

Webber Township

2286 W. Springtime St.

Baldwin, MI 49304

231-745-3471

July 14, 2022

Regular Meeting

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Kelly McCune, Dan Cousar, Pat Williams, Kathy Young, Ernie Wogatzke present.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Dan Cousar, supported by Kathy Young to approve the agenda with additions of guest speaker, deputy clerk hours, meeting minutes of 7-13-22. All in favor, motion carries.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

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

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

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

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

Treasurer's report: Given by Pat Williams.

Correspondence:

Guest Speaker: Marie Lowing spoke to the board and public about a special assessment for Jeanne Dr. for maintaining the current road. She is asking for the support of the township, explaining the current situation. She will come back to the board when she has the next step completed.

Bill Buckley is requesting a land split on Chief Okemos Trail. He owns 3 parcels (13, 14 & 15). He would like to split parcel 15 in half so that the neighbor can obtain it giving him enough land to build a pole barn and back access to his property. Both residents have enough land to build.

— Motion by Pat Williams supported by Kelly McCune to approve the split pending approval of the Assessor. (Mark Barnett, assessor, recommends the split). Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Department Reports:

Fire: Chief Al Dailey gave the monthly run report.

Sewer/Water/Maintenance: Sam gave report stating the GEO headworks is still down. Parts are due in Aug. 2022. Lowest quote for boring is \$7000.00 with tapping at \$4045.00. and can be done in 3-5 wks. Lowest quote for the security fence at the water tower is \$41,425.00 that includes two gates. Lowest quote for fencing at the well house is \$21390.00. Question by board member about more cameras at the park (due to park attendant being assaulted). He states that he can get more, problem being that we don't have a continuous feed on recording.

Road Comm: Leroy states that the section of Merrillville Rd is completed, with the last coat in Sept. 2022. We are to call him when we are ready to do Springtime St.

CO. Comm: Len Todd reports their audit was good. The ARPA funds, they are currently working on scoring all proposals. The Commission authorized body cams for the Sheriff department. (Cost \$128,000.00). the 8th St. bridge is slated to be done in 2023, it involves 4 separate projects, proposals have been submitted.

— **Sheriff:** Rich Martin states the body cams are partially funded by insurance. Dog licenses are available at Midoglicense.com Lake County school threat by 19 yr. old Big Rapids man. The alligator confiscated in a traffic stop has been relocated to a reptile sanctuary. There are still shirts available from the blessing of the bikes for \$20.00, all proceeds go to charity. There is one statewide Marine training academy (Sam is marine deputy). Next year, the plan is to have a marine training academy here. And they may be possibly turning the TRV center back to a juvenile detention facility.

Grant Writer: If we are granted County ARPA funds, the plan is to resurface Merrillville Rd from 40th St. to 44th St. This is a change from the previous plan.

Co. Park/Rec: Ernie gave report. Things are moving forward. Our plans are still good

Zoning Admin: We need one

Planning Comm: Utopia Dream Works (indoor marijuana grow) came to their meeting with new plans. They need to update their by-laws, and it will probably be done in the winter. Ordinances from Andy (board was given drafts, not the final copy sent to the county).

LCEDA: N/A

DDA: N/A

— **TwP Park/Rec:** Ernie gave report, wrapping up GO DAY and the ideas we came up with. It was suggested that Webber TwP have a Family Day.

Answers to last month's questions: Aug. 9, 2022 is a show cause hearing for Wonderland Dr.

Ongoing Business:

Appointment of Zoning Administrator: Motion by Dan Cousar to hire Greg Nichols as Zoning Admin. There is no support. Motion fails. Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to hire Chris Jacobs as Zoning Admin. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar nay, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 4 yea, 1 nay motion carries. Much discussion after the vote. Pat Williams states that she will rescind her motion. It is suggested that we table this for now and maybe put another ad in the local paper.

Grants: The County Road Commission has recommended a different road to improve if we are granted the ARPA funds that the county received.

There is an error on our newly adopted by fee schedule: Adult non-resident burials should be \$600, and resident adult burials should be \$400.00. After some discussion from the board, a motion was made by Kathy Young supported by Pat Williams to table this until we can do some research on it All in favor, motion carries.

Directional boring bids: \$7000.00 for the boring, \$4045.00 for two caps Not enough information is given. Motion by Kathy Young supported by Kelly McCune to table this for now. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Security Fencing bid: Not enough information given. Motion by Kathy Young, supported by Kelly McCune to table this. All in favor, motion carries.

New Business:

The Twp. Board received a letter from John Hindy requesting a 6 month, temporary, leave of absence from the Planning Commission. Motion by Dan Cousar, supported by Pat Williams to grant a 6-month temporary leave of absence. All in favor, motion carries.

Resolutions: A resolution is submitted to pay the BOR (Board of Review) Chairperson a per diem. Discussion amongst the board, all other chairs for committees and boards get paid a per diem, so should the BOR chair, and The Supervisor is the secretary (statutory), so he does not get paid. Motion made by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to approve the Resolution #2022-07-14 to pay the BOR chairperson a per diem of \$120.00, and removing the per diem pay of the secretary. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar nay, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 4 yea, 1 nay motion carries.

Resolution submitted from our Assessor for Poverty Guidelines for consideration for poverty exemption. (Recommended by the Assessor). Motion made by Kathy Young, supported by Pat Williams to approve the Resolution #07-14-2022. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Property Purchases: Joshua Whipple makes an offer to purchase the building and property located at 1910 W. 36th St. for \$6566.32. This is just what the township has invested in it. Motion by Kathy Young, supported by Pat Williams to approve the purchase of this property. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Shawn Vigansky makes an offer of \$5400.00 to purchase parcel #11-026-013.00, 1882 W. 36th St. This is offer is what the township has invested in the property. Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to approve the purchase of this property. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Deputy Clerk hours: The Clerk is asking for approval to increase the Deputy Clerk's hours up to 6 hours more per week. The work load has increased and it is election season. She requests that the approval be made at least through the end of the election season (end of Nov. 2022), at that time the board can re-evaluate the need. Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kelly McCune to approve a 6-hour weekly increase for the deputy clerk through Nov. 2022. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Cemetery: Quotes from the cemetery sexton to get the roof and door replaced on the cemetery building. Roof is \$4500.00 and the door is \$300.00 for a total of \$4800.00. Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kelly McCune to approve the cost of \$4800.00 to replace the roof and door on the cemetery building. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Cemetery Sexton Contract: Supervisor discusses changes made to the contract. This is a three-year contract. Motion by Pat Williams, supported by Kathy Young to approve the sexton contract. Roll call vote: Kelly McCune yea, Dan Cousar yea, Pat Williams yea, Kathy Young yea, Ernie Wogatzke yea. 5 yea, 0 nay motion carries.

Ordinances: The board was presented with "drafts" of ordinances. The treasurer questions why we were given drafts when she has final copies of the ordinances on her desk, ready to put on the website as soon as they are approved. Trustee Cousar suggests that the four ordinances be tabled until they can figure things out. Motion made by Dan Cousar, supported by Pat Williams to table the four Ordinances. All in favor motion carries.

Public Comment:

Regarding BOR per diem, meeting interruptions, budget amendments, inquiry on when the next election is, leadership, questions about possible illegal fence, question whether maintenance supervisor gets mileage or stipend for using his own vehicle, issues stemming from camping permit, using taxpayers' dollars to fix errors, violation of rights,

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

Adjourned: 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Young, clerk