

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 6th, 2023 – 7:30 pm

In Office at 1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI 49435

www.wrighttownshipottawami.gov

Supervisor called the meeting 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. The meeting was at Township Office's, 1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI. 49435.

APPROVE AGENDA and ADDITIONS;

1. Dietrich moved to approve the agenda and Frank supported. All ayes, motion carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVE

1. Dietrich moved to approve bills and payroll in the amount of \$84,767.15 and accept as information the Treasurer Report. Anderson supported this. All ayes, motion carried.
2. Anderson moved to approve the minutes from October 11th, 2023, Board Meeting and Dietrich supported. All ayes, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS;

1. Stacey from Pickle Back asked if the Board would consider investigating public parking in the village of Marne. With the growth in the village, and the shortage of public parking, the owners are feeling that people are thinking that their parking lot is a public parking lot. Supervisor replied that the Planning Commission has just begun to look at the parking situation, and that the board would keep them informed.
2. A question about sidewalks in the township came up, and the Supervisor said that some sidewalks were done last fall. He is sure the subject will come up again but the needs at the office building are coming up ahead of the sidewalks currently.

REPORTS

New Township Hall Report

Steve Quirk, Chairperson of the Steering Committee on Township Owned Land introduced Travis Kamstra with BCI Construction, and Mark McDowel with MEM Design. Travis is the Project Manager. He manages the schedules, daily operations, and maintains keeping the project in budget. Mark is the architect who oversees the design, and the civil engineer. The project is for a building approximately 7,500 square feet. It will be a single-story stick building with a community room, board room, offices, protected storage, and a warming kitchen. They will try to use local vendors and contractors as much as possible. Renderings of the preliminary design are displayed in the office if you are interested. The plan is to break ground in the spring of 2024, and finish by December of 2024.

Commissioner Report

None

Fire Report

- Deputy Fire Chief Jon Alkema reported 108 calls for October. The department could possibly hit one thousand calls this year within a week or two.
- Alkema shared a local incident of a cardiac arrest. The location had an AED machine, and Alkema reiterated the importance of the AED machine. Police and Fire all carry them now.
- Alkema reported a new full time hire for the Wright Township station, Josh Thibault. Josh has an extensive background in firefighting.
- The Fire Department's Halloween party was a success, even with the harsh weather.
- The Tree Lighting will be at the Lions Park on Saturday, November 25, 2023. Santa will be at the Fire Station after.
- Deputy Chief Alkema will be licensed for the new drone by the end of the week, at which time the department will be able to start using it for calls.

Senior Report:

Dietrich gave the Senior Services Report. She shared that she was having problems with mass emailing for the Seniors due to a problem with Microsoft and Google. The problem is being worked on by Microsoft, but if there are any questions or concerns, please call the office at 616.677.3048.

Planning Commission Report

Anderson gave the Planning Commission report. He reported the Planning Commission has been working on the solar ordinance and has begun looking into the shortage of parking in the village of Marne.

Election Report

Frank gave a short Election report. The early voting is being setup with the County. Both parties have signed agreements. We are now just waiting for the locations for early voting, and the date of the Presidential Primary Election.

Mary Alt gave the annual Historical Report for the board. She shared that this year's work at the Berlin Fair was very well received. Next year the subject will be the railroads and the interurban. The Monday research committee has been presently indexing the oldest records of assessments and taxes. The Commission continues to be asked for historical information. The Commission has one seat open, and if anyone is interested, please contact the Township. Mary also reported that Chris Brown is an immense help to the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS;

1. Anderson motioned to approve Ordinance Amendment 2023-10-01, regarding multiple businesses in one building. Frank supported, all ayes and motion carried.
2. Dietrich motioned to approve Ordinance 2023-08-01, regarding private solar systems, with the condition that on page one of the ordinance, under Section 329.5, i (a), where it says “seven (7)”, changes to “ten (10)”. Taylor supported this motion. Clerk takes roll call; Schoenborn aye, Taylor aye, Dietrich aye, Frank aye, and Anderson aye. Motion carries. Supervisor declares Ordinance 2023-08-01 adopted.

OLD BUSINESS;

None

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT;

Schoenborn commented on Clean Energy and how the Legislators are working on taking control of this from the local government.

BOARD COMMENTS;

1. Anderson talked about the Planning Commission discussing the Master Plan at their next meeting.
2. Dietrich announced tax bills will be in the mail on December 1, 2023.

Supervisor adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m. and thanked the public for coming to the meeting.

Respectfully prepared by Theresa Frank, Wright Township Clerk.

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