

**Minutes of Mikado Township Special Meeting**  
**January 12, 2022**

7:00 pm The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call showed Supervisor Corn, Treasurer Travis, Clerk Sutton, Trustee Mullins, Trustee Nedo were present.

**Approval/Adjustments to the Agenda:** Mullins moved; Sutton seconded to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Waszkiewicz requested, per the open meetings act, section 8.1A and 7, requested that this be a closed session.

Supervisor Corn recused himself from the proceedings. Supervisor Corn motioned to have Clerk Sutton chair the meeting. Seconded by Mullins. Motion carried.

Sutton moved to close the meeting to go into closed session, seconded by Travis. Motion carried. Meeting closed at 7:02pm

Mullins moved, Travis seconded to reopen the special meeting at 7:55pm. Motion carried

Mullins stated that at this point, after further consideration and more information from other sources and discussion with council, Mullins made a motion to rescind the firing of Regina Waszkiewicz and reinstate her as fire chief. Seconded by Travis. Roll Call: Sutton-Yes, Mullins-Yes, Travis-Yes, Nedo-No Motion carried.

Attorney Moir stated that he hazard to make a statement as he was in attorney client privilege with the board, and the chief excused herself after he heard her out and he stated that he needed to have confidential attorney client privilege with the Trustees involved. Basically, we talked about everything, talked about it, rehashed it, and made the determination that for somebody that has worked here for 30 years, and the Chief since 2018, that this is not the direction to be taken. That she is to be reinstated and Tuesday he's sure we will pass inspection. It just appeared to be going down the wrong path. So in the best interest of everybody, especially the good of the Township, that is why this decision was arrived at.

**Board Comments:**

Mullins stated that Mikado, Alcona County in general is dying. We're losing people left and right. We're losing people, we're losing help, it is hard as heck to find somebody who will step up and do the job as opposed to just complaining about it. That being said, this was bad for everybody, all the way around. It was not done maliciously, with any intent. She did not do a dereliction of duty thing, in fact, she filed the paperwork back in July. It requires a signature from a person in the health care center in Alpena and they dropped the ball, for one thing. The State, and this is where they could have potentially done a few other things, certain things could have definitely been changed, but overall, I believe that Regina did do what she could do in regard to that. Certainly, if anybody would like to step up and become Clerk, Trustee, join the planning commission, help out in any way, shape or form with the volunteer fire department, you guys are more than welcome to step up. It would be great to have more community involvement. I am excited that we have so many members of the community here who are very concerned about this, I get it.

Nedo stated that he disagreed with everything. That is his feeling and he'll leave it at that. We need to do what the lawyer says, he's disgusted.

Sutton stated that she was also disgusted. This is a witch hunt run on rumors and not on facts. Because I know that we did call out for election workers and we have done call outs to be on the planning commission. And if it wasn't for the people we know, hey please can you come be a part of this, we wouldn't have people sitting in these positions. I had to import people from Losco County to work the elections in this Township because nobody in this township wanted to work the elections. There was a sign posted at the market, it was on Facebook, everywhere. So we're asking that you become part of the solution and instead of making rumors.

Mullins attempted to inform the audience of the order of operations. Corn instructed that if the audience waited patiently, a lot of your questions will be answered. But if they were going to yelling, nothing would get done.

#### Public Comments:

Tom Michaud : 4505 S F-41; I do not understand how we can be not filing out paperwork correctly, that the State has requested, and take 7 months to theoretically find out that someone made a mistake and it wasn't even us. And now all of these fine people can go home tonight and wonder if something happens to their houses, their loved ones, whatever, if the Fire department can get to them. And will there be first responders. The answer to all these questions is no. How is this justified. The other question is, after this meeting anyone that is interested in chipping in a couple of bucks to do a class action law suit against Mikado, that might be fun too. Its our money and these people are supposed to be representing us and I don't see representation. What I do see, is people that want to talk to us or about us "I want you all to listen to me" because they wont look at us. Well everyone I will look at you and we will talk about this further. This is absolutely ridiculous that we don't have people taking care of us. And how a person who is negligent in their duties, I don't care what their position is, we need to either get help for them or get rid of them but we don't need to continue with them in power.

Valarie Etter: 4621 S F-41 and I take exception with the fact that this was just a waste of time because this was stated on facts that she stated, out of her own mouth, two board meetings ago. She said she dropped the ball, I get a hundred emails. If these meetings were recorded, we can play them back verbatim because it was based on her statements. It's not a witch hunt.

Samantha Mosher: 2381 S. Buhl Road; What was the issue with the health center so that the paperwork couldn't be finished. Clerk Sutton stated that its not a Q&A, it's public comment. Mosher stated, so we don't get answers still, there is no answers and you said that we had to wait for the facts. I'm interested in the facts. Supervisor Corn stated that she should have patience. She stated that she has patience but she is curious when she gets to ask questions, but when does she get an answer.

Wilfred Weber: 1796 E Tait road. At the last meeting I voiced my opinion on how I was appalled at how Mikado Township had no first responders as did many others. I appreciate how the Township officers handled the barrage of questions from very upset people and how they responded to very upset questions. I also listed to Ms. Mullins that at government meetings, even Township meetings, follow Roberts Rules of Order. I thank her for most people in the general public do not know these rules. When Mr. Nedo took the floor and made his motion I had to do everything I could to not applaud the motion. Motion was seconded and followed Roberts Rules of Order and opened the officers to discussion which they did not have. The opportunities to let others know, at that time, there was no discussion and the vote was taken. The vote was three ya's and one nay for firing according to the government meeting that I attended, the majority wins and that was a done deal. The officers have a second special meeting in the matter of a done deal is a waste of money and time. But I do

applaud you for trying to do your job. And this is a public opinion. The questions can be asked, but not answered at this time. Its us giving our opinion and I understand what you're going through.

Susan Woods: I would like to know why there is no bid out for snow plowing and grass cutting. She's been in business with her husband for over 30 years and she wants to know why there is never a bid for that. So I'd like to know why and I am going to make a formal complaint with the State. Are you going to answer our questions? Are you going to put the next meeting in the paper so we know, or on the radio? Not Facebook. Because everyone doesn't go on Facebook.

Regina Waszkiewicz, obviously the reason why everyone is here tonight. And not because I have to, but because I want to set the record straight as far as what went on because there are a whole lot of rumors going around that are not completely factual. Our license did lapse and it is our fault that it did that. It lapsed as of November 30<sup>th</sup>. We have been just shy of six weeks with no first responders. Which per the State of Michigan we are not legally required to have in the first place, but we do. The reason it lapsed is my fault. I, as soon as possible got that paperwork filed and into the State by the 15<sup>th</sup>. I was ready for inspection the next day. The State said you're good, we'll come and we could have been good that day. I have to wait for Med Control out of Alpena to sign the application. They did not sign it until the 29<sup>th</sup> of December. Why they took that long to sign it, you'll have to ask them. I do not know. The gentlemen who does the inspections then called me this past Monday morning, our inspection is Tuesday morning at 9am, as of Tuesday afternoon we should be back up and running with First Responders. For most of you that know me, I've done this for a very long time and not just because I can. Because this is where I live, these people are the people that I serve, all of you. And the way I have been treated and the way I have been disparaged in this Township over misinformation and half truths is disgusting. Yes, we have been six weeks without first responders. We still have the same ambulance and the same fire coverage. The ambulance does not get there any faster if you have first responders or if you don't. I understand that this is a huge issue and I don't dispute that its my fault, without a doubt. For thirty years I have managed to not make a mistake, and yes, I made a mistake and if everyone in this room is perfect and never made a mistake then hands down to you. The fact of the matter is I am human, it happened, I found out December 1<sup>st</sup> that it lapsed. By December 15<sup>th</sup> I had everything done that needed to be done to take care of it. There wasn't anything I could have done faster. The only thing I can do is right the mistake that I made. And if you want facts, they are all in black and white.

Mr. Weber: would it have helped or through a process where she could have notified someone earlier to get help or to do what ever so that we were not caught in this situation. As a back up for her. Should she have notified you guys so that at the last meeting you might have had some answers. I know that when you took your vote, you said there was a lot of erroneous answers, but you didn't vote on those, you voted on the knowledge that you had prior to. You didn't have all the knowledge, who's fault is that? Lack of communication through you people.

Regina Waszkiewicz: I made the board aware of the situation at Decembers meeting which was just a few days after I had been made aware that there was an issue and figured out at that point what needed to be done to rectify it.

Mr. Weber: Well they didn't have any answers we were hoping for.

Regina Waszkiewicz: In December they were up to date and have been apprised of what was going on. Had I been here Monday night I could have given you more information. I went to Saginaw for an emergency C-section of a grand child. I didn't make it to the meet Monday night.

Mike Corn: It's also possible that if the Board had held off, I was actively fighting a fire at one of your homes, it's possible that when the questions would have been asked I could have been able to give some of the correct answers. That's not what happened.

Mr. Nedo: One of the firefighters said you were more than welcome to leave.

Mike Corn: He did, they made that quite well known.

Mr. Spunar: 1212 E F-30 Regina knew about this by the December meeting, why wasn't that information put out? Not fully exposed?

Sutton and Waszkiewicz expressed that it was, at the December meeting.

Mr. Corn asked if the minutes were on line, Ms. Mullins indicate they were now available.

Jeff Bartz: 2276 F-41 A suggestion, I'm guilty too. Got too much stuff going on for our jobs. For example, maybe if we didn't have going on between your personal lives, what you do at your real job and trying to take on what you're doing here, maybe it's just too much for you guys and you can't handle it. I'm guilty of it too. I take on too much work, I can't handle it. See, that little smirk right there, she looks over, smirks. That's what people don't like. Roll your eyes when we're trying to make a suggestion.

Mr. Corn: Jeff you're entirely right. But if the community were to step forward

Mr. Bartz: Could this have been turned in in July, in August? No, we wait until November, until the very last minute. Is it because we have too much going on.

Regina Waszkiewicz: If I may clarify the dates, I did turn the paperwork in in July. There was a signature that was needed that did not happen. I did not know that did not happen and there is no way I would know that until the license was revoked in December. It's due by the 30<sup>th</sup> of September, if not renewed then you have 60 days which then made it the end of November. After that date is when I got a phone call from central dispatch that it happened. I wasn't even notified first myself from the state.

Mrs. Etter: Regina we all make mistakes, I mean we all make mistakes. But your mistake effected every single person in this room. My husband is a police officer, if he shoots someone by mistake, is someone gonna "oh I've lived here 30 years and I'm sorry" and not have something happen to him. Look at all the cops that are in jail right now. Everyone makes mistakes, but your mistake effected everybody in this room.

Ms. Mullins: Legally speaking, there are certain things that we should have done properly and in specific order. We perhaps jumped the gun and violated the open meetings act. I'm sure that none of you guys care too much about that because it's technical stuff. Some things are going to change here,

Mr. Nedo: We will try to abide by the open meetings act and she will not stay on as fire chief.

Eric Griggs: If she is reinstated do we have a fire department.

Mr. Corn: We've always had a fire department

Mr. Griggs: Because I heard everyone walked on facebook.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mullins moved/Sutton seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. All in favor: Ayes – Unanimous Nays - None  
Motion carried.

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Michael Corn, Supervisor

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Leisa Sutton, Clerk,