



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP**  
**New Troy, MI 49119**



**Special Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, September 16, 2020

6:00 p.m. A Special Board Meeting had been called so that Patrick Sage could provide an audit report to the Township Board members. Board Members present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein. Absent: Michelle Tackitt.

Patrick Sage provided financial information to the board members present. He scanned through the audit report and presented highlights. Questions were asked and answered by Mr. Sage. He spoke as to the fund balance and other revenues, and gave a favorable opinion of the audit.

The Special Meeting was closed at 6:56 p.m. in order to allow for the Regular Board Meeting starting time.

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**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, September 16, 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, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein. Members absent: Michelle Tackitt
- **Berrien County Sheriff's Dept. Rep:** Representative was not present. Report indicated the following incidents during the period of 07/01-07/31/2020: 11 complaints, 0 tickets issued; 0 arrests.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to amend the Agenda as follows: Add to Agenda Patrick Sage/Kruggel-Lawton, auditors report before Accounts Payable; Galien River Sanitation District rate increase. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** None.
- **Patrick Sage/Kruggel Lawton, CPAs:** Patrick provided an overview of the FY 2019-2020 Audit, unmodified opinion to the attendees. He reported business as usual with no budget exceptions, obligations are being met, with a healthy fund balance.
- 7:05 p.m. Tackitt arrived. Patrick Sage left at 7:06 p.m.
- **Accounts Payables:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Accounts Payable Report as presented in the following amounts: General Fund \$15,631.92, Fire Dept. \$6,024.36; Ambulance \$2,207.42, Other: Lynn St. Water Loan Payoff 3,634.27; U.S.D.A. Phase II Sewer Note Payment: \$13,426.87; Sewer \$6,469.57, for a Grand Total of \$47,894.41. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Warmbein, King, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **Tree Marketing Program Update:** There was a Special Meeting held at the New Troy Park on Saturday, August 29, with only board members Sommers and Warmbein in attendance to provide tree marketing information to interested residents, in addition to the forester, Mr. Kuipers, that they had invited to provide information to audience members. A number of other people, both residents and non-residents, attended expressing disapproving comments

regarding the potential marketing of the trees. Letters were received from some of the attendees (not all of them residents), which Sommers provided to the board members. Sommers indicated no decisions have been made at this point; Warmbein felt we may need to cut a few large trees out to allow small trees to grow to maturity. Green provided information that the Board had adopted a Resolution, at the behest of Brett Witkowski, Berrien County Treasurer, upon the property's being made available for tax sale. This Resolution was required to be provided to Mr. Witkowski prior to our purchase of the property indicating that a portion of the land conducive to being utilized as cemetery land – along with other verbiage indicating other township uses for the land would be wetlands, park land and trails. Green felt that at some point in time the board would be obligated to use the 3-4 acres of land apropos for future cemetery usage due to the required adopted resolution. At the aforementioned Special Meeting, the forester, Mr. Kuipers, had provided other ideas as a forest-favorable compromise. Sommers explained that the board had not made any decisions at this point in time.

- **Question of Payment of time and mileage expenses to Mr. Kuipers:** Warmbein indicated he had not received a billing from Mr. Kuipers, located in Holland, MI, at this time, thus we will take this up at next month's meeting.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer:** Krauss was not present.
- **Fire Dept Report:** Verbal report provided by Fire Chief Ted Nitz, reported 1 trucks check meeting, 1 jaws Training; Calls: 3 fire alarms.
- **Approve 3 firefighters for Rapid Intervention Training (RIT):** Amanda Bronson, Travis Munday, and Donnie Johnson II – will Train firefighters how to get out of situations in which they are trapped; 2 days, about 16 hrs. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve \$900 (\$300/ea. firefighter) for training, plus mileage reimbursement to/from Berrien Springs. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **2 Proposed Firefighters hire:** Jonathon Klettke and Jason Wiedenman (background checks received by Green and provided to Safety Committee for review). Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to hire the two firefighters. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Tackitt, Warmbein, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **Proposed Halloween Party Discussion:** Fire Chief Nitz indicated they wanted to have a party that meets the governor's mandates: Costume judging, candy distribution, hayride, with social distancing, masks. Discussion only, no action taken.
- **Patriot Tour:** On October 13, 2020, Nitz requested that one fire truck be made available for several firefighters to be a part of the tour beginning in Galien, to Three Oaks, New Buffalo, Bridgman and back. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to support the parade by approving the use of one fire truck for the Patriot Tour. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Introduction of Jeff Starbuck:** Fire chief Nitz introduced Jeff Starbuck, representative of Dinges Fire Service, who resides in Bridgman, MI, and will be primary vendor for fire department goods.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of August 26, 2020, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Correspondence:**
- A former resident has initiated a legal action against the township regarding a grinder pump that was installed on her property in the past. The issue is in the hands of the township attorney at this point. Green has contacted the attorney in an attempt to get an explanation of the course she has communicated with this person regarding this issue.
- GRSD raised their rates up to \$5.91/M to the township. This was to be effective as of 01/2020; however, they just made the township aware of this, thus due to their error in not making us aware sooner, the rate takes effect as of this month.

#### **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

- **Treasurer's Report:** Bank balances provided. Summer tax season has ended. Taxes paid late 1% penalty will be added accumulating 1% per month late.
- **B/Z Administrator Bob Kaufman Report:** No report received.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** No meeting held this month.
  - We have had 2 persons come forward interested in filling the open position on the Planning Commission: Linda Kanoski and Kenneth Hallen. Both provided prior experience information. Ken requested to be on the Planning Commission quite some time ago. Sommers indicated that both are very good candidates. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to appoint Ken Hallen to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Parks/Recreation:** No report.
- **Cemetery:** No report.
  - **Cemetery Rules:** Since residential household trash and cemetery sod were being discarded in the cemetery trash barrels, it was requested that trash containers be removed from the Township Cemeteries, making it necessary to make a minor amendment to Addendum 2 "Weesaw Township Cemetery Rules" of the Cemetery Ordinance to Rule No. 9, copy available upon request. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to amend Rule 9 of the "Weesaw Township Cemetery Rules", effective immediately. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, King, Green, Warmbein, Sommers), motion carried. Rule #9 Now reads as follows: "Caretakers/family members of loved ones' cemetery plots, should remove old decorations and/or other refuse from cemetery by providing personal containers and/or trash bags. (Due to household trash being discarded, trash cans are no longer available in the cemetery.)"
- **Road Committee:** No meeting. Per Sommers, roads recently repaired are looking pretty good.
- **Website Committee:** No information available.
- **Drains:** Drain Maintenance Notice to Blue Jay 046 received. Cost unknown at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **CONTINUE TO TABLE: Phase 2 Sewer:** bring back up after elections have been completed.
- **TABLED: Letter to Chad Sperry re. delinquent sewer:** King will contact Olson Realtors regarding payment of this billing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** Received billing from Atty. Senica.
- **Sewer Customer Lori Wallace:** Requested discontinuation of sewer billing. Sommers will contact GRSD to see if they can let us know if her residence is hooked up to the sewer line.
- **CONTINUE TABLE: Continue to Table the Review/Update Zoning Fees:** Table issue until at least latter part of this year.
- **Public Comments:** Questions concerning what are the tree marketing plans from Linda Kanoski. It was indicated that the township was offered \$16K for approx. 110 trees. At 8:29, motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Other Public Comments:** Complaint regarding repeated discharge of firearms – called Sheriff 6 times. Can we get an ordinance to stop this nuisance? Other complaints: Squealing tires, reckless driving, trash and derelict cars.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wanda Green, Clerk