

**APPROVED**

EVELINE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
HELD BY VOICE CONFERENCE CALL  
MONDAY APRIL 20, 2020  
10:00 A.M.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The special meeting of the Township Board of Trustees via voice conference was opened at 10:00 a.m. by Clerk Sandi Whiteford.
2. **ROLL CALL:** Board members present –Trustees Eric Beishlag and Janet Blossom, Treasurer Ron Chapman and Clerk Sandi Whiteford. Supervisor John Vrondran joined at 10:02 a.m.

Others Attending: Township Attorney Bryan Graham, DNR Representative Tom Wanless, Charlevoix County Sheriff Chuck Vondra, Denny Way, Brian Batjjes, Bill Morrison, Tom Repichowski, Jim Linden, Pasquale Forlette, Paul Regula, Art Halloran – Ironton Ferry Captain, Dave and Karen Kittredge.

3. **AGENDA:** Mr. Chapman made a motion supported by Ms. Blossom to accept the agenda as presented.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Mr. Beishlag, Ms. Blossom, Mr. Vrondran, Mr. Chapman, Mrs. Whiteford

Nay: None

Clerk Whiteford declared the motion approved.

4. **INFORMATION FROM TOM WANLESS OF THE MICHIGAN DNR AND CHARLEVOIX COUNTY SHERRIF CHUCK VONDRA:** Tom Wanless, Boating Law Enforcement, Recreational Safety, Education and Enforcement Section Michigan DNR Law Enforcement Division explained the Local Watercraft Control as it pertains to the Ironton Narrows. He explained that it is the Townships responsibility as the Local Unit of Government to file for the permit. Township Attorney Graham inquired as to the legal citation. Mr. Wanless replied there is not one. Denny Way inquired if it is only the Township or can the County apply. Mr. Wanless stated in his time in his position he has not had a county apply when the body of water was surrounded by a local government unit. Clerk Whiteford asked that Mr. Wanless explain the options that he had presented during a phone conversation in the previous week. Mr. Wanless explained:  
option 1: apply for a renewal permit,  
option 2: apply to rescind the watercraft control,  
option 3: do nothing, the DNR would then go through the procedure to rescind the watercraft control,  
option 4: amend the watercraft control.

He further explained that if the Township applied for a renewal permit, it could be issued in a week or so, if the Township modified the permit request it would take up to 4 months to get the permit.

Sheriff Vondra discussed the enforcement in the narrows. He discussed the 100-foot rule and enforcement as it pertains to docks and anchored boats. The Sheriff's Department cannot be there all the time but can assist by checking on the placement and condition as they are patrolling the area.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mr. Regula stated it is important for many reasons to slow down the boat traffic.

Mr. Wanless explained the requirements for the buoys, they need to have 36 inches out of the water with a base would be best and must have uniform markings. Mr. Stern stated he strongly supports placing buoys.

Some discussion was held as to the history of the permit. Attorney Graham inquired as to the number of buoys to be placed and if the watercraft control was enforceable if just No Wake Zone signs were posted. Mr. Wanless responded that the permit specifies both must be in place. Mr. Halloran expressed concern about liability. Mr. Stern offered assistance. Mr. Beishlag asked if placement of buoys beyond the narrows would require a new permit. Ms. Blossom expressed concern about the number of No Wake Zone signs needed and property owner permission as well as who would pay for the signs. Mr. Wanless stated the Township could designate sign verbiage. Ms. Blossom asked Attorney Graham about Eveline Townships Liability. Attorney Graham responded that the Township has governmental immunity but still could incur some defense costs that should be covered by insurance. He also asked the width of the narrows at the Ironton Ferry. Mr. Halloran stated 610 feet. Mr. Chapman stated that it is then not covered by the 100-foot rule. Mr. Linden expressed that signs and buoys are necessary. Ms. Blossom stated that the Township has no marine division, no maintenance department, no storage facility to store the buoys and is concerned about liability. Mr. Regula inquired as to lighting and the fixed object 100-foot rule. Mr. Wanless stated that with the new buoys there has been little or no damage reported caused by the buoys. Mr. Halloran expressed concern regarding sign pollution. Sheriff Vondra stated that the department could assist with monitoring placement particularly with the high-water level concerns. Mr. Way stated that the local watercraft control stated the placement of the buoys. Mr. Wanless stated that if the Township applies for the permit with Lt. Gorno in the Gaylord DNR office it should be received in 1 to 2 weeks. Mr. Beishlag inquired as to placing buoys by the Charlevoix County boat launch. Mr. Wanless stated that would require a modification of the approved area or a new permit process. Mr. Way suggested that the Township stick to the permit that exists and consider a new permit at a later date.

Mr. Beishlag made a motion to adopt a resolution to authorize the application for renewal of the current permit to place buoys and signs in the area of Lake Charlevoix known as the Ironton Narrows, and to consider possible expansion of the area for buoys in the future. Mr. Chapman supported the motion.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Mr. Beishlag, Ms. Blossom, Mr. Vron dran, Mr. Chapman, Mrs. Whiteford

Nay: None

Clerk Whiteford declared the motion approved and the resolution adopted.

6. **ADJOURNMENT:** There being no further business before the board at 11:30 a.m.  
Mr. Beishlag made a motion to adjourn, supported by Mr. Vron dran.

Upon roll call vote the following voted:

Aye: Mr. Beishlag, Ms. Blossom, Mr. Vron dran, Mr. Chapman, Mrs. Whiteford

Nay: None

Clerk Whiteford declared the motion approved and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully,

Sandi Whiteford, Clerk