

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471  
Tuesday, January 7, 2020 – 6:00

The Watertown Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Franzel at 6:00 P.M. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Kenny, Coats, Cambridge, Franzel and Ross

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Brett Lester, Andrew Palmer, Susan Cole, Al Stoutenburg, Jeff Renaudin

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA**

Franzel reported that:

- Dave Faber has a sick relative and will not be able to make the meeting. Brett Lester will speak to the Board about sharing of a Zoning Enforcement Officer.
- There was a miscommunication and Greg Stremers will not be at the meeting

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Franzel reported that:

1. He received a letter from the Drain Commissioner - Drain maintenance will be performed on Howse Drain which crosses Miller Road between Gates Road and Maple Valley Road.
2. Received a letter from Michigan Chloride quoting the new brine cost per gallon and the spot spread application cost.
3. Received correspondence from Mary Dryer a freelance newspaper writer, requesting draft minutes. Franzel stated this information can be found on the Township website. Franzel will follow up with her.

**CLERK**

1. Approval of December 3, 2019 minutes
2. Approval of bills to be paid

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to approve the December 3, 2019 minutes and bills to be paid as stated. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Coats, Cambridge, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**TREASURER**

1. Approval of December 2019 checks #16012 thru #16040 total amount of \$38,633.12

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion to approve the December 2019 checks #16012 thru #16040 for the total amount of \$38,633.12, as presented. Kenny supported. Ayes: Coats, Cambridge, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY REPORT**

Franzel reported that, during a Planning Committee meeting, it was discovered that a cemetery report should be given at the monthly Township Board Meeting. The report will be added to the monthly agenda and minutes.

Ross reported that:

1. Dick Henderson received wages in the amount of \$135 for December 2019 Sexton duties.
2. She had not received the December 2019 Cemetery Report
3. Dick Henderson received wages in the amount of \$125 for November 2019 Sexton duties.

4. During the month of November 2019 there was a Cremation Burial and the snow was plowed at the cemetery on November 12, 2019.
5. Dick Henderson will be contacted to request that he submit his normal monthly report before being paid and before the Board meets. The report should include a breakdown between lot and burial costs.

### **SEWER REPORT**

Kenny report that:

1. December 2019 was a quiet month. No new updates

### **WEBSITE REPORT**

Cambridge reported that she:

1. Put the Rules and Regulations tab back on the web page
2. Added the Open Meetings Act and Meeting Procedures under this tab
3. Added monthly meeting agendas and minutes
4. Will add and label draft minutes until approved at the next meeting

### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

1. Andrew Palmer to address road signs and any other issues with road commission. (Zoning #4)
  - The estimated cost to the township to replace all Watertown Township road signs is \$11,806. The Road Commission will install the signs at no additional cost.
  - Quoted are the larger green reflective twelve-inch signs with four-inch white lettering.
  - The Road Commission will install wooden road signs at no cost
  - As not all township roads need signs, the Board will make a list of roads that need signs and the Road Commission will install them at no charge. The Road Commission will also replace the signs once the township covers the initial cost.

Franzel informed Mr. Palmer that he has had numerous complaints regarding newly fixed roads being torn up by farm equipment and animal waste being left on the road. Palmer stated that the Road Commission has very little control over this. There matter needs to go to the next level and contact made with government officials.

Palmer explained reasons for getting potholes on limestone roads and the different options on improving them.

2. Brett Lester to speak about sharing zoning enforcement.
  - Explained the process of zoning enforcement in the City of Sandusky and how they may be able expand the program with area townships.
  - Ross requested that the City salt the alley behind Bob and Jamie's restaurant. Mr. Lester will look into this.
3. Attorney Gregory Stremers to speak about his experience and what he can offer the township.
  - See New Business, Number 3

### **ZONING**

Franzel reported that:

1. James Spoutz 105 Morris Rd – Nothing new
2. Thibodue 2586 S Sandusky Rd – Nothing new
3. Franzel received a call from Eric, Sanilac County Building Dept. stating the James Spoutz has built-on to his trailer w/o permits.
4. Rec.'d many calls regarding manure (on roads/not being tilled in ground within 14hr timeline) and roads being destroyed by farming/manure haulers, called Randy Horst (our road commissioner) to voice citizen's concerns.
  - See discussion with Andrew Palmer under Public Officials, item number 1

5. Franzel reported he sent Ordinance Violation to Ron Smith (owner) & resident at 2720 S. Sandusky Road, Sandusky. - No Response. He went and spoke with Ron before sending notice as well.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jeff Renaudin spoke on his opinion that the City also should clean-up and repair streets, curbs, etc. as well as the dumping grounds.

Al Stoutenburg – Would like to encourage the City to clean up the dump area. He would also like to see a light installed at the corner of Stringer Road & M-46 as they are at other intersections in that area. The intersections the lights are on in Custer Township and Watertown Township. Mr. Stoutenburg believes that Custer Township may agree to share in the cost of installation as well as monthly electric invoices.

### **PERMITS ISSUED**

Franzel reported:

1. One permit issued – R J Henderson was issued a Land Use Permit
2. Received a new house permit in the City of Sandusky

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Franzel reported:

1. Air Advantage
  - Franzel reported that Scott Zimmer has been asked for clarification on two grant application items and is considering that as a good sign. The program timeline has been revised to – Initial Award Recommendation will be published March 2020. Objection and Comment period is March 2020 – May 2020 and Final Grant Award will be announced July 2020.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Called Sanilac Glass for a timeline on repairing windows.
  - Franzel reported that Sanilac Glass will install the windows on January 16, 2020.
2. Bid for led lighting rec.'d –
  - Franzel reported that he received a bid for \$2,089.00 from electrician Mike Ponting, to update all hall lights to LED fixtures and replace light switches. The item will be tabled until a style of light fixture can be agreed upon
3. Township Attorney needs
  - Cambridge reported that the present township attorney is running for a judge position. If he should be voted into the position, the township will need a new attorney. She contacted Worth Township attorney Greg Stremers. Mr. Stremers is interested in coming and talking to the Board about the possible position. This matter was tabled.
  - Ross reported that she needs the attorney to look over a township road millage renewal ballot language for the August election.
4. Planning Commission has reviewed a couple Ordinance and the projector worked great for the process.
  - Franzel reported that the projector worked great at the Planning Commission Committee meeting.
5. Would like to form 2 new committees of 2 people (finance & business) and schedule a “work day/night” for the township office
  - Franzel reported that he would like to form 2 committees (finance and business) to work on projects for the Board. i.e. Finance Committee could help the treasurer work on the annual budget.

Ross requested that due to the cost of Quick Books for payroll, the Board consider different options. i.e. getting a quote on the cost of an outside company processing payroll. This matter will be tabled until the February Board Meeting.

Franzel requested that a hall/office clean-up work day be scheduled. A work day was scheduled for January 11, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

## **BOARD DISCUSSION**

1. Franzel - The Annual Education Conference will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>.
2. Franzel - He will attend an Authorities and Responsibilities workshop on January 8, 2019.
3. Franzel – For his Zoning Administrator Program meeting in February, he needs a copy of the Township Zoning Ordinances, Supervisor’s job description, office manuals and code of ethics manuals. The January 11<sup>th</sup> work crew will copy this information for him.

## **ADJOURN**

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Coats, Franzel, Cambridge, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Next Board Meeting Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Ross, Clerk