



Weesaw Township
New Troy, MI 49119



BUDGET WORKSHOP/
SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

The Special Board Meeting/Budget Workshop was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 10:00 a.m.

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

1. **Tax Exempt Credit Card:** Sommers suggested that we get an Amazon Credit Card. Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to research getting an Amazon Credit Card, to include requesting for delivery times. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried. Clerk Assistant Erika Burcham went on-line and began this research.
2. **Hein Electric:** Sommers indicated that additional plug-ins are needed for the township, also another electrical box. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to get an estimate for any work needing done. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Sommers, King, Warmbein – Tackitt absent), motion carried.
3. **Road Information:** We have two bridges that need to be upgraded. Warmbein indicated the bridge on Log Cabin Road. It was suggested that we need a meeting with Berrien County Road Dept. regarding the bridges.
4. **Asphalt Needed:** North portion of the FONT parking lot. The Friends of New Troy will do their half. Suggestions for asphalt needs were Arnt and Rieth-Riley, and these should be contacted for a bid. Blacktop suggested by King in the cemeteries. Cemeteries and Weesaw Park to be rebuilt. Set an appointment for Rieth-Riley, Arnt and Walts (Elkhart) (574-213-9712) and also contact Affordable Asphalt, Buchanan, MI (269-695-1125)
5. **USDA re Sewer Loan Payment Due April 1:** Green to give information to Michelle.
6. **Pay SW MI for 5-year Plan:** Planning Commission Chair Mike Metz that Green to send a check to SW Michigan account 410-801 for the Planning Commission 5-year Plan.
7. **Budget Workshop** ensued with FY 2024-25 budgeting amounts being put into the various line items.
8. **Attorney Interview Straub, Seaman & Allen, P.C.:** At 11:47, Attorney James McGovern and his associate arrived for an appointment with the Township Board. The township board is interested in employing this firm as a consultant for our Code Enforcement Officer and other needs. Mike Metz/Planning Commission Chair informed them that we need zoning ordinance changes and a consultant for the township. Our Code Enforcement Officer, Robert Krauss, is not getting a positive response from our present attorney. Atty. McGovern indicated that there is no reason that Robert Krauss can't write a ticket and then take it to the courthouse. This legal firm will support and counsel Krauss in his enforcement responsibilities. The interview with these two gentlemen was both extremely informative and positive. They did mention that they want an email from Krauss when taking a complaint to court. There also may be a need for a change to the ordinance and for capping of violations, which information they can provide. They would require a one-person contact on the Township Board. Much positive information was gleaned for going forward. Their fee is \$200/hour, and they will provide a contract for the township to sign. The attorneys left at 12:30 p.m.

After the two attorneys', James McGovern and J. Grant Semonin, departure, discussion of this law firm ensued with motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to hire this firm (Straub, Seaman & Allen, P.C.,

Attorneys at Law) for the needs of the township, namely, Enforcement Officer Robert Krauss, the Planning Commission, and as needed for other legal issues. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

Budget Workshop: The board members continued with the budget workshop for a short while longer.

Public Comments: 1 audience member present. Comments heard throughout the meeting.

Adjournment: Sommers adjourned the meeting/budget workshop at 1:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Township Clerk

Sommers indicated the next Budget Workshop/meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.