

## WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 08, 2021 – 7:30 pm

In Office at 1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI 49435

[www.wrighttownship.com](http://www.wrighttownship.com)

1. The Regular Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer by Schoenborn. Board members present include: Supervisor Rick Schoenborn, Treasurer Sharyl Dietrich, Trustee Adam Taylor, Trustee Brad Anderson, and Clerk Theresa Frank. Meeting was held at Township Office at 1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI. 49435.
  
2. APPROVE AGENDA and ADDITIONS
  - a. No additions
  - b. Dietrich moved to approve the agenda and Frank supported. All ayes, motion carried.
  
3. REVIEW AND APPROVE
  - a. Taylor moved to approve bills and payroll in the amount of \$67,005.54, and accept as information the Treasurer Report. Support by Frank. All ayes, motion carried.
  - b. Anderson moved to approve the minutes from October 13, 2021, Board Meeting and Dietrich supported. All ayes, motion carried.
  
4. REPORTS
  - a. Fire Report by Fire Chief Mike Gavin.

The Wright/Tallmadge Fire Department did decide to not do the annual open house on Halloween but were on site to hand out candy.
  - b. Mary Alt gave the Historical Commission Annual Report.

Historical Commission is a group of volunteers who work to preserve and protect the township records. Mary wanted to make a special thank you to Christopher Brown for his important work with the Commission.

Wright Township separated from Tallmadge Township in 1847, making 2022, the Township's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mary would like to thank Sharyl Dietrich for organizing the clean-up of the basement. This is the Workplace for the Commissioners. It makes it much more pleasant to do the work.

The Township gladly budgets \$600.00 a year for the Commission's needs. For next budget year the Commission would like \$1,200.00, to be able to have a good celebration for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Marne Fest and Berlin Fair in 2022. Decision will be made at the time of the next budget.

Mary reminded the Board that member Barb Saunier and Brett Petrauskas are recommended to be considered for a renewal of their three (3) year term. Dietrich moved to approve Saunier and Petrauskas for another three (3) year term on the Historical Commission, and Taylor supported. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board would like to thank the Commission for the very important work that they do.
  - c. Cemetery Report by Clerk Frank.

Wells Cemetery sustained damage from the storm on August 12, 2021. Trees were down and grave stones were also broken. A claim was put into our insurance and it was covered. Stones were repaired and straightened by Jim Looks, the township mowing contractor. The trees were removed by Zack Porter of Porter's Trimming & Property Maintenance. Both did a great job and the cemetery looks great again

## 5. Public Comment

- a. Mr. Doug Schillinger was at the meeting asking for the reason it is taking so long for his complaint to be taken care of. He was unhappy. Schoenborn explained the process, and apologized because the complaint was valid. An email was sent to IMS but they said they did not see it. A new process has been set up to address the issues of complaints. When IMS is sent an email it will have a note attached asking to confirm receipt of the email. This should really stop this from happening again. Trustee Taylor also reminded Mr. Schillinger that at last month's meeting we passed a civil ordinance that will now allow us to fine the person if they get the letter asking them to clean up and they do nothing. They can now be fined daily, and if that does not work, we can now take them to court. Board was grateful Mr. Schillinger was gracious and understood.

## 6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a. Approval of Ordinance 2021-10-01, that was tabled at the last meeting.  
The Planning Chairman let us know that some of the wording was not correct, and it needed a re-write. This has now been corrected. Frank Motioned to approve the Ordinance No. 2021-10-01 regarding Temporary Dwellings in Wright Township, supported by Dietrich. Roll Call was taken; Schoenborn, aye; Dietrich, aye; Frank aye; Anderson, aye; and Taylor aye. Motion carried; the Ordinance has been approved.
- b. Changes to Galbraith Consent Judgement. The Judgement from 2003 allowed Six (6) lots to be built on, and one lot, lot No. 7, which is the remainder of the property, would not be able to be built on. It was a settlement agreement. Now at this time the Galbraith's would like to change the settlement to allow them to build a house on two of the acres in lot No. 7. Some of the comments by the Board Members on this subject;  
Frank said that the settlement agreement was final, and all was agreed upon, and felt there should be no changes now 21 years later. Taylor reminded us that he ran for the Trustee position on the idea of keeping a very agricultural base for the Township, and feels he would have to say no to changes in the Judgement. Per Anderson, he feels it unfortunate that there was not a specific lot saved for the future. He understands that it's only two (2) acres, but he also ran on agriculture preservation and felt he would also have to say no. Dietrich said she agreed with the rest of the board and would have to say no. Schoenborn noted that there would also have to be a re-zoning of the property to make the changes. He said there is nothing in writing, but the board and the Planning Commission are against spot zoning, so the request would have a very hard time getting the request put through. He said we have a rich heritage here in Wright Township with strict ordinances to keep the agricultural land. Schoenborn asked if Jean Galbraith had anything to add and she said no, and she was grateful to the board for taking a look at the request. Dietrich motioned to deny the request for a change to the Galbraith Consent Judgement and Taylor supported. All ayes, and motion was carried.
- c. Re-visit the tabled street light for Comstock Street. It was found that it only needed a new bulb. We will contact the requester and let them know it was dark because the street light was out. Regarding the need for a street light at the corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Cleveland. It was found to be very dark at this intersection. Taylor motioned to approve a street light at the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Cleveland, Dietrich supported, all ayes, motion carried.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Wright Township Fee Schedule has a typo and it needs to be corrected. It is at this time posted as a \$500.00 fee for IFT (Industrial Facilities Exempt Tax). It should read \$1,000.00.

8. SUPERVISOR REPORT

- a. Board members did a walk through at the Sanford West Behavioral Center. All were impressed. The new owners have redone the building from top to bottom. Phase One of the project is done and patients will start arriving this month. Phase Two will be completed in December, 2021. All Board members agree the facility will be a real asset to Wright Township.
- b. Supervisor reported that the paving of Arch Street is finished and looks great.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

- a. Taylor reminded us that the flags still need to be taken down.
- b. Anderson requested estimates to take down the three pines trees in the neighbor's yard west of the fire department bay doors. The maintenance is becoming a big problem, and they are piling on the roof. Supervisor said he would contact the property owner and see if there is some kind of arrangement we can make with them.

10. Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully prepared by Theresa Frank, Wright Township Clerk. [www.wrighttownship.com](http://www.wrighttownship.com)

(Any documents referenced in these minutes are on file in the Clerk's office)