

**KINROSS CHARTER TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL MEETING**

May 12, 2025

4884 W. Curtis St.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Rice, Supervisor
Loretta Robinson, Clerk
Cierra MacDonald, Treasurer
Rob Mills, Trustee
Sarah Pierson, Trustee
Matthew Besteman, Trustee
Caleb Rader, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT

Also, Joe Micolo, Bryan Huntley, Kristina Noble, Jim Traynor, Levi McFarland, Brandon Hetrick and 42 others are present.

Supervisor Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#1 MOVED: by Loretta Robinson, second by Sarah Pierson to approve the May 12 agenda with moving the Rec Center discussion/resolution first. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- The wording wasn't clear of what the millage would be used for. A lot of people aren't getting all the information, there needs to be other ways to get information out.
- Is the money from the loan applied anywhere else? Or does it just go to the Fire department?
- Will the stuff that we own come to the new fire department?
- When NEMSA comes in effect, will that take some burden off the township?
- The EMS just had a 2 time increase for millage and now we need another up to 3 mills, there's no justification of why we increased the EMS millage, we should have considered the fire hall. The verbiage in the millage is saying that the mill can be anything the township wants. I will not ever vote for that type of language.
- With property taxes, I know the tribe doesn't pay property taxes, is the tribe going to pay for the Fire Department service?
- We are asking questions you should know, why isn't there one building that we pay for? If you call the EMS the Fire Department shows up. Do we have any properties in this township that we collect rent on, that we are making a profit?
- You can't expect to have a solution if you don't have a dialogue. Be willing to answer and have dialogue.

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Supervisor Report

- I normally don't answer questions during public comment, but this is a special situation, so I will respond. I apologize for not getting the information, but there are only so many ways we can get the information out. The bond language is specifically for the fire hall, that money can only be used for the fire hall to pay off the bond. The number could go down if we get grants and appropriations, which we are looking for. We have to follow national codes for the fire hall, none of the monies would be used for equipment or wages.
- Any equipment or anything that the township owns, aside from the structure, that is ours, we will take with us.
- If EDC sees that we are making progress, they will agree to a month-to-month lease.
- If we don't need all of the millage, we will not take the whole millage.
- The language we used was put together quickly in November, I did not like the language, and I did not vote for it. We will approach it again, after we seek out funding, and we will look into the language to make it more definitive.
- I can't control what the tribe does, but it will come up and we will approach the tribe. Not every Tribal Member doesn't pay taxes.
- We do not have a building available that the township owns to put a fire hall in. We do not have the money for a building outside of our property to purchase.

Where would we like to go from here on the Rec Center? Rob Mills stated that the mill is also for Dukes Lake, the campgrounds and parks. Mark Rice stated that we need to make a better effort to get the public more informed on what the millage is for. To lose the Rec Center would be detrimental to the kids, and our community. Sarah Pierson stated that we do have our 5-year plan and surveys that will be collected until May 15th. They can be found at the township hall, Rec Center and there's a hyperlink on the Facebook page.

#2 MOVED: by Mark Rice second by Loretta Robinson to accept Resolution 2025-10 Submitting Recreation and Parks Millage proposal. Roll call was made with seven (7) yes votes. Motion carried.

Rob Mills asked if we can use the buildings at the fairgrounds if we had to use them temporarily, not for storage, but to run the fire department out of the buildings. Matt Besteman stated that it would cost a lot of money to get the buildings properly ready for a temporary situation. Caleb Rader stated that we would have to invest a lot of money for a temporary solution, our goal is to have a fire hall, it would cost a lot of money for just a year or two. The ambulance buildings are being used, we service a lot of the area, to taking some of those ambulances out of commission wouldn't be feasible. Mark Rice stated that we do have buildings at the fairgrounds that we could use for storage, due to being uninsulated, we would be removing rental income from the wintertime with our winter storage. If we store it the trucks would have to be winterized, which would not be in our best interest.

Mark Rice stated that he talked to Greg Wrigt and Brian Bensen regarding the DPW building. It cannot be a permanent solution because it was not designed for vehicles to come in and out of. It is not big enough for all our vehicles and all the equipment so we would have to think about that. They would have to be at 2 different locations. There are some security issues, because that is a sensitive area. With people coming in and out of there, if a gate gets left open, it could be a concern. The DPW could potentially be a temporary solution. Caleb Rader asked if there are buildings that we can rent, Mark Rice stated that we have not gotten any proposals for any surrounding properties. Sarah Pierson asked about the old plywood building that has been sitting vacant as an option to look into. Mark Rice stated we will look into the language to be more specific, and we are working on grants with Soils and Structure. Rob Mills mentioned fundraising and we would be open to that.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- A lot of people weren't here last time, but parking the vehicles in the wintertime and disbanding, we would have to work with a different fire department, which would cause our fire policies to double or triple.
- If we potentially don't have a fire department, the other townships are 10 plus minutes out, no township will get to us to save lives. Kinross Fire Department just had a quick response time and saved a duplex in 8 minutes, that's coming from our homes to the department to the fire and we were able to save the whole duplex. The mutual aid showed up 10 minutes after we had the fire was out.
- That kind of information needs to be given to voters, response time, disbanding, I did not know this information, people may not always be able to get to the informational meetings. If someone was running, they would be knocking on my door, no one knocked on my door.
- Did the township sell the blue building on M80? Could that be an option?
- None of us want the Fire Department to close but let's make this affordable too.
- Has anyone reached out to lumber yards for donations?
- I am a fireman, and it is very discouraging, we are all only volunteers but put everything aside to show up. You have volunteers willing to respond for your lives, we are second.
- The Sheriff's just built a building on Mac Trail, could you reach out to them to see who built for them?
- Have you reached out to Fairborn of Alyssa Slogkin? Yes, we are working on that process.
- There is no representation of the Sault Tribe. They need the same fire protection; they should be here. We want to be treated fairly. This is a serious issue.
- I agree with everyone, I want the public to know, as a member of this community I have proposed the township to run the golf course for free saving the township \$30,000 and I have not been responded to or acknowledged to by email or at the board.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- The township did sell the blue building, we had indication that that person may be willing to sell it back to the township but there has not been any proposal from that person that owns it.
- We are pushing the next vote out for November, not August, so we can see what we can do for funds.
- Thanks for coming out, I wish every board meeting was like this with feedback. We need to know what everyone is thinking. I agree, we should contact the lumber yards and for labor to chip the price down, and maybe some sort of sponsors.
- I am a new board member; we are trying the best we can to figure everything out. You guys have suggestions, email, call and I will work on your suggestions. I have contacted the chairperson for the tribe, but we are trying our best.
- I believe she left, but I did respond to Kasey's email if she would like to meet with me again, if she didn't get it I can let her know the process to get on board agendas.
- Thanks for coming out, we will do the extra quotes. One thing I do believe we need to do better in our communication, not just on major issues but everything.
- Its nice seeing so many people out here that care about the fire department, the last thing we want to do is raise taxes. We provide services to all people in our area, we cannot just say no. Police, fire, EMS has to respond. None of us take raising taxes lightly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:23PM.