



**Weesaw Township
New Troy, MI 49119**



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. (This meeting was called to replace of the January Regular Board Meeting, which was scheduled for 01/17/2024, and the meeting was postponed due to inclement weather.)

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those who were present.

Roll Call by Clerk Green: All Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt (arrived slightly late), Robert Warmbein

Berrien County Sheriffs' Dept.: Two Deputy Sheriffs who were present were Brandon Crosby and Cody Stanley (his cell phone number was provided). A report was provided by the Office of the Sheriff for the period 11/1 through 11/30/2023. There were 20 complaints worked, 1 ticket issued and 1 arrest. The township board was told that an ordinance had to be in place to get any vagrants out of the township park. There are hours of operation posted in the park – dawn to dusk. Deputy Stanley indicated that he would talk with the prosecutor about the posted time in the park.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to amend the agenda, to wit: increase spending from \$300 to \$500 for Fire Dept. without board approval, also purchase adding machine for Clerk and office equipment for Treasurer. Motion was supported with all ayes.
- **Public Comments;** Gary reiterated the rules of meetings. No public comments as that time.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief reported 5 calls last month – 1 fire alarm, 1 structure fire. Also truck checks, bloodborne pathogens.
- Nitz also requested up to \$2000 for 6 Class A uniform coats, which will cost about \$300 each. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to allow up to \$1500 for 6 dress coats and accessories to be kept in the Fire Dept until used for funerals. Roll call vote 4 ayes (King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers; 1 Nay – Green), Motion carried.
- Nitz also requested to purchase cold weather coats (to be paid ½ from the Fire Brigade (\$1400), and ½ from a grant the Fire Dept. had received (\$1400) and was written by Firefighter Jeff Starbuck. Motion by Green, supported by King, to approve these expenditures for the cold weather coats, Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Tackitt, Sommers, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.
- Nitz also requested purchase of updates for radios from Telerad in the amount of \$900. Motion by Tackitt, supported by Warmbein, roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.
- Warmbein is in contact with MTA in order to get an ordinance for the Fire Dept. Due to an unfortunate death, having to break into the house, and the Chief's subsequent call to Servpro to secure the home after the body was removed, motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Fire Dept.'s payment of \$411.47 for Servpro's securing the house and placing that amount on the next feasible tax bill for that property. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Tackitt, Sommers, Warmbein, Green), motion carried. This will be brought to the attention of Assessor Angela Story so she can see that the amount of \$411.47 will appear on the taxes to be reimbursed to the Fire Dept.
- Chief Nitz requested that the amount that the Fire Dept. is allowed to spend without approval from the Safety Committee be raised from \$300 to \$500. Motion by King, supported by Tackitt, to raise the spending limit without Safety Committee's approval to \$500 from \$300. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Warmbein Tackitt, Sommers, King), motion approved.

- **Robert Krauss Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator Report.** Krauss was not present.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund 22,254.99; Fire Dept. \$41,363.93; Ambulance \$2,638.65; Sewer \$6,536.53, for a grand total of \$72,794.10. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Green, Warmbein), motion carried.
- **Broadband Internet Update:** Mr. Pelletier was not in attendance.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Regular Board Minutes of December 20, 2023, Special Board Meetings of Thurs., January 11, and Friday, January 19, 2024, as presented.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tackitt read her written report.

At 8:27, Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting to 9:00 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Parks Committee Update:** On Tuesday, the Parks Committee will meet. Two bids received by Warmbein from Ravitron for non-rotating cameras in the Weesaw Park. The other rotating cameras will be removed from the Park and placed at the Township hall, or wherever needed. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to purchase \$2625 cameras (quote #000020) and have them installed in the Weesaw Park. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried
- **Planning Commission:** Mite Metz indicated that the board should be reviewing the timetable for the 5-year Plan.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Payment on the columbaria contract has been approved. Need to trim trees. Sommers requested bid from D.J. – not received yet.
- **Road Report:** Sommers indicated that the roads are breaking up already.
- **Website Committee:** Mike Metz indicated no report.
- **Drains Committee:** Payment due in February. No response on the New Troy drain.

New Business:

- Recommendation to Pay Down Sewer. Green indicated that the Board needs to review the sewer bank accounts and pay down a substantial amount to USDA in the near future.
- Review Clerk Assistant: Motion by Green, supported by Tackitt, to Hire Erika Burchum, as the Clerk Assistant. She has indicated her hours would be 10:00-2:00 Mon.-Thurs, and possibly Saturday 8:00-Noon. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.

Board of Review:

- Resolution 2024-01 Accepting Letters of Protest from Township Residents for 2024. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Art King to adopt Resolution 2024-01, Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- Resolution 2023-02 A Resolution to Provide for Alternate Starting Dates for 2024, Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- Resolution 2024-03 A Resolution Updating State Required Poverty Level Income Standards per Property Tax Poverty Exemption Guidelines for Tax Year 2024. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- Newspaper ad to publish 3x consecutively in February for Board of Review. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to publish the ad 3x consecutively in the newspaper. Roll call vote, all ayes, (Tackitt, Sommers, Warmbein, Green, King), motion carried. Due to the high cost of ads in the newspapers presently, Sommers indicated the first choice would be Berrien County Record, secondly, the Herald Palladium. Green will see if the Berrien County Record could publish it 3 consecutive weeks.

• **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** No report. Received an invoice for her past work and paid.
- **Other:** Printer for Tackitt; Warmbein indicated that we will need Windows 11 within a year; PC Consultants indicated up to \$1,000 for a computer with Windows 11 for the Clerk Assistant.

- **Public Comments:** Comments. Clerk Green asked the board members what the Township Board had expected to be the duties of the bookkeeper. Green indicated that she is a very nice lady and thus she has no qualms with her work, but she is doing a number of duties that the Clerk has done in the past, and are the Clerk's responsibilities, thus she was wondering what the board members had in mind when they hired the bookkeeper.

Adjournment: Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 9:24 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk