



**Weesaw Township
New Troy, MI 49119**



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 20, 2023**

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the board members and audience.

Roll Call by Clerk Green: All Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein

Berrien County Sheriff Dept.: Deputy Sheriffs R. Hahn and C. Landon were present to provide the activities report for the Township during the period of 10/01-10/23/2023 to wit: 16 complaints, 2 tickets issued, 0 arrests. They answered questions and mentioned that there has been a rash of break-in ongoing in Berrien County. Sommers informed them that the Township has experienced vandalism in the Weesaw and Mill Road parks. Also, Sommers informed the attending sheriffs that there is someone living in a tent in the park. The Township should adopt an ordinance to restrict vagrants.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to set the agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Reiteration of Rules for the Meeting by Supervisor Sommers.**
- **Public Comments/Hearing of Persons Present on Agenda Items:** None
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer Report:** Krauss reported indicated zoning and enforcement for the past month. He indicated he would look into verbiage for an ordinance. Sommers had spoken with Krauss earlier regarding his resignation last month, and it was indicated by Krauss that he would rescind his last month's resignations and stay on until a replacement is found. He also indicated he would look into the ordinances in the Clerk's office to see if there is anything in place that would be apropos for enforcement. Also relating to enforcement, Sommers related that Atty. Jessica Fette has indicated that she will not represent Weesaw Township for enforcement, as she is too busy at this time. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to accept Enforcement Officer Krauss' rescission of his resignation at the November 15, 2023, meeting. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Burnham & Flower Insurance Weesaw Update:** After a number of calls to Burnham & Flower, today they provided a breakdown of the insurance premiums as follows: General Fund \$5,897; Fire Dept. \$19,572; Cemetery \$263; Sewer \$773, for a total of \$26,505, and Green indicated she will cut the checks after the meeting to get them to B&F as soon as possible. These amounts will be indicated on the January 2024 payables.

- **Approve Accounts Payables:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve payables as follows: General Fund #104,675.95; Fire Dept. \$7,676.09; Ambulance \$2,638.65; Sewer \$13,057.57 (2 mos.); Cemetery Cost Center \$17,400.00. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

- **Broadband Internet Update & Broadband MEC Agreement:** James Pelletier reported on Broadband. Sommers indicated there is an agreement which we have to sign. Sommers indicated that he talked with Jennifer Gilian and received a "Simple Agreement". It was also indicated that one could go online to TeamMidwest.com to see if eligible to have broadband. It was indicated that Robin Grant indicated that 80% of residences would be eligible. Motion by Tackitt, supported by Sommers, to sign the Simple Agreement with MEC agreeing to sign onto contract and eventually pay the \$30,000, approve Attorney Senica's pending favorable opinion of the contract. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Green, Sommers), motion carried.

- **Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief Ted Nitz, reported 6 calls. Also, truck checks, radio etiquette training. Two purchases requested: 4 Fire Trucks Serviced @ \$500 each or \$2,000 total. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve servicing of the 4 fire trucks @ \$500 each for \$2,000 total. Roll call vote, all ayes, (Sommers, King, Warmbein, Green, Tackitt), motion carried **AND** 4 pieces (100-ft ea.) of new fire hose @ \$350/link or \$1400 total). Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to purchase the fire hose as indicated. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, Warmbein, King, Sommers), motion carried. Chief Nitz indicated that the funds for the fire hose to come from grant monies.
- King indicated that the electric panels should be marked in the Fire Electrical box.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, November 15, 2023, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tackitt read her report, she opened a CD at Honor Credit Union.
- **8:31:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend meeting to 9:00 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Parks Committee Update:** The Township received written notification from Victoria of the Friends of New Troy (FONT) . . . FONT Granting Weesaw Township Internet Assess". Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to accept FONT's offer to grant internet access to Weesaw Township for the cameras in the park with the stipulations documented therein. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to purchase from Ravitron to make the system work, per estimate #2023172, 11/29/23, in the amount of \$359.00. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, King), motion carried. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to replace the cameras with new cameras at up to \$1200 total. Voice vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **Planning Commission:** Minutes provided. The 5-Year Plan has been provided to the township board members; it is necessary to notify the townships bordering Weesaw Township. Warmbein indicated he will send the 5-Year Plan via email to contiguous townships, and the County, as required.
- **Cemetery Committee:** The work has been completed to get footings for the columbaria. Trees need to be trimmed on row 1. Call D.J. to see if he can do the trimming.
- **Road Report:** Sommers reported that the Berrien County Road Dept. (BCRD) would like to have the 2024 3-Year Plan signed by January 2, 2024 – 3-year plan consists of sealcoat and 3rd coat. The BCRD portion is \$47,000. In addition, resident Cullen was upset that a surveyor damaged her property with his vehicle. Sommers indicated that he will speak with BCRC about this concern.
- **Website Committee:** Mike Metz indicated he and Jack are updating the Parks and Cemetery pages.
- **Drains Committee:** State Street Drain, Warmbein indicated they are not moving much on this issue. A call back had been promised and it hasn't happened yet.
- **At 9:15:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Street Light Resolution 2023-19:** Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to adopt Resolution 2023-19 Street Light Resolution. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein, Green), motion carried. Resolution adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

- **Public Comments:** None
- **Adjournment:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 9:19 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk