

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
July 15, 2019**

## **Mullett Township Board Petitioned for Special Meeting**

### **Taxpayers Push for a Voice in Board Actions**

**Special Meeting set for July 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm**

**Mullett Township Hall, Topinabee, Michigan**

**Mullett Township, Michigan:** For the first time, taxpayers in Mullett Township have petitioned the Mullett Township Board for a special meeting of the taxpayers.

Under Michigan Law a petition was filed signed by taxpayers requiring the Township Board to comply in holding a special meeting to accommodate property owners in asking questions and seeking clarification on issues of importance to them as taxpayers. This meeting is an **unprecedented** opportunity for taxpayers to hold Township officials accountable for their actions.

“We don’t feel the Mullett Township Board is open and transparent in their actions, nor do they demonstrate any willingness to be proactive in hearing from their constituents on how they use taxpayer funds”, says Gary Miller, of Topinabee, who spearheaded the petition.

“The petition was our last resort. The Township Board does not have an Annual Meeting like other surrounding Townships so there is no accommodation by the Mullett Township Board to ‘hear’ from its constituents. This is very concerning,” says Miller. “During the monthly Township Board Meetings, taxpayers are provided only 3 minutes of public comment which often goes unheard by the officials who regularly can be observed performing other tasks rather than listening and letters to the Board are not answered...they are not taking taxpayers seriously.”

“There are new projects underway requiring significant funding that few property owners know about because nothing is proactively shared by the Township Board, says Charlie McCain, a township resident.

“A new Topinabee Fire Station is being planned to be built next to Berean Church, leaving no plans for how the current Fire Hall might be repurposed. The old schoolhouse is being renovated again with no plan or vision for its future”, says Miller. “A move of the Library from its current historic depot location to the schoolhouse is being considered without concrete justification or a strategic, long term financial plan for how such a move would impact the economics of Topinabee and taxpayer millage rates. It appears more about providing lake view offices for township officials rather than actually serving a specific purpose or correcting a real problem. In addition, what is the

plan for the current Fire & Township Hall? “These are questions we will seek answers to on July 22<sup>nd</sup>”, says Miller.

“Other projects like a Blight Ordinance and the Streetscape are not completed and property owners would like an update on these as well,” says Marie Frick, a Township resident. “Because the Mullett Township Board lacks Special Meetings and an Annual meeting, a lot of misinformation is out there so this special meeting is intended for all property owners to seek clarity and updates on projects they support with their property taxes,” says Frick.

“All we ask is that the Township Board be open and transparent BEFORE they invest taxpayer funds in projects and they do this through special meetings like other Townships and be proactive with written communications to property owners ,”says Miller.

“There is also a good news story from our Fire Department that isn’t being shared. Our ISO rating upon which our insurance rates are based, is improving which will result in reduced homeowners insurance costs for property owners. There is no willingness to share this with property owners. We’d like to see regular written communications included in our tax bill mailings to keep property owners up to date,” says Miller.

The Special Mullett Township Meeting will take place on Monday, July 22, 2019 at 7:00 pm at the Township Hall in Topinabee.

For property owners who are unable to attend but have comments, questions or concerns to share with the Mullett Township Board, can email Hobie Kirsch, the Mullett Township Supervisor at [Hobiekirsch@gmail.com](mailto:Hobiekirsch@gmail.com)

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