



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(Rescheduled February Meeting)
Wednesday, February 26, 2020

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

- **Roll Call by Clerk Green:** Members Present: Wanda Green, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein. Members absent: Art King
- **Berrien County Sheriff's Dept. Rep:** Representative was not present (possibly due to change in meeting date). Report received via Facsimile for the period of 12/01/2019-12/31/2019) with the following Weesaw results: 24 complaints, 7 tickets, 4 arrests.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the Agenda as presented.
- **Public Comments:** No public comments.
- **Tree Marketing Program Update:** Sommers indicated that he would give opportunity to Terry Hanover and Mike Metz to speak towards this issue; and explained that the Township Board had purchased the land east of the New Troy Cemetery, for additional cemetery land, to establish trails, recreational area, natural area, and for other purposes conducive to township needs/wants. Messrs. Hanover and Metz, along with other comments, indicated their concern with the marks on the trees as an indicator of their possible future harvesting. Sommers stated that 3 forestry service have been in to look at the trees. Possibly 3-4 acres or more will be laid out as cemetery land. It is the intention to bring in forester Brett Kuipers/Michigan Forestry Co., and another service to present ideas and thoughts at a special meeting in the future for residents to attend to make comments. Another forestry representative, Mr. Stuart Postema's (Lake Effect Property Services) specialty is trails and will present information regarding trails to specification (ADA compliant, safety issues). Messrs. Hanover and Metz spoke to not cutting the trees. Motion by Sommers, supported by Green, to table this issue until after April 15. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer:** Robert Krauss provided a verbal report on the issues on which he has been working. He provided photos of three properties. He has not heard anything back from our attorney regarding the debris and rubble on the Glendora property 2 parcels west of the Township Hall (owner lives nearby Grand Rapids area). The property was reportedly under judgment order to be cleaned up 02/01/2020. To date, there has been no activity on clean-up and he has had no response from our attorney. He explained we may have to have properties cleaned up and put the amounts on owners' tax bills. He will work with the Township Board as to how we want to proceed. We could also talk with our attorney about making these violations have more teeth, rather than just a minor \$50 fine to the violator.
- **Fire Dept Report:** Verbal report provided by Fire Chief Ted Nitz. 4 calls (power line down, 2 smoke investigations, barn fire.) Nitz indicated there was an officers' meeting to discuss the budget; truck checks. He will contact Comcast regarding the internet being down in the future. **Other:** Nitz indicated that Donnie Johnson II had purchased new LED lights (\$343.73), which, to his credit, were on sale, so indicated by Sommers, for 3 bays in the Fire Dept. area without authority. Nitz indicated that Johnson was reprimanded as he had not sought approval

beforehand, and told not to purchase without approval in the future. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve reimbursement in the amount of \$343.73 to Donnie Johnson II for the LED lights. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein, Green), motion carried. Fire Chief Nitz was told to delay any purchase of boots until after April 1 budget is finalized.

Request for Donnie Johnson II and several others to attend the Indianapolis FDIC in April. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to table this issue until the March meeting. Green to review payables to see how much this cost last year. Nitz requested that Sommers contact Milt Sluder regarding a problem with a drain over in the Fire Dept. parking area. Green requested of Fire Chief Nitz that the Election Inspectors be allowed to park their cars in the Fire Dept. parking area, so that the election workers don't take up the electors' parking area on March 10, for the Presidential Primary. Nitz said it was fine. Nitz also gave permission for the election workers to use the kitchen area for their meals. Nitz questioned a millage increase for the Fire Dept. Sommers said it must be justified.

- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the regular board meeting minutes of January 15, 2020, and the Special Board Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2020, and January 21, 2020. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Correspondence:** GRSD Sewer Authority – Sewer Service Contract to be signed by Sommers. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to table this contract until Sommers has an opportunity to speak with Mr. Histed at GRSD. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Krugger Lawton Audit: Motion by Tackitt, supported by Warmbein, to approve the engagement letter at \$8,850 (\$8,600 for audit, and \$250 for the F-65 preparation/submission), and other incidentals as laid out in the contract). Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, Sommers, Warmbein), motion carried.

- **Approve Accounts Payable Monthly Expenditures Report:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers to approve the Accounts Payable in the amounts of General Fund \$62,961.28; Fire Dept. \$6,761.16; Ambulance \$2,277.59; Sewer Fund \$8,762.46; for a Grand Total of \$80,762.49.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Bank balances provided. The winter tax season is wrapping up. Tackitt will be taking taxes on the last collection day, March 2, 2020, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- **B/Z Administrator Bob Kaufman Report:** Report provided.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** Mike Metz advised that the Master Plan is due for updates (required every 5 years), and funds should go into the budget to pay for this required update. Metz will speak with someone from the Southwest MI Planning Commission, who provided that service the last time it was updated. Marcy Hamilton was who we dealt with at that time.
- **Parks/Recreation:** The \$2500 grant monies were received for the surveillance cameras installed in the Weesaw Township Park. Metz indicated that the cycling is not working and they do not follow, and that the camera people need to be called since they are under warranty. Gary will call the company from whom we purchased the cameras for service.
- **8:30 p.m. – Time being up for the time-limited meeting:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Green, to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m.
- **Cemetery:** A proposal was received from Lawnscape Services LLC for the lawnmowing services this year. In addition to the prior amounts, they are offering an extra optional clean-up if necessary, for the New Troy Cemetery in the amount of \$350, which would be following the normal fall cleanup (\$750), only at the request of a board member. Motion by Warmbein,

supported by Sommers, to accept the terms of the new contract as laid out therein. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

- **Road Committee:** No meeting. As a note, Elm Valley is full of potholes. Probably nothing will be done until spring. Sommers will pass the problems along to Don Geisler for attention. Sommers indicated that the BCRC missed time schedule due to the inclement weather in the fall. The 6-year road plan was provided by Sommers.
- **Website Committee:** Mike Metz provided a historical report on how Weesaw Township got its name which was compiled by Jack Dodds to put onto the website. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to table this issue to next meeting, so several board members have time to read the report. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Drains Committee:** Sommers reported Drain Commissioner, Chris Quattrin report is indicated in the minutes, Sober Decker Drain pending. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to table this issue until the next regular board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **March Board of Review:** Information provided regarding the March Board of Review.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** Written info provided to board members.
- **Review Zoning Fees:** Kaufman indicated that Land Division prices has increased at the County level. Green provided a list of zoning fees we currently charge, and felt we should review our prices as they are extremely low and do not begin to cover the amount of time going into these zoning issues. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to table the zoning fees until we poll other townships to get an idea of what their charges are. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Hearing for 2-year, 1 mill Road millage:** Sommers explained that our attorney has recommended that we set a Public Hearing to hear comments from residents. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to set the public hearing for TU, March 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Green will send ad verbiage to the Berrien County Record for publication of the Public Hearing tomorrow. Roll call vote, all ayes, (Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **Approve Election Inspectors, etc:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the election inspectors, as follows: Walter Brody, Wanda Green (if needed), Vicki Hauch, Ruth Heidinger (Chair), Beverly Koch (Receiving Board), Jeannine Krieger, Lori Pastryk (Receiving Board), Ruby Schaffer.
- **Other:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to increase the election inspectors/ chairperson salaries by \$.50/hr. as follows: Election Inspectors \$10.50; Chair \$11.50; Approve purchase of sub sandwiches and water – up to \$50; Approve 2 receiving board members' stipend of \$15/ea.; and also approve training hours, hourly wage, and mileage (\$.575) training at the updated rates listed above. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** Sommers indicated the first budget workshop will be Wed., March 4, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk