

**Webber Township**

2286 W. Springtime St.

Baldwin, MI 49304

231-745-3471

**Regular Meeting**

April 13, 2023

**Call to Order:** 6:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Attendance:** Kelly McCune, Dan Cousar, Pat Williams, Kathy Young, Ernie Wogatzke present.

**Approval of the Agenda:**

Motion made by Kelly McCune supported by Kathy Young to approve the agenda. All in favor, motion carries.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Motion made by Pat Williams, supported by Kelly McCune to approve the minutes of March 9, 2023 Public Hearing, March 9, 2023 Regular meeting, March 23, 2023 Special meeting, March 29, 2023 special meeting and April 12, 2023 Finance meeting with Corrections. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay, motion carries.

**Approval of Accounts payable:**

**General Fund:**

Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kelly McCune to approve the General Fund. Discussion. No further questions. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay, motion carries.

**Fire Fund:**

Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kelly McCune to approve the Fire Fund. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay, motion carries.

**Water/Sewer Fund:**

Motion by Kelly McCune, supported by Kathy Young to approve the Water/Sewer fund. . Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay, motion carries.

**Refuse Fund:**

Motion made by Kelly McCune supported by Kathy Young to approve the Refuse Fund. . Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay, motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Given by Pat Williams, treasurer.

**Correspondence:** N/A

**Guest Speaker:**

Paul from Prein & Newhof outlined the intentions and what we have paid for on our project at the Youth Park and how it is beneficial to stay on course and not go off on our own. He stated that they have set a date of May 11, 2023 to meet with the Township to open bids. There projection is to complete the County project first, then do the asphalt at the Youth Park after that.

**Public Comment:** Question about why the fence at Government Lake has not been fixed and when it will be done. Sam explains what is happening and what we are waiting for. Questions on property liens, as opposed to assessments, Pat Williams explains the different changes in law and what that means for the township. Remarks/opinions regarding the ZBA wanting to hire someone to take the minutes of their meetings.

**Department Reports:**

**Fire:** Chief Dailey gives run report. He reports that our firefighter (Don Schaub), injured in a head on crash, may be coming home this week. He will stay with a family member until he is able to take care of himself. There was a fire Chief's meeting, they are changing radios to 800 mghz, but this is expected to take some time. All radios will continue to work through this process. The Emergency Management Grant is partnered with the sheriff's department.

**Water/Sewer:** Sam gives report. Everything is good

**Co. Road Comm.:** Gary Truxton, and Leroy give a report on the Merrillville Road project and what they are doing.

**Co. Comm.:** Clyde Welford gave a report. Internet surveying is continuing. They received the EDA report on GEO. The 8<sup>th</sup> Street bridge is slated to be completed by this summer; hopes are to have it completed by Blessing of the Bikes.

**Sheriff Dept.:** Rich Martin gives report. There was a fire in Irons. Juvenile Detention Center possible at the RRP (TRV) location. Sauble/Elk/Eden townships, the Sauble twp. building is going to be used by the sheriff dept. for storage. Shooting in Webber twp. brings 0 charges as both participants have warrants. ORV deputy, presently cannot be hired through the sheriff's department. This may be changing. In Chase, speed trailers were set up to collect data on the traffic control and what may possibly be done to lessen accidents through that corridor.

**Grant:** Dan Cousar and Kelly McCune are working on a report to put criteria together on choosing roads to improve.

**Co. Parks/Rec.** Ernie Wogatzke gave report. The DNR is the holdup. Just waiting on them

**Zoning Admin:** Chris Jacobs gives report of permits issued, and violation citations. He went to court on a citation. The property owner requested a formal hearing with a judge. The hearing is set for April 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

**Planning:** Kelly McCune gives a report and also hands the board recommendations from the planning committee for the vendor ordinance, and suggestions for the 24ft. rule.

**LCEDA:** Tony Gagliardo gives report. He states they are seeking a grant for the old Opera House.

**DDA:** N/A

**Parks/Rec.:** Met this week to discuss GET OUTDOOR DAY. We are a month behind getting things going. GO DAY is June 10<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-2:00. It is suggested that we hang our banner early.

**Ongoing Business:**

**Budget Amendments:** Treasurer Pat Williams explains that the amendments are not transferring money from one fund to another, but simply moving over-budgeted money to and under-budgeted place within the same fund and answers questions. Motion by Kathy Young, supported by Kelly McCune to approve the budget amendments. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

**AFLAC Insurance:** Clerk Kathy Young explains that the insurance agent that we purchased the cancer policy for our firefighters, came to her with options to purchase other insurance through payroll deduction by piggy-backing off the firefighter's policy. She was later told that this was illegal as the vote for insurance was worded "firefighters". She asks for board approval to allow employees of the township to purchase (through payroll deduction) policies. Motion by Kathy Young, supported by Pat Williams to approve employees to purchase insurance through payroll deduction. Discussion on the wording and definition of employee. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune nay, Dan Cousar nay, Pat Williams nay, Kathy Young nay, Ernie Wogatzke nay. 0 yea, 5 nay motion fails. Motion by Dan Cousar supported by Kelly McCune to table this issue for further research. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune, yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

**Open bids for May Cleanup:**

Two sealed bids are submitted. The first one from A-1 Services. He provides a cost sheet but no total for the cleanup is included. The board states that this is not a properly submitted bid.

The second bid is from Smith Dumpster's for \$5900.00. He states the cleanup will be scheduled for 1 day, and they will work until everyone is taken care of, even if it means they will have to come back the next day to finish. He also provides a list of what will not be picked up. He gives an example on his bid as to how they will figure the charges. Many questions arise. It is felt that this should be tabled at this point and a date for special meeting be set up soon. This gives us time to get answers to the questions voiced.

Motion by Dan Cousar supported by Kelly McCune to table this issue and set a date for a special meeting. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries. Date for a special meeting to revisit the May cleanup bid is set for Monday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Set an April Capital Improvement Plan meeting.

April 25<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 5:00 p.m. is decided on.

Power to the maintenance building:

Discussion on hooking up power to the maintenance building, previously voted to have a meter put out there. Goodrich Electric is suggesting that instead of a meter, we run the power from the township. After much discussion, the board decides that we want to stay with the original vote and go with a meter for the maintenance building.

Prein/Newhof:

Decide if the township wants to take over the bids. A lot of discussion. General thoughts are to go forward as planned with Prein/Newhof.

**New Business:**

Training for clerk's office/cemetery. Kathy Young clerk, presents to the board a 4-hour training on cemeteries in June that would be beneficial to her and her deputy, because our cemetery records are such a mess. Cost is \$100.00 per person (early bird), the clerk will receive per diem and the deputy hourly wage, plus mileage. Motion by Kelly McCune, supported by Dan Cousar to approve the training for up to \$600.00. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay, motion carries.

GEO settlement:

Supervisor Wogatzke explains the settlement agreement, it is the recommendation from the attorneys to accept this, and the board has done so.

ZBA Secretary:

The ZBA chair has requested we hire an independent Secretary. The board feels that this is part of their position and someone will have to record and transcribe the minutes. If they can't do this, then they need to step down.

Upcoming Events:

Supervisor Wogatzke tells everyone what the upcoming events are

Adjournment: Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kelly McCune to adjourn. All in favor, motion carries.

Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Young, clerk