



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, January 19, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: **by Clerk Wanda Green:** **Board Members Present:** Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein; **Members Absent:** Michelle Tackitt

Berrien County Sheriff's Department Representative Report: Report provided by Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Sheriff not in attendance. Weesaw Township Activity for 11/01/2021-11/20/2021: Complaints 23, Tickets issued 1, Arrests: 1.

Set/Amend Agenda Items: Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Public Comments: None.

Approve Accounts Payables Monthly Expenditures Report: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, their having gone over the payables earlier in the day, to approve the payables as presented: General fund \$9,292.80, Fire Dept. \$10,636.90, Ambulance \$2,416.34; Sewer \$3,516.93, for a Grand Total of \$25,862.97. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Sommers, Warmbein, King – Tackitt, not present), motion carried.

Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer: Krauss provided both a written and a verbal explanation of the written report. Krauss indicated that Berrien County now supplies house numbers.

7:05 p.m. – Tackitt arrived.

Krauss explained what was going on with the California Rd. property that has been under code enforcement for some time, with tickets being issued in the past. He indicated that we need to have someone clean up the property, and he is to meet with a contractor who will provide a clean-up amount for the property. They hope to get started within the next 14 days with the clean-up. Kayla Wolford was present and indicated that she was the owner of the property on California Rd. of which was being discussed. Robert Warmbein indicated that he found someone who cleans properties for the Wolfords. Kayla indicated that they want to also remove the old trailer on the rear property. Krauss provided Kayla with copies of the court orders. Sommers indicated that going forward one should get fined if no zoning application is completed and provided for any property projects.

Regarding other information, Bank of America is the owner of the burned-out property. We cannot take them to court. They are reaching out to find out who tears down houses.

Regarding an ongoing hardship case, where the owner is not responding. Mail the letter with Krauss' signature and indicate the recipient will receive a citation. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to send the hardship case letter with changes as indicated. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Again, a penalty was suggested for not having a zoning application. Tabled, will address this issue at a future meeting.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Ted Nitz reported 1 structure/rekindle fire calls, 1 fire alarm, 2 utility calls. Truck checks; no training this month.

Requested purchases: Remove shop lights from purchases. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to purchase the 2 spanner wrenches at \$200. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Warmbein, King, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

Approve Previous Minutes: Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the minutes of December 15, 2021. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Other Township Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Taxes are continuing to be collected.

Clerk's Announcement: Clerk Green has indicated that, due to health issues, she needs to resign in the near future as soon as someone indicates a willingness to take over as Clerk. Also, Peg Cullen is interested in working as Receptionist/Sewer Clerk, 1 day per week. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to hire Peg Cullen, as needed for \$12.00/hr. (customary background check required) Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried. It was suggested that the Clerk place an ad in the Harbor Country News for the Clerk's position – must be township resident.

Planning Commission: The 5-year plan needs to be looked at.

Zoning Board of Review: Motion by Gary, supported by Tackitt, to re-up the Zoning Board of Appeals with the following members: Dale Brueck, Robert Warmbein, Craig Strauss, Melodie Culverhouse, Mike Metz for a one-year term. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Metz indicated that a mailing to residents within the required range should be a posting in the Harbor Country newspaper. Motion by Sommers, supported by Tackitt, to post in the newspaper and notify required residents for up to \$250. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, King, Green), motion carried.

Cemetery Committee: Seeder & Company cleaned and removed the cemetery of leaves at a cost of \$2600.

Roads Committee: Sommers notified Adri Boone/Berrien County Road Dept. that we are using money for roads. He also indicated that Elm Valley Rd., Larson Road require work. Green also indicated that the recent portion of Wagner Rd. has some potholes that need repair.

Website Committee: Metz indicated that November and December minutes need to be forwarded to the committee for posting. Green will do so.

Parks Committee: None – January 4 meeting. It was reported that the 5-year parks plan was accepted and approved by the DNR.

New Business: COVID-19 Economic Relief Funds \$298,242. Consider Township-wide Broadband internet with funding received. Sommers will get information from Teri Freehling about broadband.

Unfinished Business: Attorney Sara Senica update – Nothing received.

8:30:, motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting to 8:45 p.m., voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to adopt the following Board of Review resolutions, roll call vote, all ayes, (Warmbein, Sommers, King, Tackitt, Green), motion carried:

Resolution 2022-01 Board of Review Resolutions: Resolution 2022-01 Accepting Letters of Protest from Township Residents for March 2022 Board of Review
Resolution 2022-02 Resolution to Provide for Alternate Starting Dates for 2022 Board of Review

Resolution 2022-03 Resolution Updating State Required Poverty Level Income Standards per Property Tax Poverty Exemption Guidelines for Tax Year 2022

Lawnmowing Bids: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, approve an ad for lawnmowing bids in the Harbor Country News. 2 times – Gary will get the ad back to Green for publishing.

Sara Senica provided her billing in the amount of \$550. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to cut a check for this billing, roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein), motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn: Motion by Sommers, supported by Green, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 16, 2022**



CALL TO ORDER: Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: **by Clerk Wanda Green:** **Board Members Present:** Wanda Green, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein; **Members Absent:** Art King, Michelle Tackitt

Berrien County Sheriff's Department Representative Report: Report provided by Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Sheriff not in attendance. Weesaw Township Activity for 12/01/21-12/31/21: Complaints 20, Tickets issued 1, Arrests: 0.

Set/Amend Agenda Items: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Public Comments: No comments expressed.

Approve Accounts Payables Monthly Expenditures Report: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to approve the payables as presented: General fund \$53,701.32 (includes \$45,500.44 for Berrien County Drains—Blue Jay & At Large), Fire Dept. \$3,946.34, Ambulance \$2,416.34; Roads Cost Center 37,658.39(for rebuilding township roads); Sewer \$3,973.74, for a Grand Total of \$101,696.13. Roll call vote, 3 ayes (Green, Sommers, Warmbein – King, Tackitt, not present), motion carried.

Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator: Krauss provided a verbal report consisting of building projects approved, request to provide IBM Construction paperwork for the Harrington barn project. Requested that any address requests be made to Robert

Krauss. He will provide sewer billing address for former Backus property to Clerk; Green to forward letter to the Hardship resident as written.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Ted Nitz reported 2 P.I. accidents, 1 CO Alarm, 1 Mutual Aid. Meetings: Truck Checks, Safety Meeting – 800 mhz radio update and command board. Requested purchases: 2 Ice Rescue Suits @ \$1600 for 2 suits); Request to attend FDIC show in Indianapolis @ \$600 (Ted, Travis, Amanda). Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve \$2,200 for both the ice rescue suits, and attendance (3) at the FDIC show in Indy. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.

Approve Previous Minutes: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the minutes of January 19, 2022 as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Correspondence: No Correspondence to bring before the board.

Other Township Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer absent, provided bank balances as of December 31, 2021, and January 31, 2022.

Clerk's Announcement: Clerk Green has indicated that, due to health issues, she expects to resign in the near future. Three people have indicated interest in the position, with only 1 résumé having been received. The expiration date and time was at 4:00 p.m., February 16, 2022.

Due to change in Weesaw Township's district number, new Voter ID Cards are required to be sent out to all voters, approx. 1700+ voters. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve up to \$1200 to send out the Voter I.D. Cards to all registered voters. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

Planning Commission, ZBA Reappointments: Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to reappoint the various Zoning/Board of Review, ZBA members as listed below. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Member	Term Expiration
Calvin Gnodtke	12/2024
Roger Kugler	12/2023
Mike Metz	12/2022
Wanda Green (Board Rep)	11/2024
Ken Hallen	12/2024

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Member	Term Expiration
Mike Metz (P.C. Rep.)	04/2025
Melodie Culverhouse	04/2023
Craig Strauss (at-Large)	04/2023
Robert Warmbein (Board Rep)	04/2024
Dale Brueck (at-Large)	04/2025

Cemetery Committee: The electric wires have been cut in the Glendora Cemetery and the New Troy Cemetery wire from the meter to the pole is loose and deteriorated and needs relacing. Sommers will contact Steven Hein, an electrician in the township to have him give a price to repair.

Website Committee: Metz indicated that we need to post Robert Krauss' phone number and email on the website as Zoning Administrator and Code Enforcement Officer. Green will provide information to the Website Committee, per Metz' request.

Drains Committee: Sommers is going to call Chris Quattrin regarding the township drains.

Parks Committee: A meeting is scheduled to discuss the pavilion.

Broadband Internet: Sommers talked with Teri Freehling, who is spearheading this matter. She provided an emailed response.

At 8:30, motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting for 15 minutes. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

New Business: The board approved the following resolutions and millages for the August election:

Road Millage – Resolution 2022-04 and Ballot Language – Road Millage for 2 yrs., 1 mill/yr.

Fire Protection – Resolution 2022-05 and Ballot Language – Fire millage for 4 year, 1 mill/yr.

Ambulance – Resolution 2022-06 and Ballot Language – Ambulance millage for 2 yrs., at .35/yr

Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the three millage resolutions and the ballot language for each as provided by Clerk Green. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein Sommers, Green), motions for the millages and ballot language carried.

Unfinished Business:

Attorney Sara Senica: No update, although she did provide ballot language for the ambulance millage.

Public Comments: None. Comments were voiced throughout the meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 16, 2022**



CALL TO ORDER: Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: by Clerk Wanda Green: Board Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein; members absent: None

Berrien County Sheriff's Department Representative Report: Report provided by Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Sheriff not in attendance. Weesaw Township Activity Report for 01/01/22-01/31/2022: Complaints 24, Tickets issued 1, Arrests: 0.

Set/Amend Agenda Items: Green asked to have the Board Meeting schedule of FY 2022-23 approved. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to approve the Agenda with the addition of the Board Meetings schedule. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Public Comments: Question regarding status of Clerk's position. That subject is on the agenda later in the meeting and Green will address it at that time.

Approve Accounts Payables Monthly Expenditures Report: Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to approve the payables as presented: General fund \$13,608.17; Fire Dept. \$6,138.14, Ambulance \$2,513.00; Sewer \$3,590.60, Roads Rebuild \$37,658.39, for a Grand Total of \$63,553.30. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Tackitt, Warmbein, King), motion carried.

Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator: Krauss provided a written and oral report consisting of the zoning/enforcement activity during the past month.

Fire Department Report: Fire Chief Ted Nitz reported there were 2 items to address on the recent fire dept. audit. He requested boots and training for firefighter – Travis Munday. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to purchase the boots @ \$350 and instructor training @ \$250. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers, King, Green), motion carried.

Request to hire new fireman Caleb Inman, pending background check. Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to hire Caleb Inman, pending a background check. Voice, vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Nitz also reported that 2 sets of gear are expiring. He can get part of what is needed at a ½ off sale for \$8,000. Motion by Green, supported by Tackitt, to purchase 4 pants, and 1 coat at the ½ off price sale of \$8000, from this year's budget. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, Sommers, King, Green), motion carried. Nitz to provide invoice to Green for payment promptly. Nitz reported that the AFG Grant for radios for our department is \$1800 for 6 radios, 6 mics, with grant money. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to purchase the 6 radios for up to \$1800 from the grant funds from the gas company grant written by Green. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Tackitt reported that the property tax collection is over.

(Inadvertently Skipped Agenda Item)

Approve Previous Meetings Minutes:

Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the following minutes: Regular Board Meeting Minutes of Wednesday, February 16, 2022, and Special Board Meeting Minutes of WE, February 23, 2022; TU, March 1, 2022; and TU, March 8, 2022 as provided. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Other Township Reports:

Clerk's Announcement: Clerk Green reported that she had talked with a lady interested in assuming the Clerk's position, and this lady is scheduled to start the training process with Green as her Deputy Clerk next week. She told Prof. Swords that he should tell his mom to provide a résumé if she is interested in the position and if this person did not work out, she would call Sue Swords. He said he would tell her.

Planning Commission: The minutes were not provided. Green will see that they get to the board members.

Cemetery Committee: Sommers reported that Warmbein and Skip Green had cleaning up some of the debris and limbs in the cemeteries and brought the limbs, etc. to his house for future burning. Warmbein indicated that 2 signs in the New Troy Cemetery need replacing. Sommers will request that Jack Dodds get a bid for the signs from Dornbos.

Roads Update: Sommers reported there is break-up on a number of roads, such as Wagner Rd., Carpenter Road, Kaiser Rd.; Larson Road needs grading, Elm Valley needs work also.

Website: Metz reported that the committee is updating the website, by adding the Zoning Application.

Drains: Drain Maintenance notice received for Blue Jay Drain.

Parks Committee: Advertise the park. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to get signs for the park in the amount of \$225.45 for four signs to indicate where the park is located to help in the process of getting the grant from DNR. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Tackitt, Green, Warmbein, Sommers), motion carried. Jack Dodds to order from Dornbos.

Adopt Resolution No. 2022-07 Recreation Passport Grant Program, Resolution of Authorization Weesaw Township Match Without Donated Funds. Motion by Robert Warmbein, supported by Art King, to adopt Resolution No. 2022-07 Resolution of Authorization, Weesaw Township Match without Donated Funds. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

The township has received a number of letters of support from local residents and recently from Berrien County for our Weesaw DNR Application.

New Business: Blacktop Bid: The township received bids from Shembarger for this project. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to table this bid to attempt to get an additional bid.

Schedule of Meetings: Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to change the August meeting date to August 24. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Attorney Sara Senica: No update.

Public Comments: Resident Nate Swords is willing to volunteer. He provided his phone number, which the Clerk has recorded.

Adjourn: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**

**Special Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 30, 2022**



CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Sommers at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK GREEN: Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein; Members Absent: Michelle Tackitt

Fire Dept Info: Green stated that she had searched the past Fire Dept. bank account records, and that on 08/31/09, \$12,873.35 was transferred from the Fire Truck bank account to the Special Fire Account, per the Auditor's instructions. These funds are restricted for a future Fire Truck purchase.

Set/Amend Agenda Items: Could not amend agenda items, due to lack of full board in attendance.

Adopt Resolution 2022-08 General Appropriations Act, along with related Addendum (Fund Equity Draws;

Adopt FY-2022-23 Budgets (with knowledge that 2021-22 Actuals to be updated upon final payables for 2022): After discussion, and agreement that these two agenda items should be voted together, due to their being connected. Further discussion of projects in upcoming year entailed the following subject matter:

Road Repair discussion: Elm Valley Road, Wagner Road, Log Cabin and other. Also, discussion of heavy truck traffic on Pardee Road even though there is a no-thru trucks sign. It was indicated that GPS indicates this is a primary road, which it is not. Discussion regarding the COVID monies the township has received and another equal payment scheduled as upcoming in November. It was decided to use the first \$99,000 this year for up to 5 miles of a third coat on roads that we are able to do so and bridges on secondary roads only; and when the second \$99,000 comes in later this year, to use it for a mile of road or bridges on secondary roads, thus the funds should be put in the budget as both income and expense.

Other remarks, and other budget issues addressed, public comments were made, along with several changes to the budget amounts Green will make the changes and provide the final budget, General Appropriations Addendum to the board members.

Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to approve the 2022-23 General Appropriations Act, Resolution 2022-08, and its accompanying Addendum, Fund Equity Transfers to Various Township Budgets (which was amended during meeting), as well as approve the Budgets with the changes that had been made, with the full knowledge that the 2021-22 Actuals will be updated when final checks are cut for the 2021-22 fiscal year with all modifications and updates discussed and made today Roll call vote, all ayes, (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

Public Comments: Throughout the meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**



**Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Sommers at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK GREEN: Members Present: Wanda Green, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein; Members Absent: Art King.

There were two items on the Agenda:

Increase Deputy Clerk’s Salary: Green explained that she had talked with other township Clerks and she feel that our Deputy Clerk’s wages are on the lower end, and would like to increase the amount to \$14.00 per hour. Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to increase the Deputy Clerk’s hourly wage to \$14.00 per hour. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

Roads in Glendora: Sommers explained that he had had a telephone call from a gentlemen who works for Alex (who owns a number of properties in the Glendora area), and he was complaining about the break-up and some water pooling at the “horseshoe” roads in Glendora. Sommers explained to the gentleman that the County would fill the potholes in the spring (as this gentleman had already reported the issue to someone at the County Road Dept.), but that the township has a roads plan and those roads were not on the plan for rebuilding this year.

Public Comments: There were several public comments unrelated to the agenda items, such as Sommers to call Terry Freehling regarding her coming to a meeting related to present Broadband internet; Mike Metz’s explanation relating to Kanoski & Cross ZBA issue; 20% coupon Jack Dodds has which could be used towards park bench. No action on any of these comments.

Adjourn: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to adjourn at 10:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**



**Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Sommers at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK GREEN: Members Present: Wanda Green, Gary Sommers, Art King
Members Absent: Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein.

Revised Ambulance Millage: An email had come through from Berrien County that the ambulance millage language that the Township submitted for the August meeting needed to be tweaked, Green contacted our Attorney who had provided the language, and she made minor changes to the language.

The new language was thoroughly read, as compared to the old language which was provided by Green (Attorney Senica had provided a copy with the changes indicated in yellow type), and approved by the board member present as amended. Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to adopt the revised ambulance millage as amended. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

Public Comments: There were no audience members present, thus no public comments.

Adjourn: Motion by Green, supported by King, to adjourn at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 20, 2022



Special Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Gary Sommers.

The special meeting had been called so that Berrien County Commissioner, District 8, Teri Freehling could provide information and address the Township Board and interested participants who had shown interest about Broadband internet presentation. Mrs. Freehling provided a very comprehensive, understandable presentation of the project and what is entailed. She began by presenting various facts concerning speed test etc., and further stated that Weesaw Township is 82-83% unserved with high-speed internet. Comcast is basically in New Troy and vicinity, and it is substantially all that is served. It seems that Berrien County has been awarded \$6 million dollars to serve the entire county, with 22 townships, and other entities within the county, which makes the project much leaner. She informed that fiber is \$50,000 per mile. She indicated that the township board needs to provide a resolution of support to the SW MI Planning Commission. She also indicated that letters of support from residents should be provided to the township. There was a question/answer period, and Mrs. Freehling answered questions that were posed to her. It was a very informative, well-organized presentation. Good job to Mrs. Freehling, and others who asked questions and made statements.

The application is due by 7/01/2022.

After questions, the special meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 20, 2022

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:15 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance 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 Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: 01/02/2022-02/28/2022: Activity within the Township: 20 Complaints, 0 tickets, 1 arrest

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to amend the Agenda with additions of the following: Appoint a Broadband Committee after Road Committee agenda item; also add the following to the Parks agenda item: Engineering, purchase 4x4x8 posts, repair bridge in parks area. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** Resident Ken Hallen asked about roads plan. Robert Krauss mentioned the premature failure of roads, blacktop needing repair on Wagner Rd.
- **Accounts Payables Report:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers to accept the Accounts Payables report as presented as follows: General Fund \$13,805,40; Fire Dept. \$7,489.82; Ambulance \$3,113.00; Sewer \$5,280.86, for a total of \$29,689.08.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer:** Regarding the burned-out house on California Rd. Krauss indicated that there is nobody to clean up the property. Contact Robert if we know of anyone who will clean up the mess. Parking on tree lawn: Nothing we can do about it.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** A verbal was provided by Fire Chief Ted Nitz: 4 calls last month. He has put up fire tape again at the burned-out house. Request to hire Jeff Starbuck as firefighter.
- Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve using the Fire Trucks for the Memorial Day Parade. The parade begins at 2:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. Refreshments will be served at the American Legion after the Memorial Day observance. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to add Jeff Starbuck as a firefighter pending background check. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried
- Request to purchase gas detection extrication gloves, for up to \$1700. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to purchase the gloves as indicated. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Green, Warmbein), motion carried.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to correct the minutes of March 16, 2022, as amended under the Fire Dept. Report to change the paragraph indicating that the \$1800 from the grant fund should be changed to "to the AFG grant". Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.,

- Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the balance of the minutes – Special Board meeting minutes of Wed., March 30; TU, April 5; and TU, April 13, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer’s Report:** Tackett indicated that if the board wishes to place an insert in the tax bill, it should be provided by next the next meeting.
- **Clerk’s Update:** Green indicated that she has begun the process of training a deputy to hopefully take over as Clerk in the future.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** Chair Mike Metz requested approval to purchase “Intro to Planning” in the amount of \$123.00. It is an on-line version. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to purchase this on-line version. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Green), motion carried.
- **At 8:34:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m. Voice, vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Report by Sommers. Still working on getting second bid for removal of dying trees in New Troy Cemetery.
- **Roads Committee:**
 - **COVID Money:** work with SW MI Planning Commission/Broadband Committee;
 - Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to put the COVID money into revenue loss for short time until we find out what we would have to put into broadband and make final decision later. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
 - Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to appoint the following to the Broadband Committee: John Sullivan, Robert Warmbein, Mike Metz, Teri Manning, Ken Hallen, James Pelletier, Brett Brown, + 1 member to be named. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Website Committee:** Maintenance. Google account for parks. Mike Metz took ownership of the parks page.
- **Drains Committee:** Drain Maintenance Notice – Garfield #173.
- **Parks Committee:** The person did not call back regarding the driveway and parking lot. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to pay an engineer up to \$1000 to make a drawing with specs for driveway and lower parking lot in Weesaw Park. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, Sommers, Warmbein, King), motion carried.
- Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to purchase 4 treated posts for the trail size 2”x4”x8’ at \$25/ea. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Sommers, Warmbein, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- Parks’ Rules Signs – This had already been ordered. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to table at this time.
- A tree fell on the Weesaw Township parks bridge and damaged the railing. Needed to purchase to repair are 2 2x4x8 and 2 2x6x10. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to purchase lumber as needed for the repairs at an amount of up to \$250. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, King, Sommers, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.
- **9:30 p.m.:** Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to extend the meeting to 10:00 p.m. Voice vote, 3 ayes, 2 nays (Green, Tackitt), motion carried.

New Business:

- **Approve Farmland & Open Space Preservation for Jerry A. Koebel, Sr. (Living Trust).** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve this document for Mr. Keobel. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Approve Purchase of 10 marker posts from Art King:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to purchase 10 posts from Art King for \$30. Roll call vote, 4 ayes (1 abstention – King), (Ayes: Tackitt, Sommers, Green, Warmbein), motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** No report.
- **Public Comments:** None.

Adjournment: Motion by Sommers, supported by Green, to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, May 18, 2022



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 present.

Roll Call by Clerk Green: Members present: Wanda Green, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein; Absent: Art King (arrived late, due to prior commitment), Michelle Tackitt

Berrien County Sheriff Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: for the period of 03/01/2022 – 03/31/2022; activity within the Township: 29 Complaints, 1 ticket, 1 arrest.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to set the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** Home Owner Evelyn Vines, questioned zoning applications.
- **Accounts Payables Report:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Accounts Payables expenditures as presented as follows: General Fund \$10,832.47; Fire Dept. \$9,299.88; Ambulance \$2,513.00; Sewer \$3,996.81, for a grand total of \$26,642.16.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer:** Krauss provided a verbal report regarding the 2 burned-out house properties on California Rd and other issues and permits on which he has been working.
- **James Pelletier, Broadband Internet Committee Report:** Mr. Pelletier provided a verbal report regarding the past month's broadband activity. He indicated it would cost 280k upwards to get broadband to the entire township. The next broadband meeting is scheduled for June 6,

6:00 p.m. He should have more information by the next board meeting on June 15. The Township is 6th in line in working with the county. October 31 is the deadline to turn in application.

- **Water/Sewer Hook-ups Request by Lowell West:** Mr. West is requesting that the township write a letter to Lake Township Water Dept. to authorizing their providing these services to Mr. West's property on Browntown Rd. These lines are not Weesaw Township's water/sewer assessments. He had these utilities at the property that was sold (it was split in the past), and he wants to have them at his shop that he still owns and has plans make future living quarters. Mike Metz indicated that the township board might want to check with the attorney about this. Sommers will contact the attorney to ensure this will not create problems in the future.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** A verbal was provided by Fire Chief Ted Nitz: He requested that the Fire Dept. be moved to the beginning of the agenda. He reported 5 calls last month – 3 grass and 2 auto accidents; truck checks, safety meeting. Training was jaws and extrication.
- **Other:** Intersection of California and Sawyer Rds. He requested that a light be placed at this intersection due to accidents in the past. Sommers told him to contact Michael Yingling at the County, as he would be the person who could handle this issue. Sommers will contact Road Commission regarding this issue.
- **Donation and possible grants:** Grants have been written by Nitz and Jeff Starbuck. The fire dept. has also received a sniffer for carbon monoxide through Jeff Starbuck, which was donated by Dinges Fire Co. The township has to purchase a charger for it. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to approve up to \$200 to purchase the charger. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Sommers, Warmbein), motion carried. Water was donated to Weesaw Township Fire Dept. They will send a thank you from the Fire Dept. Ted also mentioned a Letter of Declaration that is required.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the Special Board Meeting and Regular Board Meeting of April 20, 2022 and the Special Board Meeting of April 13, 2022, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.,

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt was not in attendance. The bank balances were provided.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** The "unapproved" planning commission minutes were provided.
- **Cemetery Committee:** No additional bid provided for removal of trees in New Troy Cemetery.
- **Roads Committee:** Sommers mentioned a street in Glendora that is being requested to be repaired by helper of property owner. Sommers indicated that the street is not in the 6-year plan., but a Road Dept. spokesman indicated that maintenance on that street would be as on other roads.
- **Website Committee:** Mike Metz indicated that there has been rough-in work of Broadband.
- **Drains Committee:** Work order received from the Drains Dept. for Blue Jay Drain.
- **Parks Committee:** Approval requested for five 5-ft. long benches to be built by Terry Hanover at \$100/bench (total of \$500).
- **King arrived.**

At 8:30: Motion by Sommers, supported by King, extend the meeting to 8:45 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Continue Parks Committee:** Sommers reported they want to place 2 benches on Terrill's Trail and 3 on other trails being developed (all trails on property owned by Weesaw Township). Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to approve \$500 for the cost of the benches. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, King, Green), motion carried.

New Business:

- **Park Driveway:** Sommers indicated he is to meet with a 3rd contractor for the driveway next week. Requesting clean concrete without rebar or wire. Hopefully more information next month.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** No report.
- **Public Comments:** Question about driving golf carts on the roads.

Adjournment: Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 8:44 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



**WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, June 15, 2022**



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 present.

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

Berrien County Sheriff Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: for the period of 04/01-04/30/22; activity within the Township: 22 Complaints, 1 ticket, 5 arrests.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to set the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** Home Owner Evelyn Vines, questioned zoning applications.
- **Accounts Payables Report:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the Accounts Payables expenditures as presented as follows: General Fund \$22,089.63; Fire Dept. \$4,558.04; Ambulance \$2,550.50; Berrien County Rd. Dept. \$42,880.50; Sewer \$6,830.99; for a Grand Total of \$78,899.66. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer:** Krauss was not present to provide a report.
- **James Pelletier, Chair, Broadband Internet Committee:** Mr. Pelletier provided both verbal and written reports regarding the past month's (broadband activity). He indicated that letters of

support from township residents should be mailed to the township hall emailed to either the township at weesawtownship@comcast.net or to the broadband email at weesawtownshipconnect@gmail.com indicting one's name, address, current internet situation, any challenges one may have faced with one's present service, and why broadband access is of utmost importance. This show of support is very important in the process. Next broadband meeting is July 5, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

- **Update of Water/Sewer Hook-ups Request by Lowell West:** Sommers indicated that he had spoken with Atty. Senica and she will provide paperwork for Mr. West's signature in the near future. The future happenings are in the attorney's hands at this point in time.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Verbal report by Fire Chief Nitz. 2 grass fires (farm equip – baler); training: Truck checks, Marathon Gas Pipeline training);
- Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to approve the fire Dept to have approval for extra use of fire trucks as indicated in the following list: Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Requested Approval for Extra Use of Fire Trucks

May	Memorial Day Parades
June	Flag Day – Car show (Police & Fire Depts.)
July	Baroda Fireworks
August	Berrien County Fair/Berrien Springs
October	Halloween Party (fire station)
November	Thanksgiving Baskets Delivery
December	Christmas Basket Delivery
Extras:	New Troy 5k run
	Three Oaks Apple Century Ride
Also, to include:	Training that takes place at other locations within Berrien County, Fire & Police Locations Funerals to include public officials or first responders only. (Per the Chief's and Safety Committee's discretion and approval)

The Safety Committee requested that the Fire Dept. provide a reminder to the Board of approaching usage of any trucks by the Fire Dept. outside the norm.

- Since the Fire Dept's. policy in the past has always been to approve school training for new firefighters only after a year's service on the department, and since it would be a deviation from this policy, thus at the positive recommendation of Fire Chief Nitz regarding Caleb Inman for Firefighter I and II training, motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve Caleb Inman to attend Firefighter I and II school although he has not been with the Fire Dept for one year yet. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to approve purchase of the following itemized list:

Caleb Inman schooling, (in Benton Harbor School & Book)	
(Class \$500+ \$135 for book)	\$ 635.00 (10 weeks)
Truck 2260 Winch Cable	500.00 (for pick-up truck)
Helicopter land zone kit	500.00 (5 coned w/lights)
Bio-Care physicals for all firefighters	5,000.00
Computer Software (documentation & lesson plans)	500.00 (can be done at home)

Thermo camera (w/batteries & charger) 1,500.00
for a total of \$9,635.00. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, Sommers, King, Green), motion carried.

Approve Previous Minutes: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the minutes of May 18, 2022, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt provided bank balances, and reported that she is getting ready for summer tax season. Also, a cashier's check was sent to Berrien County Road Dept. as requested by Clerk Green.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** The unapproved minutes were provided erroneously last month.
- **Cemetery Committee:** 1 pine tree in Weesaw Cemetery needs a quote for removal. The Oak trees that were seemingly in trouble are looking fine for now, so this removal has been abandoned.
- **Roads Committee:** Sommers reported an update on the road in Glendora. Kevin Stack and Sommers met with Alex's helper. Nothing to be done at this time. B.C.R.D. will have the engineering department look at the problem area.
- **Website Committee:** Mike Metz indicated no update at this time.
- **Drains Committee:** Work orders received from the Drains Commission. Sommers will look into costs regarding these projects.
- **Parks Committee:** Sommers reported a notification of dogs not on leashes in Mill Road Park, and attacked another dog.
- **8:30 p.m.,** motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend meeting to 9:00. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Continue Parks Committee Report:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve purchase of 4 (four) "Park Rules" signs (proof provided by Jack Dodds), to be amended, leaving off "6' maximum" for dog leash, 24" wide by 30" tall, at a cost of \$93.40 (no freight), fully justified (aligned), up to a cost of \$400. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried. Signs to be placed in the township parks.
- **Park's Parking Lot & Driveway:** \$1000 already approved. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to give Abonmarche Engineering the okay to proceed with specifications to Mr. Runkle/Abonmarche. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

New Business:

- **Election – Adjust hourly rate for Election Chair, Election Inspectors, Health Assistant:** Green requested that the election workers hourly rate for the August Primary be adjusted. Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to increase the Election Chair to \$16.00/hr.; election inspectors to \$14.00/hr. and the Health Assistant to \$12.00/hr., with same amounts for training, incl. mileage reimbursement at current rate. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Green, Tackitt, Sommers), motion carried.

At 9:00 p.m., motion by Sommers, supported by King, to extend the meeting to 9:15 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** No report. Report presented earlier by Sommers.
- **Shembarger Asphalt Bid Revisit:** Same bids as previously. They can provide the work around the end of this month or first part of July at a price of \$2,025 for Weesaw Township Hall parking lot, and \$940 for Fire Dept. area for a total of \$2965 for both areas. Motion by King, supported by Green, to approve \$2,965 for both the Township Hall area and the Fire Dept. area

parking lots. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, King, Sommers, Warmbein), motion carried. Sommers indicated that traffic must stay off the newly-sealed parking area for 24-hrs., and Nitz indicated that the weekend is better for the Fire Dept.

- **Public Comments:** Nitz indicated that they would be taking truck 2230 to Maiden Lane and 2260 to the Baroda fireworks.

Adjournment: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

Special Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 6, 2022



CALL TO ORDER: The Special Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Sommers at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL BY CLERK GREEN: All Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein

Amend Agenda: Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to amend the Agenda, as all the board members were present, thus it could be done, adding the following items: Letter from Jack Dodds re road millage, Weesaw Township Parks Signs. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Approve Election Inspectors: Green provided a roster of proposed inspectors as follows: Leanora Cleary, Wanda Green, Ann Howell (10-3), Ann Hutcherson, Teri Nitz, Lori Pastryk (Chair), Ruby Schaffer, Beverly Koch Warmbein, Olivia Cleary (sanitation), and Mike Metz agreed to work as well. Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to approve these folks as election inspector at the hourly rates indicated at the regular board meeting, plus hourly training and mileage reimbursement. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve up to \$100 for sub sandwiches and water to be purchased from Wal-Mart, Niles. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

Brief discussion of Election Commission's responsibilities, which is comprised of the Clerk as Chair), Supervisor and Treasurer. Brief discussion of millages. No action taken. After discussion, motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to make the ballot issues available to the website.

Weesaw Township Park Rules: Jack Dodds provided copy of the park rules signs. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the signs as provided at \$93.00 per sign, up to \$400. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.

Weesaw Township Park Driveway & Parking Lot: Sommers reported that the specs for the parking lot were checked by Abonmarche. The plan is to use recycled blacktop on the bottom. Sommers spoke with Robert DeFreeze, contractor, and the plan is for 3" base with 3" on top and have blacktop, up to 1" (recommended), for a bid of approximately \$20,000 (3" crushed rock, feathered recommended). Further discussion. Mike Metz, King and Sommers will possibly meet up with Robert DeFreeze on Thursday, 7/14 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss further.

Public Comments: Comments throughout the meeting.

Adjourn: Motion by Sommers, supported by Tackitt, to adjourn at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, July 14, 2022



CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Sommers called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein, Michelle Tackitt; Members Absent: Wanda Green

Others Present: Robert Defreze, contractor; Tom Runkle, engineer, Abonmarche; Mike Metz, Weesaw Township Parks Committee

Note: The following is taken from an audio recording of the July 14, 2022, Special Board Meeting. The recording was made by Mike Metz and summarized by Jack Dodds. For the sake of clarity, the topics are presented in a logical order rather than in the order in which they were actually raised at the meeting.

Elimination of turn-around apron: In the course of the parking lot design, a 20 x 60 foot apron was added to the north end to facilitate vehicle turn around. The apron has now been omitted, as there is ample room for drivers to maneuver in the 60 x 64 parking lot.

Driveway/parking lot materials: Following the contractor's recommendation and with the Abonmarche engineer's concurrence, the drive/parking lot base will be 3 inches of recycled blacktop or crushed concrete, depending on price and availability. (The preference is for recycled blacktop.) The finish coat will be a 1 ½

inch asphalt base topped by 1 ½ inches of hot asphalt. The total depth of the drive/parking lot will be 6 inches.

Project cost: The contractor estimates the cost to be approximately \$53,000, including site preparation, materials, labor, and equipment mobilization. A final bid will be made available for the upcoming Regular Weesaw Township Board meeting.

Chairman Sommers indicated that there is \$30,000 in capital outlay funds for the drive and parking lot with an additional \$6,000 available for park improvements. That leaves the project \$14,000 short.

Sommers and others noted that the General Fund and fund equity have healthy balances following the infusion of nearly \$200,000 of American Rescue money. Also, the Township has approximately \$70,000 of emergency funds allocated for tree removal, drains, roads, and inflation increases that could be drawn upon. The Board could, if it chose, move money into the park fund to make up for the \$14,000 deficiency.

ADA parking spaces: The Township's Recreation Passport Grant request included two concrete ADA parking spaces with aprons (28 x 18 feet), funded by a successful grant request. However, ADA guidelines permit the use of asphalt for parking spaces. It is now proposed to use asphalt for the ADA spaces, paid for by Weesaw Township as part of its parking lot project. The grant money that was to be spent on ADA parking will be absorbed by other projects proposed in the grant request.

Scheduling and funding of the project: Much discussion was devoted to the timing of the project in light of the increased cost of asphalt over crushed concrete. Would it be better to do the job over two years—base course one year, surface coat the following? It was decided that the most economical approach would be to complete the whole job, base and surface coats, in one year. Money would be saved in materials costs owing to inflation, labor, and equipment mobilization.

Also included in the project bid: the contractor will dump excavated soil at Board-designated locations but will not level, pulverize, or seed the materials, thus saving the Township money. The Township will be responsible for the disposition of the materials after they are dumped.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources has been informed that the drive/parking lot will be installed in the summer of 2022. By providing access to the DNR-funded items in the Township's Recreation Passport Grant application, the Township-funded project indicates strong support for the application.

The contractor will be asked to confirm his schedule at the next Board meeting, Wednesday, July 20, 2022.

Paving the upper parking lot: Near the end of the meeting, the question of the badly deteriorated upper parking lot was raised. Should the Township fund the repaving of its portion of the lot at the same time as materials, equipment, and labor were on hand for the drive/parking lot project?

The contractor indicated that the present parking lot already provides a base for repaving, and so the materials required would be less. He will prepare a cost estimate for the Township of this additional work. He noted that not only would materials costs be split with the Friends of New Troy for its part of the lot, but also equipment and labor costs would be split as well. Chairman Sommers indicated he would contact Terry Hanover to alert Friends of New Troy of this possible project.

Adjourn: Motion by Sommers to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Dodds, Weesaw Township Parks Committee



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 20, 2022



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 present.

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

Berrien County Sheriff Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: for the period of 05/01-05/31/22; activity within the Township: 24 Complaints, 3 tickets, 1 arrest.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to set the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Parking Lot and Driveway Update:** Sommers presented information. Robert DeFreez presented his bid of \$19,377 for the prep work. Wendorf Asphalt's bid was \$34,500 for the blacktop. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to specify recycled asphalt (aggregate). Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the project with a total cost of \$53,877 (\$19,377 for prep work, and \$34,500 for blacktop). Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund \$15,162.28; Fire Dept. \$11,84.86; Ambulance \$2,555.50; Sewer \$3,893.20, for a total of \$32,695.84.
- **Mr. Paul Steven Jancha** who is running unopposed for District Judge spoke briefly regarding his extensive qualifications for the position. It is a 6-year term, non-partisan, office.
- **Public Comments:** Home Owner Evelyn Vines, questioned zoning applications. Residents Mr./Mrs. McLaughlin wondered if they might remove and clean up the fallen, dead trees behind property on township park property. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to give permission to the McLaughlins to clean up the tree. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
Kim Krestin spoke regarding blight and noise from neighbors.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement/Zoning Administrator:** Provided an update regarding several properties, such as temporary hardship revoked, apropos tickets issued (no hearing date as yet). Robert reported that there has been no testing of soil for contamination, Wolfords requested and was granted an extension until August 1. Other tickets were served and judgment issued.
- Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to approve \$40 monthly stipend for Robert Krauss' personal cell phone use for township business. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Sommers, Warmbein, King), motion carried.
- **Accounts Payables Report:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the Accounts Payables expenditures as follows: General Fund \$15,162.28; Fire Dept. \$11,084.88; Ambulance \$2,555.50; Sewer \$3,893.20; for a Grand Total of \$32,695.84. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- **James Pelletier, Chair, Broadband Internet Committee:** Mr. Pelletier provided verbal report in that support letters are being received. He is working with Merit, who will provide a free two-year membership; however, after the two-year period, there will be a cost. There is a meeting on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. A survey is being performed. The application is due to Berrien County Bit by the deadline of October 31.
- **Update of Water/Sewer Hook-ups Request by Lowell West:** Sommers tabled this item due to no further information received.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Verbal report by Fire Chief Nitz. 8 calls (1 grass, 2 P.I. accident, 1 fire alarm, 1 mutual aid (3 Oaks), 2 trash fire, 1 all call; Meetings/Training: Truck checks, preplan driveway sealing, hose-flow/nozzle testing.

8:30 p.m.: Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting to 9:00. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Fire Dept (cont'd):** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve purchase of the requested items in the amount of \$31,779.57 (Sunny Communication \$12,600, and Dinges Fire \$19,179.57), as long as grant monies and budget funds are in place and they do not overspend. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Green, King, Warmbein), motion carried.

Approve Previous Minutes: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the minutes of Wednesday, June, 2022, Regular Board Minutes and Special Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, July 6, 2022. as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Correspondence: Sommers reported road complaints received.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt provided bank balances.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** Minutes provided.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Columbarium information provided by Sommers.
- **Roads Committee:** Sommers reported on Wee-Chik Road and Gardner Road.
- **Website Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Drains Committee:** Nothing.
- **Parks Committee:** Previously in minutes.

New Business:

- **9:00 p.m.:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve extending meeting to 9:15 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes motion carried.
- **Approve SWMPC Bid:** Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to approve \$4,920 for Marcy of SWMPC to write the 5-year Master Plan for the Planning Commission. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Green, King, Warmbein), motion carried.
- **Appoint Corina McLaughlin to Board of Review:** Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to appoint Corina McLaughlin to finish Elizabeth Palulis' term (who is stepping down and whose term would conclude in December 2024). The township board wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to Elizabeth for her past service to the township in her various positions throughout the years.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** No report.
- **Public Comments:** None

Adjournment: Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 9:03 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 3, 2022



CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Sommers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein; Members Absent: Wanda Green and Michelle Tackitt

Others Present: Mike Metz, Weesaw Township Cemetery Committee; Kraig Pike, Pike Funeral and Cremation Services

Note: The following has been prepared from an audio recording of the August 3, 2022, Special Board Meeting. The recording was made by Mike Metz and summarized by Jack Dodds.

Approving membership in the Merit Network: Chairman Sommers indicated that James Pelletier, chair of the Township's broadband committee, has requested that the Township become a member of the Merit Network. [Note: The Merit Network is a nonprofit organization created by Michigan's public universities to "provide network, security and community services to member organizations."] Membership is free for 2 years and then \$1,500 per year thereafter. Sommers' name would appear on the account.

Motion by King, support by Warmbein, to approve subscription for 2 years, to be reviewed by the Township Board at the end of that period. Motion carried unanimously.

Update: Berrien County Emergency Management Plan: Rocky Adams, Berrien County Emergency Management Division Commander, has been promoting the update to the County's Emergency Management Plan and asking local units of government to review the plan and suggest revisions. Sommers and Warmbein have reviewed the 25-page summary of the 800 page document. Neither saw any need for significant changes. Warmbein noted that the plan has worked effectively in the past.

Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to endorse the plan. Motion carried unanimously.

Columbaria for Weesaw Township Cemeteries: Mike Metz presented a columbarium Power Point review of various kinds of columbaria in local cemeteries and as offered for sale. Drawing upon comments by Kraig Pike of Pike Funerals, Warmbein and Metz observed that Lake Township had not planned effectively for the installation of their columbaria nor for future needs. Also, they both preferred a different design, hexagonal in shape rather than rectangular, as in Lake Township.

Metz and the Board discussed differing columbarium designs (rectangular, round, hexagonal, curved), cost, and practicality of design. They also considered a variety of locations for placement in New Troy and Glendora cemeteries.

Kraig Pike of Pike Funeral and Cremation Services joined the discussion and made a number of observations and recommendations that covered the following topics:

- Planning: He encouraged the Board to recognize that the first columbarium the Township purchases will not be the last. Cremation has become 75% of his business. They are “the wave of the future.” The cost of cremation and interment in a columbarium niche runs approximately \$1,450 (\$900 for a niche in a columbarium that will accommodate 2 sets of ashes, \$150-\$200 for opening/closing of the niche, and \$300-\$400 for a plaque or engraving). By contrast, a funeral and interment in a grave runs \$10,500 to \$11,800. Families find cremation a much more affordable alternative. The Township should plan carefully for location, design, and size (Pike recommends that to be economical, a columbarium should have at least 72 niches).
- Columbarium ordinance: Pike emphasized the importance of an effective ordinance. He indicated that Lincoln Township provides a good ordinance to provide a model. A good ordinance covers guidelines for keeping the niches neat in appearance (e.g., only plaques or engravings on the niche, no pictures) and the display of flowers (for 30 days, their height above the vase not to encroach upon the niche above). Note: urns within a niche are not required. Pike recommends engravings rather than plaques on the niches.
- Construction/installation funding: Pike noted that columbaria won’t make a lot of money for a Township, but they pay for themselves, and they help to reduce cemetery maintenance costs. The first columbarium generates funds to install the second, which in turn pays for the third, which then goes to help pay for cemetery maintenance. The cost of a columbarium (\$22,000-\$35,000) is determined by materials + foundation + surrounding walkway. The construction process: footing, then columbarium, then surrounding sidewalk. Throughout the process of planning, columbarium purchase, installation, niche sales, and interment, Pike recommends careful budgeting by the Township to ensure that it recovers all of its costs. (For example, Pike recommends setting non-resident fees to ensure that Township columbaria don’t become “a dumping ground” for non-resident burials.)
- Columbaria as an investment: Pike and Mike Metz briefly discussed the practice of an investor purchasing a block of cemetery plots, erecting a columbarium on that space, and then selling the niches to make a profit. (The Township would own the columbarium.) Metz recommended that a columbarium ordinance should forbid the sale of blocks of lots to columbarium developers.

Following Kraig Pike's departure, the Board turned to specific planning for columbaria: (1) the economics of two columbaria, one each in New Troy and Glendora cemeteries, (2) differing designs to allow choices by residents, (3) possible locations in each, (4) necessary site work to permit installation.

Metz proposed that deciding on a basic columbarium design would allow the Township to approach columbarium sellers for prices. Those present favor a hexagonal design as most attractive and functional. It was decided to approach the Coldspring company and one other for designs and pricing. King proposed getting prices for two designs and two sizes (72 and 96 niches), one for each cemetery.

Adjourn: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m.
Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Jack Dodds



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 24, 2022



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 present.

Roll Call by Clerk Green: Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein; Absent: Michelle Tackitt (Tackitt arrived 7:05 p.m.)

Berrien County Sheriff Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: for the period of 06/01/22-06/30/2022; activity within the Township: 25 Complaints, 0 tickets issued, 1 arrest.

- **Introduction of Township Attorney Sara Senica** – Sommers introduced the Township Attorney at this time (who was present throughout the meeting). Attorney Senica answered questions from resident Kim Krestan about ordinances. Atty Senica indicated that the township cannot criminalize things that are ordinary, such as barking dogs and children being kids and having fun.
-
- **Rules for the Meeting – Supervisor Sommers:** Sommers laid out the rules for the meeting such as time-limited comments of 3 minutes, and only speaking upon being recognized by the Chair.

- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement/Zoning Administrator Report:** Krauss presented a comprehensive written report to the board members with verbal report to the audience. He indicated that the Wolford property immediately adjacent to the post office had cleaned-up their property in accordance with directives as required. Kayla Wolford has purchased a dog collar to keep their dog from barking when she must go away. She also declared that she would not rehome her dog as she had been asked to do. She explained the other issues which Kim Krestan is complaining. Robert also mentioned that the burned-out house was in the process of being removed.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to amend the Agenda and approve as amended, adding gas mileage for FOIA request (under new business), and purchase of TV for Zoom meetings. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments Hearing of Persons Present on Agenda Items:** Sommers took questions from audience members such as: Police presence in Weesaw Township, Safebilt. It was noted by Atty. Senica that having a local police force is very expensive. There were comments from resident Kim Krestan, Peg Cullen and Ben West and others. Attorney Senica responded to a number of questions.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund \$17,514.00; Fire Dept. \$26,797.32; Ambulance \$2,513.00; Sewer \$3,647.78, for a total of \$50,472.10. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **James Pelletier, Chair, Broadband Internet Committee:** He was unable to attend due to illness.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Verbal report by Fire Chief Nitz. 7 calls (1 PI, 1 fire alarm, 1 CO alarm, 1 utility, 1 illegal fireworks, 1 all call, 1 lift assist); Meetings/Training: Truck checks, OSHA Stds of Bloodborne Pathogens, truck checks, safety meeting
- Chief Nitz requested that 1 firefighter be approved to go to class to train to be an instructor, after which he would train the other township firefighters in the future: The cost of the class is \$300, plus amount of book – class is Instructor I and Jeff Starbuck would be attending to become eligible to teach the others. In addition, Adrianna and Caleb have both graduated from Firefighter I and II. Congratulation to both firefighters. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to approve up to \$500 to send Jeff Starbuck to attend class for training and purchase the apropos book. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Sommers, Tackitt, King, Green), motion carried.

Approve Previous Minutes: Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to approve the minutes of Regular Board Meeting of Wed., July 20, 2022; Special Board Meetings of Tuesday, July 6, 2022, and August 3, 2022. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Correspondence: Presented to board as received.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt provided bank balances, and indicated that taxes are due September 14.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** Minutes provided.

- **Cemetery Committee:** Columbarium information provided by Sommers. Those involved looked at various versions. It is possible that there will be 1-2 in the future. Warmbein will look into information provided. Mr. Pike presented information.
- **Roads Committee:** Sommers reported on 3 roads needing repairs – Elm Valley, Wagner, Kaiser. Gave updates on these roads.
- **Website Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Drains Committee:** Nothing.
- **Parks Committee:** For township future zoom meetings, a TV and equipment is required. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to spend up to \$1300 for TV and equipment needed for zoom meetings. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, Warmbein, King, Sommers), motion carried.
- **At 8:28 Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to extend the meeting to 9:00 p.m.**

New Business:

- **Gas Mileage Reimbursement:** Attorney Senica indicated that due to the fact that gas mileage reimbursement is already approved for township required mileage, it is not necessary to approve for FOIA request, as it already falls under reimbursement.
- **Adopt Resolution 2022-09 Weesaw Township Street Light Assessment District Annual Review:** Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to continue to approve the current \$27 as the amount to cover street light charges in the Glendora and New Troy areas. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Green), motion carried. This being an annual review, the Clerk will run another report next year to see if the amount of \$27 continues to cover the street light charges for the year.
- **Approve and Endorse L-4029, 2022 Tax Rate Request:** Motion by King, supported by Green, to approve the L-4029 and provide to the Assessor Angela Story for her to provide to the apropos entity. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. Sommers and Green required to sign the L-4029.
- **Burnham & Flower Insurance Renewal:** Provided to board member and Fire Dept. to review for upcoming renewal.
- **Approve Warmbein to attend MTA Workshop:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Tackitt, to approve up to \$900 for Warmbein to attend the workshop entitled “Emerging Issues in Emergency Service”, 9/12/22, plus mileage reimbursement (1/2 from General Fund-1/2 from Fire Dept.). Roll call vote, 4 ayes [except Warmbein] who abstained), Tackitt, Sommers, King, Green), motion carried. (Adrianna asked and was approved to attend also). Warmbein is staying with a relative, thus overnight accommodations are not required).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** Present at meeting.
- **Public Comments:** None

Adjournment: Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 8:58 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 19, 2022

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present who wished to participate.

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

Berrien County Sheriff Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: for the period of 08/01 – 08/31/2022 Activity within the Township: 27 Complaints, 2 tickets issued, 1 arrest.

- **Rules for the Meeting – Supervisor Sommers:** Once again Sommers reiterated the rules for the meeting.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement/Zoning Administrator Report:** Not present.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to set the agenda as presented.
- **Public Comments/Hearing of Persons Present on Agenda Items:** CD amount questioned.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the Accounts Payable as follows: General Fund \$35,695.09; Fire Dept. \$6,779.54; Ambulance \$2,513.00; Sewer \$1,809.07; for a grand total of all expenditures of \$46,796.70.
- **James Pelletier, Chair, Broadband Internet Committee:** Mr. Pelletier provided a broadband update. He indicated that they are looking into proposals from two companies, and that Comcast seems eager to work with us.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Verbal report by Fire Chief Nitz. 1 structure fires, 1 grass fire, 3 P.I. accidents, 1 gas smell. Meetings/Training: Truck checks, pump training, special training (ladder, search rescue, ventilation). Apple Cider Century Ride – Sunday, Sept. 25. He also indicated that Amanda is resigning as training officer.
Chief Nitz also reported:
 1. Amanda is resigning as Training officer, and Nitz requested to place Jeff Starbuck in that position. Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to place Jeff Starbuck as training officer in the absence of Amanda. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
Starbuck was commended for his coming on board and writing a number of grants which have been received for the Fire Dept. Kudos to Jeff for his help in this regard.
In addition, members of the fire department staff have done a fine job in restoring the Fire Dept. floor, and Supervisor Sommers thanked all those who worked on this project. They did a great job.

2. 5K run and Halloween Party are being planned. Jeff Starbuck reported that the tablets are in the trucks; \$3900 grant from Marathon Community Investment Program received.
3. Pump tests: Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve \$600 for the pump tests. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Tackitt Sommers, Green), motion carried.
4. Nitz requested that the drain in the 20x30 bay be removed. Cement is needed. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to proceed to get estimates for this project. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
5. No action on extra batteries and chargers from grant funds. No prices as of this time.
6. Nitz indicated a request for millage for a new truck & air packs. Nitz indicated that a new truck would be \$850,000, + additional amount for air packs. They have 14 donated air packs, which are 2013-issued. Jeff is working on getting them. Jeff demonstrated one of the packs donated to the fire dept.

Approve Previous Minutes: Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the minutes of Regular Board Meeting of Wed., Sept 21 and Special Board Meeting Minutes of TU, October 11, 2022, Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Correspondence: Presented to board as received.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt provided bank balance and indicated that taxes will be going out December 1. She indicated to the board that if a notice is to go in the tax bills, the taxes will be committed the middle of Nov., so it is possible for a letter to be in the taxes if provided in time.
- **Parks Committee:** The driveway and upper parking lot that part that belongs to Weesaw Township is scheduled to be paved by Wendorf Asphalt.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** Minutes provided.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Regarding columbarium, nothing new to report.
- **Roads Committee:** No meeting.
- **Website Committee:** Nothing to report.
- **Drains Committee:** Annual bill received in the amount of \$42,574.83 received – due 02/28/23.

New Business:

- Election Commission (consisting of Sommers, Green, Tackitt) to Appoint Election Inspectors for TU, 11//8/2022, General Election: The following people were requested to be appointed as Elections Inspectors: Leanora Cleary, Olivia Cleary (hygiene), Alivia Green, (Wanda Green, as required), Bill Kirsch, Beverly Koch, Lori Pastryk (Chair), Ruby Schaffer, Peter Tortorello. Motion by Tackitt, supported by Sommers, to spend up to \$50 for sandwiches and water for the election and to , to approve the ladies and gentlemen as indicated as election inspectors for the upcoming election. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Green, Sommers, King, Warmbein) motion carried.
- At 8:30, motion by Sommers, supported by Tackitt, to extend the meeting to 9:00 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **Snowplowing Bids:** It was recommended that using last year's specs, and making necessary changes, that we go out for snowplowing bids, posting in the Harbor Country News to the received by 14th of November and opened at the November meeting on the 16th.

Other Bids, Etc.

- Hein Electric, to replace 7 lights on outside of the township hall and fire dept. with new LE lights with photo cell sensors. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to spend \$1,848.20 on these lights. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein, Green, motion carried.
- AEP light to illuminate the township parking lot at a cost of \$15/mo. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve the light. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.
- Motion by Sommers, supported by King at 9:12 to extend meeting to 9:30 p.m. Voice vote, 3 ayes, 2 nays. Motion carried.
- Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to approve Upper Room Carpentry & Home Services' gutter work and shingle repair labor in the amount of \$958.36. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to table Upper Room Carpentry & Home Services to extend vent, floor patches, extend handrail labor. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- A park Bench created by Terry Hanover will be in the Township Hall for approval – A number of people sat on it and felt the bench back was too angled.
- At 9:30, motion by Sommers, supported by King, to extend meet 15 min. to 9:30. Voice vote, 4 ayes, 1 nay.
- Discuss 50% down-payment to Wendorf Asphalt. The Wendorf contract was approved. They are requiring a 50% down-payment in the amount of \$33,837. Motion by Green, supported by Sommers to cut a check in the amount of \$33,837 for the required down-payment amount and have Michelle sign it to provide for the asphalt work performed in the park area and Weesaw Township's portion of the parking lot. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green Tackitt), motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** None
- **Public Comments:** No action taken on any comments.

Adjournment: Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to adjourn at 9:41 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

- **Roll Call by Treasurer Tackitt:** Members Present: Michelle Tackitt, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein. Members Absent: Wanda Green
- **Berrien County Sheriff's Dept. Rep:** Representative was not present.
- Supervisor Gary Sommers reiterated rules for the meeting.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator Report:** Not Present
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to accept the agenda, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes motion carried.
- **Public Comments/Hearing of Persons present on Agenda Items:** None.
- **Accounts Payable:** Motion by Warmbein, support by King, to approve the Accounts Payable as presented as follows: General Fund \$53,469.08; Fire Dept. \$15,063.79, Ambulance \$2,513.00; Sewer \$399.00, Road Rebuild \$42,880.50; for a grand total of \$114,325.37. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Sommers, Warmbein, Tackitt), motion carried.
- **Broadband Internet Update:** James Pelletier reported that the ARPA grant application was submitted to the Berrien County Broadband Internet Taskforce. The funds requested for Weesaw Township is \$2 million dollars and with Weesaw Township putting \$10,000 toward the broadband project.
- **Fire Dept:** Meetings/Training: Truck checks, clean hall in preparation for Halloween party, and ladder checks. New hoses and nozzles were also loaded onto the trucks. Calls: 4 calls. 1 grass fire, 1 mutual aid for Medic One, 1 PI accident, and 1 utility line down.
- Chief Nitz wants to sell #2270 (the ambulance). It has been taken out of service due to it having various things that need repaired. Items carried in it previously have been moved to other trucks. Chief Nitz will look into options on how to sell it.
- During pump testing recently the vacuum test on one of the trucks failed because the pump seal packing needed replaced. It has been repaired for the amount of \$600. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers to pay this bill. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Warmbein, Tackitt, King) motion carried.
- Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers to purchase 2 sets of turnout gear in the amount of \$7,000, which was budgeted for. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Tackitt) motion carried.
- Discussion on new air pack lease/purchase. Since getting a grant from FEMA to purchase new air packs has been unsuccessful for at least the last 3 years, we are

looking for other ways to replace the old air packs. The New Troy Fire Brigade recently purchased 4 used air packs on an internet auction for \$1,500. With this agreement the Fire Department would pay \$114,376 over a 5-year period to purchase 15 new air packs. Motion by Warmbein, support by Tackitt to move forward by filling out the lease/purchase contract for the air tanks. Roll Call Vote, all ayes (King, Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein) Motion carried. Chief Nitz said he thinks most of this could be paid for by receiving grants in future years.

- Chief Nitz discussed the 12-20-21 Backus Fire Call. An audience member mentioned 2 months ago at the township board meeting that it took the fire department 18 mins to respond to that. They thought that it took too long to respond. Chief Nitz says the call came in at 2:00 am and it took less than 10 minutes to respond.
- Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to pay Upper Room Carpentry \$546.51 for repairing the gutter by the fire station door. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, King, Warmbein, Sommers) motion carried.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Regular Board Minutes of October 21, 2022, as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Correspondence:** Nothing to report.

Other Township Reports:

Treasurer's Report: It's too late to add the insert to the taxes. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein to add the insert to the township website and to be put on the table in the hall. Voice vote, all ayes. Motion carried. Bank balances were provided. Winter property taxes are being mailed out December 1st.

Parks Committee Update: Asphalt is done partway at the New Troy Park.

Planning Commission: There are no minutes

8:45 Motion by Sommers, supported King to extend the meeting until 9:30. Voice vote, all ayes motion carried.

Cemetery Committee: The New Troy cemetery is a mess with limbs on the ground everywhere. The heavy snow recently caused many branches to break. D.J. from Seeder Co. estimates it will cost about \$1000 to clean it up. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein to pay Seeder Co. to clean it up for up to \$2,000, but if more work is needed then to contact supervisor Sommers before moving forward with cleanup. Roll call vote, all ayes, (King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers), motion carried.

Road Committee: Nothing to report.

Website Committee: Nothing to report

Drains Committee: The drains on State Street are being repaired.

9:30 Motion by Sommers, supported by King to extend the meeting until 10:15. Voice vote, all ayes motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: A new light was installed to illuminate the township hall parking lot.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Attorney Sara Senica Update:** Nothing received.
- **Snowplowing Bids:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers to Hire Seeder Co. to plow township properties for the 2022-2023 year. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Warmbein, Tackitt) motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** Sommers reported that the auditor should be ready to do his report on the township audit about December 15th. It was requested by Chief Nitz to put the snowplow bids out earlier, like in September. Santa is Coming to the community center on December 3rd. Chief Nitz wants to pay one firefighter 1 hour a month to clean the training room. Motion by Sommers, supported by King to hire this firefighter for \$14 an hour to do it. Roll Call vote, all ayes. (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Warmbein) motion carried. Also mentioned was the equipment left in the parking lot by the Asphalt Co. Sommers will contact them to remove it.

Adjournment: Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Tackitt, Township Treasurer



**Weesaw Township
New Troy, MI 49119**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 14, 2022**



The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. Sommers reported the auditor's report will probably be in January. Mike Layher called regarding the audit

The Pledge of Allegiance 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 Dept.: No representative present. Report provided by Office of the Sheriff: for the period 10/01-10/31/2022 activity within the Township: 29 complaints, 0 tickets issued, 2 arrests.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Meeting rules once again reiterated by Supervisor Sommers.
- Upon question by audience member Peg Cullen, Sommers reported the auditor's report will probably be here in January. Mike Layher called the Township regarding the

late audit and Alex Schaeffer of Kruggel Lawton has now taken over the completion of the audit.

- **Robert Krauss Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Administrator Report.** Krauss reported 3 zoning applications. He also reported on his zoning enforcement: A CA Rd. property clean up, still being worked on, not resolved at this point in time. He reported that the judgment was lost at the courthouse, and has not been relocated. During the inclement winter months, property owners must be given additional time to clean up. Eviction will probably have to be accomplished by the township, and suggested sending a letter of April 15 deadline being sent to the property owner.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to amend the Agenda's date to Wednesday, December 14, 2022, as it was incorrect on the agenda provided. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund \$18,025.24; Fire Dept. \$13,79.58; Ambulance \$2,513.00; Sewer \$5,939.39, Road Dept. \$161.83, for a grand total of \$40,438.04. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **Broadband Internet Update:** No report.
- **Fire Department Report:** provided by Chief Nitz. 5 calls – 1 structure, 1 grass, 1 PI accident, 1 fire alarm, 1 utility call. Meetings: truck checks. Nitz asked to sell the former ambulance vehicle which was initially purchased by the defunct Ambulance Dept. at that time. This item was tabled. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve \$1,250 for the following items: \$740 out of grant money, \$550 for eaves out of Fire Dept. maintenance budget. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Green), motion carried.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the minutes of November 16, 2022, as presented.
- **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tackitt provided her quarterly report. She provided a report and indicated that the CD's rates are somewhat higher now.
- **Parks Committee Update:** Sommers gave the report in that the park grant has been approved in the amount of \$181,000. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve Abonmarche as the architect for overseeing the upcoming park project. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Sommers indicated that they would need to start earlier next year in placing the wreaths and holiday flags.
- **Planning Commission:** Minutes provided.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Sommers indicated that D.J. Can't get the trees completed due to his not having proper equipment to clean up the trees. Sommers will call the insurance company regarding storm damage. We will finish tree clean up. Two tree service quotes were received for tree clean-up – KC Tree and Tree Care Plus. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein to approve the \$9.800 bid of KC Tree Inc. If he doesn't have liability insurance, then to go with

Tree Care Plus. Roll call vote all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, King, Green, Warmbein), motion carried.

- **Road Report:** Metz, Warmbein, Sommers attended the Berrien County Road Dept. virtual meeting which was called to go over the road plan. It was suggested by Sommers that we possibly add another mile of road repair for next year.
- **Website Committee:** Metz indicated that in January, he and Jack Dodds will add pages to the website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Burnham & Flower Insurance: Motion by King, supported by Tackitt, to pay the annual Burnham & Flower Insurance premium in the amount of \$21,746, plus \$66 for a total of \$21,812.00. Roll call vote, all ayes (King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried. Green will forward the check immediately.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** No report.
- **Public Comments:** A request to pay sewer bills on-line; audience member suggested to look into a new township attorney, as she is unhappy with Attorney Senica.

Adjournment: Motion by Green, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 9:20 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk