

## WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 14, 2021 – 7:30 pm

In Office at 1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI 49435

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
2. Additions of any items not on the agenda.
  - a. Additions: Approval of fireworks for the race track is added under 7 F.  
Approval of application for the request of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is 7 G.  
Closed Meeting will now be 7 H on the agenda.
  - b. Taylor moved to approve the agenda and Anderson supported. All ayes, motion carried.
3. REVIEW & APPROVE
  - a. Frank moved to approve bills and payroll in the amount of \$65,954.12, supported by Anderson. All ayes, motion carried.
  - b. Motion was made by Dietrich to approve June 9, 2021, Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Support by Anderson. All ayes, motion carried.
4. PUBLIC COMMENTS
  - a. Public comments were taken from Loyd Hopper. Mr. Hopper reminded the Clerk that the approved Cost Recovery Ordinance was not published in a timely matter. The Ordinance will be approved again at the August Board Meeting, and published soon after.
  - b. Other comments from Mr. Hopper were not related to any items on the agenda.
5. REPORTS
  - a. Fire: Fire Chief Mike Gavin gave the Board the Fire report. He reported that it was another above average month for calls. There were 84 calls in total. Chief Gavin also reported that with a lot of work from the members of the Department, the Fire Department did very well with the sale of food at the Berlin Fair this year. The funds earned are non-profit, and will be used in that manner.
  - b. Planning: Planning Commissioner Brad Anderson reported that the last meeting was for discussion of the Ordinance 303.2 regarding temporary housing, and 504.1 regarding minimum lot area and width. More discussion to come at the August 16, 2021, Planning Commission Meeting.
  - c. 2021 Berlin Fair Report was given by the President of the Fair Board Joan Kutchin. All numbers up during the week, and especially on the week end. The traffic was backed up on the highway coming into Marne. There was only one complaint. It was about seating at the Rodeo, and this was taken care of within minutes. Raceway security was used because Sheriff reserves were not an option this year. Two officers were hired for the Rodeo. Great year for the Fair! Chief Gavin commented that with the absence of the Reserve Program there is some problem with any emergency communication to the Fire personnel. It is planned to be corrected with new radios next year.
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a. Anderson motioned to approve the addition of grave 4-A in lot 280, S.M. in Marne Cemetery, and Dietrich supported. All ayes; Motion carried.
  - b. Dietrich motioned to approve the updating of Cole Park and Anderson supported. All ayes, motion carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Jean Galbraith and her Daughter Mary were at the meeting to speak about their request to have Wright Township amend the Consent Settlement to allow the construction of one residential home on the 55 acres known as Lot 7. Mary spoke for the family. Reporting that her or her brother would like to come back to Wright Township and build a house on this property. After some discussion with Mary, it was decided that the family needs to have an escrow account balance of \$1,000 set up, and the Township would start work with the lawyers to see what can or cannot be done.
- b. July quarterly budget was reviewed. All will be in order as soon as a few amendments are made.
- c. Amendments need to be made to Expenditures and Revenues.

- a. Revenues:

- 101-100-445 Penalties and Interest on Taxes, amend from \$2000 to \$2600, Income was higher than expected.

- 101-100-643 Cemetery Burial Fees, amend from \$0 to \$1000. This line item was not included in the original budget.

- 101-100-675 Miscellaneous Revenues, amend from \$100 to \$7000. Final payment of sewer bond was made and remaining funds transferred to General Fund.

- b. Expenditures:

- 101-261-830 Website, amend from \$0 to \$2000. Website expenses were not on original budget.

- 101-701-810 Contracted Planning, amend from \$0 to \$2000. This line item was not included in the original budget.

- Motion was made by Frank to approve the amendments as presented. This was supported by Taylor. All ayes, motion carried.

- d. After 20 years of service Dan VanDyke has submitted his resignation to the Chair of the Planning Commission, Rich Dausman. Dan's knowledge of the Township will be missed. He has been a very respected Planning Commissioner. Anderson motioned to appoint Ken Zahm as the new member of the Planning Commission. Taylor supported this motion. All ayes, motion carried. Welcome Ken!
- e. Wright Township Building Inspector Casey Kailey has retired, Dietrich motioned to approve Paul J. Bierman as our new Building Inspector. Taylor supported this motion. All ayes, motion carried.

- f. BERLIN RACE TRACK

- Nick Mesman with Berlin Raceway came to the meeting to request a firework permit. The July 3rd date for fireworks were not used, so Nick is requesting fireworks for July 31, 2021. Supervisor spoke about the firework ordinance to remind Nick how to proceed with fireworks. Especially the part about being careful to keep in mind the raceway neighbors. Dietrich motioned to approve fireworks on July 31, 2021, and Anderson supported. All ayes, motion carried.

- Nick also requested a rain date of July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in case of rain on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. With the Sunday used in the past as a rain date, all went well. Engines did not start before 1:00 pm and were done before 5:00 pm. Anderson motioned to approve the rain date of July 18<sup>th</sup>, and Taylor supported. All ayes, motion carried.

- g. Treasurer Dietrich presented the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA). This is federal funds estimated at around \$300,000.00 that may possibly be available for the Township for Covid-19 relief. It is very limited as to what the money can be spent on, and what is not spent will have to be returned to the government. Dietrich will apply for the money as soon as a motion is made and supported. It is not known when we will get the funds if they become available. Dietrich motioned to approve the application for the funds, and Anderson supported. All ayes, motion carried.
- h. Regular Board Meeting went into a closed session meeting at 8:45 pm, for the purpose of discussing land purchase. Closed session was adjourned at 9:39 pm, and Regular Board Meeting was resumed at this time.

8. SUPERVISOR REPORT

- a. Supervisor reported that he went to the County Road Commission Open House, and he was very impressed with the new construction, and all the information presented.

9. BOARD COMMENTS

- a. Dietrich spoke of future plans for the Township, and how we will be paying for it. With the savings the Township has it is time to start working on strategic ways to plan for the future of the Township.
- b. Dietrich also let us know it was time to get the Senior Services Program going again. She is thinking of putting out a mass mailing to invite seniors to a free lunch, and hand out a survey, requesting what interests the seniors may have so the Township can get started implementing their ideas.

10. Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 10:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Township Clerk Theresa Frank.

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