



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 17, 2018

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** – All Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein.
- **Berrien County Sheriff's Dept. Rep.** Deputy Sheriff Ashley was present for the monthly update. Written report for Weesaw Township – 11/01/17-11/30/17: 22 complaints; 2 tickets issued; 3 arrests.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Sommers had prepared a list of 5 items to add to the Agenda: 1) Tree purchase; 2) Contact MIOSHA for Fire Dept. Safety Program; 3-4) Approval for Fire Dept. Grant writing & matching funds and equipment involved; 5) Heat savings by closing Fire Dept. stairs: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to add the listed items to the Agenda at apropos times during the meeting. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Hearing of Persons Present on Agenda Items:** None
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer:** Robert Krauss provided a written report and reported that he had met with Attorney Senica regarding complaints. He reported on several properties presently under complaint. Krauss will be required to hand-deliver a citation to Kentwood, MI (which is where the property owners live), per Attorney Senica. Atty. Senica also plans to go to the courts to ask for authority for Krauss to enforce several dangerous building complaints. Atty. Senica will contact the property owner at a burned structure on Wagner Rd., and issue citations for structures on Glendora Rd. and Lynn St. Krauss met with a property owner on Sandridge Rd. regarding violations and progress is being made. Attorney Senica will contact the appropriate official at State of Michigan to ascertain exactly who will inspect dangerous buildings for the Township.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief Tim Williams was not present. Assistant Fire Chief Daryl DeRossi presented the Fire Dept. report: 7 calls as follows: 1 Baroda mutual aid, 1 PI, 1 fire alarm, 1 controlled burn, 1 silo rescue, 2 utility/power line. 2 Meetings: Vehicle maintenance checks; SCBA familiarization training. Ted Nitz and Donnie Johnson II presented information and demonstrated comparison of old and new SCBA packs, which has been quoted as costing \$160k to replace. They have been in touch with Dale Stover (not in attendance) who is a writer of grants for firefighter equipment. He has agreed to write a grant to pursue a \$160k award to purchase equipment for 12 air packs, 24 bottles, and a fill station to fill the bottles. Mr. Stover free for writing the grant will be \$1,000. The township's matching funds would be 5% of any grant monies received (or \$8000 if a \$160k grant is awarded to the township). It is called an AFG Grant (Assistance to Firefighters Grant).

Article 74: In addition, Sommers brought up the firefighters participation and research regarding Article 74, which was recommended by Pam Code/MI Twps. Participating Plan in 2017.

Board permission to contact MIOSHA for help to get Fire Dept. safety program compliant: Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to contact MIOSHA to inspect the building for safety compliancy. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

AFG Grant: Motion by Tackitt, supported by Warmbein to proceed with pursuing the Fire Dept. AFG Grant for \$160k (with a 5% match for monies received towards purchasing the equipment), of up to \$8,000 and approve hiring Dale Stover to write the grant at \$1,000 fee to be charged after April 1, 2018. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.

Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to use any grant funds received from the AFG Grant program to purchase the personal protective equipment as described above for the Fire Dept. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve closing the ceiling of the staircase going to the second level in the Fire Dept. to prevent ongoing heat loss: Sommers and the Trustees provided details regarding this issue. Motion by Sommers, supported by Green, to approve spending up to \$200 to purchase 2" Styrofoam to install to control the heat loss up the staircase, with Warmbein and King providing the work. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of 12/20/2017, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Correspondence:**
 - Robert Warmbein is beginning somewhat earlier this year to plan for the American Legion's Memorial Day Parade in May. Motion by Green, supported by Tackitt, to approve the Fire Dept.'s participation in the parade. Voice vote, 4 ayes (Warmbein abstained due his responsibilities to the American Legion), motion carried.
- **Approve Accounts Payable Monthly Expenditures Report:** Accounts Payables were checked by Sommers and King earlier in the day. Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to approve the Accounts Payables report as presented in the following amounts: General Fund \$9,431.71; Fire Dept. \$3,845.16; Ambulance \$2,211.27; Sewer \$4,274.53; for a Grand Total of \$19,762.67. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green, Tackitt), motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt provided bank balances. She is in the winter tax collection season. The closing date for tax collection is February 28, 2018.
- **Bldg./Zoning Administrator:** Kaufman provided written report.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** No P.C. meeting in December.
- **Parks/Recreation & Cemetery Committees:** No parks/recreation written minutes provided. The American flags need replacing. Jack Dodds reported that 63 park surveys had been received thus far. Atty. Sara Senica said to go ahead and put the Mystery Land information in the parks plan that is in the process of being written. Sommers reported that he cannot find the surveyor stakes for part of the Cemetery survey. He will contact the surveyor for information.
- **Roads Committee Meeting:** No meeting. Sommers reported that new candidates to replace Managing Director Louis Csokasy were considered. Three finalists were chosen, with Jason Latham being hired. He was the regional planner for MDOT and other accomplishments mentioned. As of 10/1/17, he reports to the county. Louis Csokasy, Temporary Managing Director, will be leaving this position 45 days from date of Mr. Latham's hire.
- **Website Committee:** Metz reported no meeting held.
- **Drains Committee:** No minutes. Additional work on Blue Jay Drain. No feedback, as was promised, from Drain Commissioner, Christopher Quattrin. Green will cut the Drains-at-Large check for next month's meeting prior to February 21, 2018.
- **Parks Committee: Approve Tree Purchase for Mill Road Park:** A number of Blue Spruce trees have been purchased and planted in Mill Road Park last year, and the Parks Committee would like to continue with this plan of planting more Blue Spruce trees at \$45 each. The committee is requesting approval to purchase of 6 trees up to \$325, and dirt enhancer as necessary. Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to approve up to \$325 to purchase more Blue Spruce trees and dirt enhancer as needed for Mill Rd. Park. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, Warmbein, King, Sommers), motion carried.

New Business: None

Unfinished Business:

- **Brooks Architectural evaluation of the ventilation & ice build-up on Township building:**
The bid from Brooks Architectural was not received. Johnson Commercial & Industrial Insulation provided a bid for insulation. The ongoing issue was discussed. No action.
- **Board Members sign Letter to Old Band Building Owners:** Jack Dodds had penned a letter to the owners of the old band building trying to strike a deal with usage of the frontage in exchange for providing them a right-of-way to the driveway to their building. This letter was signed by all board members and hopefully will open up negotiations.
- **Approve Sewer Billing Penalty Verbiage (Ord. 13-01):** Proposed minor changes to verbiage for Sewer Ord., Amendment 2 (01/2018) late payment penalties were provided to the board members for approval. The verbiage was acquired from Galien Village whose attorney is Sara Senica also. Motion by King, supported by Green, to approve the minor change to section 9.05 Collection of Rates and Charges of Ordinance 13-01, Amendment 2. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Green), motion carried. The change in verbiage is italicized.
- **Signing of Berrien County Agreement between Weesaw and Berrien County regarding recycling.** The Agreement was received from Jill Adams/B.C. Parks Dept., and countersigned by Supervisor Gary Sommers on behalf of Weesaw Township. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the Recycling Agreement for 2018, whereas Berrien County will pay up to \$2300, and FONT and Weesaw Township to split \$800 (or \$400 each). Per S.E. Berrien County Landfill's notification, the price for dumping the bin will remain at \$100 per time. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers), motion carried.
- **Atty. Sara Senica:** Atty. Senica called Clerk Green and provided information relating to document and issues provided to her earlier. She has these issues on her calendar to have responses and updated documents ready for the February meeting discussion, including the 'Mystery Land". She has advised us to put this property in the Parks Plan which is in the process of being updated. Other discussion relative to other ongoing problem.
- **Fire Dept. Question:** Assistant Fire Chief DeRossi returned to the meeting and questioned billing which was split between Fire Dept. and General Fund. Sommers provided e-mail that was sent by vendor Fire Service, Inc in that "damage to the automatic auto eject fixture cannot occur if the shoreline is manually disconnected by hand . . ."
- **Public Comments:** David Mann was present in the audience and provided information as to his qualifications to run for State Representative of District 78, since present Representative Dave Pagel is term limited.

ADJOURN: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk