



**Weesaw Township  
New Troy, MI 49119**



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, February 21, 2024**

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m.

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, Robert Warmbein

**Berrien County Sheriff's Dept.:** No deputies were present. A Report was provided via fax by the Office of the Sheriff: for the period 12/01-12/31/2023. There were 28 complaints worked, 0 ticket issued and 2 arrests.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** King recommended that board members speak 3 minutes only. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, accept the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. (Sommers reiterated the rules of the meeting as designated each Regular Board Meeting of the past – do not interrupt, 3 minutes only, raise hand to speak.)
- **Public Comments;** No public comments as that time.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer Report:** Robert indicated that he is working on a number of zoning applications, e.g., address request, screen (Cleveland and Warren Woods Rd., complaints. The tent in the Weesaw Park has been condemned and the litter can be disposed.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund \$27,929.40; Fire Dept. \$6,944.73; Ambulance \$2,638.65; Sewer \$7,342.73, for a grand total of \$44,855.51. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Warmbein, King, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **Suggested Meeting Modification:** King pointed out that meetings are too long, and as a board member, one should not take more than 5 minutes to speak during meetings going forward. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to limit speaking time to 5 minutes henceforth. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief Nitz reported 3 calls last month.
  1. Maintenance Officer's pay distribution should be \$190.00 @ \$16/hr. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve this distribution. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
  2. Hire John Doone, as new firefighter: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to approve John Doone's hire as firefighter, pending background check, voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
  3. Open account with Nye Uniform/Grand Rapids: Sommers will sign the form.
  4. Pick-up Repair (grass rig): was damaged by one of the firefighters. The cost for the repair is \$928.34. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to pay the repair's billing. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Green, Tackitt, Warmbein, King), motion carried.
  5. \$1400 for PS Traxs for Fire Dept. (web-based paperwork). The fee is \$1400 this year, but is less than \$1000 next year – truck checks and so forth will be documented/recordkeeping. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to approve \$1400 for this year and \$1000 as indicated for the following year.

- **Broadband Internet Update:** Sommers reported that the board approved the simple contract; however, it has now been indicated that the long contract has to be used. He will see that the new long contract is completed and returned.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Regular Board Minutes of January 24, 2024, and Special Board Meeting/Budget Workshop Minutes of Monday 5, 2024. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. (Friday, February 9, 2024, will be provided next month).

**Other Township Reports**

- **Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Tackitt read her written report. There are presently only 3 accounts left at 5/3 Bank, as the others have been transferred to Huntington Bank.
- It was indicated that only Sommers (Supervisor) is permitted to sign contracts on behalf of the township, without a special dispensation from the board members should the Supervisor not be available. It was suggested that Sommers should look into this breach of protocol.
- **Parks Committee Update:** Sommers reported on the park including the pavilion – fire pit, concrete is in final stages. He will call DNR to guarantee completion by the first of August. Cameras to be installed.
- **Planning Commission:** Green neglected to provide minutes, as Mike Metz had furnished them. She will provide them with next month’s minutes.
- **Cemetery Committee:** A stone was damaged belonging to a resident. The stone has been set back up; however, is damaged. Our insurance company (Burnham & Flower) indicated that he should get in touch with his homeowner’s insurance for recompense.
- **Road Report:** Sommers indicated that some roads are being graded, prime and double seal-coated.
- **Website Committee:** Mike Metz indicated that information regarding the columbaria will be placed on the website – also pictures will be forthcoming, and that prices of columbaria niches will have to be added to the cemetery ordinance.
- **Drains Committee:** Payment is due in February. Still no positive response on the New Troy drain (State Street). Per Mrs. Vines it still has cones and barrel, 8-ft. deep hole, underground hole. Another resident now has a hole. Warmbein suggested that township officials should chat with whomever is responsible for this debacle – whether Drain Comm. or Road Dept.

**New Business:**

1. Sommers indicated that Berrien County Trails Plan Award presented to Weesaw Township for 2023. Mike Metz indicated that he and Jack Dodds provided suggestions to them about the trails.
2. Mowing Bid for 2024 growing season for township properties & tree trimming bid for New Troy Cemetery. These were tabled, due to only one bid received, and the board wanted at least two bids.
3. Tree Trimming bid – again one bid only, table for another bid.

**At 8:24:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Tackitt, to extend meeting to 8:45. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

**Resolutions to Adopt for Proposed Salary Increases for Township Board of Trustee Members:**

4. Resolution 2024-05A Supervisor: \$1000 increase. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to adopt Resolution 2024-05A, roll call vote, 2 ayes, (Warmbein, Green); 2 nays (King, Tackitt), Sommers abstained – motion failed.  
Resolution 2024-05B Treasurer, \$2000 increase. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to adopt Resolution 2024-05B, roll call vote, 2 ayes (Warmbein, Sommers), 2 nays (King, Green), Tackitt abstained – motion failed. This indicated a stalemate, and after additional discussion of board members salary increases, Green suggested that the board let the residents present at the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday, March 30, 1:00 p.m. make this decision as to whether or not they want the board members to have increases this year. She also indicated that if there are to be any increases at all, the resolutions had to be adopted, and to let whomever is present at our Annual Meeting have the final say. At that time, motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to adopt all 4 resolutions in a group, as follows:
  - 2024-05A Supervisor \$1000 increase;
  - 2024-05B Treasurer \$2000 increase;
  - 2024-05C Clerk \$1000 increase;
  - 2024-05D Trustees \$ 500 increase per each Trustee (2)

- Roll call vote, 3 ayes (Green, Sommers, Warmbein), 2 nays (Tackitt, King), motion carried.
5. Resolution 2024-06 Internet Agreement with Friends of New Troy (Attorney Senica provided minor revisions). Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to adopt Resolution 2024-06. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, King Sommers, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.
  6. Green requested that we Purchase/Locate Scanner for Elections; and also requested that we add Christina Sokarda to list of election inspectors for February Election. Motion to purchase a scanner (up to \$60) and add Christina Sokarda to list of election inspectors. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Green, Tackitt, Sommers, King), motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** The MEC contract is approved.
- **Public Comments:** Many comments heard throughout the meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green  
Clerk