. Right now is a really good time to apply, will receive money sometime in May. USDA likes to have the applications in place, so when money does become available, if selected, township will have a year to make purchases. Jackie stated grant money is not retro active. Jackie said, "If you can not wait until May for radio's USDA can not help." "If you can wait till May USDA could help." Jackie is willing to help with application process.

The beauty of our loan program for township halls is you can finance as little or as much as township needs. The loan can include the soft costs. Interest rate is 3% fixed for life of loan. Remodel can loan up to 30 years. No prepayment penalties. New construction up to 40 years. Do require handicap accessibility.

Discussion regarding Hayes Township, hall, community kitchen, and fitness center around 1.8 million project.

Jackie suggested when getting an architect on board, get USDA on board with project. USDA does require competitive bids, if township has own general need to get RFP.

Jackie stated no specific grant for computers or software however, it can be included in the loan. In addition, she stated the general contractor if you have one should have a payment performance bond, this will protect township.

Prior to applying with the USDA for loan should have preliminary architectural a-feasibility report. Important to ensure architect selected is available in the time frames the township is looking at. The USDA can move as quickly as the architect. Selection for loan money has not been limited in the past, their year runs October 1 - Sept 30.

Grants get them in before March. Grants and loans are processed separately. If money needed for May 2020, fire department MUST have grant applied for by end of February. Jackie again stated she is willing to help with grant paperwork, all she needs is cost estimates.

Recreational, like trails, development no grant dollars for this. Roscommon Community Foundation may be another source.

Public Comment:

Tonya has applications for grants. Jackie offered to go to fire department meetings. Need DUNS number and Tax ID number to proceed. Discussion regarding DUNS number.

Discussion regarding loan payments. Jackie submitted copies to the board.

Emmons arrived at 10:50 am.

Meeting Adjourned 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Surprenant, Deputy Clerk

Approved at Regular Lake Township Meeting December 10, 2019