



Weesaw Township  
**New Troy, MI 49119**



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance recited by all present. Sommers requested that audience member (former Clerk Wanda Green) come to the table, whereupon he requested that she record the minutes of the meeting, Green indicated that such was Clerk Kelly Nitz' responsibility, whereupon Sommers informed Green that he had received a letter of resignation from the Clerk Kelly Nitz, which letter had been on the board table when he arrived this evening. Green agreed to take notes of the meeting.

**Roll Call:** 4 Members Present: Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein. (Kelly Nitz has rendered a resignation to Supervisor Sommers)

**Berrien County Sheriff Dept Report:** No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff. Transcriber of minutes Green, did not have a copy in her packet for review; however, Sommers verbally indicated that there were 23 complaints.

**Resignation of Clerk:** Sommers read Clerk Kelly Nitz' letter of resignation; to wit, that she had resigned as Clerk as of today at 4:00 p.m., October 18, 2023, and he also pointed out to audience member and Deputy Clerk Peg Cullen that as the deputy to Clerk Nitz, it would also eliminate her status as Deputy Clerk. After further discussion, and the fact that former Clerk Green is no longer certified for working in QVF (Qualified Voter File) due to her not having been allowed to have access to being able to sign onto QVF on a regular basis during her 6-month absence as Clerk, Sommers asked Peg Cullen if she could be available to run the upcoming Nov. 7 election. However, there was no affirmative response from her.

**Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Meeting rules once again reiterated by Supervisor Sommers. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to amend the agenda to add the following items listed below: Voice vote all ayes, motion carried:

- Open Snowplowing Sealed Bids to below Accounts Payable;
- Add 9-day voting agreement;
- Comcast renewal;
- PC Consultants invoice not appearing on Accounts Payables;
- Pipeline tax lawsuit;
- Plan for garbage collection (down to 1 company)

**9- Day Voting Plan: Berrien County Early Voting Plan:** Berrien County Clerk Sharon Tyler and her associate Elections Administrator Kathryn Klemesrud were present in the audience. Berrien County Clerk Tyler provided a handout and also indicated that she had spoken with Kelly Nitz earlier in the day, had told Nitz that she would be at the meeting this evening, and was surprised and concerned that Nitz had presented her resignation, due to the upcoming Fire Dept. election; and the fact that the Township Clerk needs to sign the Agreement by October 25, a notice of intent to join with other Berrien County governmental entities, namely, the "Berrien County Early Voting Plan" (9 days early voting). She also indicated that Lincoln Township Clerk Stacy Loar-Porter may be interested in helping out with the election and that she will reach out to Stacy to see if she could be available for the Fire Dept. millage election. In addition, County Clerk Sharon Tyler will contact the State of Michigan to see if the Supervisor may sign the 9-Day Voting Plan (in light of the fact that the Township does not have a Clerk available for signature). Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to go ahead with signing the Agreement with the terms of the Election Agreement as laid out. Roll call vote, all (4) ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt), motion carried. County Clerk Tyler also pointed out that the February Presidential Primary is scheduled for 2/27/2024. For now, Sommers will be the contact person.

**Berrien County Commissioner, Mac Elliott:** Provided Information for board members, who can have the newsletter sent to their home addresses, if addresses provided. The land regulations would take away local zoning.

**Attorney Candidate James McGovern of Rob Stevens & Allen.** Presented a brief overview of his services he could offer. Township represent and litigation. Grant Semonin bill for single attorney. Billing from single attorney. References: Supervisor Chandler/Sodus; Three Oaks; New Buffalo; Stevensville. Monthly billing; \$200/hr. Blight citations issued; order of compliance (30 days to clean up). Zoning Administrator takes to court, fees vary for citations.

- **Public Comments:** Hearing of Persons Present on Agenda Items – Question regarding disrepair of Park Playground Equipment. Will be brought up under Parks Committee.
- **Robert Krauss Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator Report.** Not present.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund \$43,670.86; Fire Dept. \$5,400.27; Ambulance \$2,638.65; Sewer \$13,662.05, for a Grand Total of \$65,371.83. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Tackitt, Sommers), motion carried.
- **Snowplowing Bids:** No bids received. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to table and schedule a meeting for Wednesday, 10/25/2023, at 10:00 a.m. for a decision on this and other items. Voice, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Broadband Internet Update:** Nothing new.
- **Fire Department Report:** provided by Chief Nitz. 2 calls – car and mutual aid for a structure fire. 2 meetings. Chief Nitz indicated that \$14,545 has been used for the electrical work in the Fire Dept. A total of \$22,000 was approved by the board.
- **At 8:30 p.m.** – motion by Sommers, supported by King, to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Fire Dept Report, cont'd:** Hein Electric has submitted their invoice for up to \$14,545. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve this amount. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein), motion carried.  
Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve purchase of \$2,000 for a used pump from Sister Lakes, and \$1,000 for the purchase of gloves and hoods with grant money for a total of all items of \$3,000 (per Agenda). Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, King, Sommers, Warmbein), motion carried.  
Request by Nitz to add Zander Acree as new cadet (Chief Nitz' grandson, who will be a 5<sup>th</sup> generation firefighter, and is 17 years old). Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to appoint Zander Acree to the Cadet Program. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the minutes of September, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Special Meeting Minutes:** No special meeting. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to remove special meeting minutes from agenda. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tackitt provided a verbal report and also read a comprehensive written report she had provided to the board. A columbaria report will be provided shortly. She will also leave one account at 5<sup>th</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Bank.
- **Parks Committee Update:** Paige Tackitt was concerned about the unsafe park equipment. Paige provided pictures. More cameras were also an item of discussion.
- **Planning Commission:** Minutes provided. Chair Metz advised the 5-year plan will be discussed at the meeting on Monday, at 7:00 p.m.

- **Cemetery Committee:** The radar scope will be conducted to see if there are graves where the columbaria will be placed. Bids are Diamond Concrete \$1,731 and GPRA/Grand Rapids \$1,425. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers to accept the bid of \$1,425 from GPRS. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers), motion carried. Rose Concrete/Baroda estimated concrete at \$17,400 at the 2 sites where the columbaria are to be placed. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve \$17,400 from Rose Concrete for the columbaria sites. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Tackitt, Warmbein), motion carried.
- **9:35 p.m.** – Motion by Sommers, supported by Tackitt, to extend meeting to 10:00 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Road Report:** Sommers indicated that 2 roads have been ground and graveled.
- **Website Committee:** Chair Metz requested that the committee enhance the parks page on the website. Jack Dodds, the other member of the Website Committee, was also able to be present this evening. Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to enhance the website page as requested. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Drains Committee:** A quarterly report was available.
- **New Business:** PC Consultants Service Agreement was provided in the amount of \$4,350.00. There are 5 hours left from our previous year's agreement. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Service Agreement in the amount of \$4,350 (option 1). Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, Warmbein, King), motion carried.
- A Special Meeting for perusal of Insurance Forms and other township items upon which might be acted (such as pipeline lawsuit) will be held on Wednesday, October 25, 2023.
- **Public Comments:** were heard.
- **10:10 p.m.:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, township resident  
(former Clerk & was requested by Supervisor Sommers to record minutes of the meeting)