

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – 6:00 pm

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

PRESENT: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross

ABSENT: Diaz

GUESTS: Susan Cole, Ken Landsburg, Jason Radloff, Dick Henderson

MINUTES

Franzel requested approval of the February 2, 2021 regular scheduled Board Meeting Minutes.

***Coats made the motion to accept the February 2, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Franzel requested a Samsung email he received to be added under Correspondence.

Ross requested Culligan information to be added under Clerk's Report.

***Dixon made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Franzel:

- Reported on a Samsung email regarding the solar moratorium received today – March 2, 2021 at 4:18 pm. All Board members received the same email.

TREASURER

Coats requested approval of February 2021 checks number 16430 thru 16448 for a total amount of \$6,915.99.

***Cambridge made the motion to approve the paid bills as presented. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Coats disbursed the 2020-21 budget for Board members to review before the annual budget meeting.

***Franzel made the motion to approve a special budget meeting at 5:30 on March 18, 2021. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CLERK

Ross requested approval to pay the monthly bills. This month, DTE invoice is the only invoice.

***Cambridge made the motion to approve the payment of the monthly bills. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Ross reported:

- She received notice from Knox Disposal that rates will increase effective 3/1/21.
- The Township purchased the township hall water softener in 1997 from Culligan. Presently the only charge related to the softener is the salt used at \$11.00 per bag if 6 or more bags are

purchased. However, if service is needed, charges will be applied. Dixon noted that more salt than necessary is being used because the softener is on a timer instead of usage. It would be a savings manually to manage the softener.

***Board consensus is to have the salt filled by Culligan and to manually manage the softener. The Board will contact Culligan when more salt is needed.

CEMETERY REPORT

Ross presented the cemetery activity through February 26th as submitted by Dick Henderson, Sexton:

- Plowed snow on February 3rd - \$25.00
- Burial February 6th Section D, Row 22, Grave 5, Township Winter Rate applied (\$725.00). Husband's ashes were buried in the casket with her.
- Plowed snow on February 7th - \$20.00
- Plowed snow on February 14th - \$30.00
- Plowed snow on February 16th - \$45.00
- Sexton Pay for February 2021 is \$745.00

SEWER REPORT

Bill Dixon reported:

- He was able to get and review the sewer drawings and videos from the former sewer monitor Scott Kenny. He gave a thumb drive copy to the Board to be kept at the hall.
- The water meters were read on time and reported to the City of Sandusky on Monday, March 1st.
- The Dell Street Lift Station continues to be monitored electronically daily. An instance was noted on March 1st that none of the reports were available on their website. However, the reports were available today. Gallon of flow were up about 50%, most likely from storm water.

Coats reported that a homeowner believes that, based on usage, two addresses are mixed up on water invoices. She will give Dixon the information and he will check on the issue.

Ross reported a homeowner concern on Gleason Street. Dixon will also look into this.

WEBSITE

Cambridge reported that she:

- Posted the January 2021 minutes and February 2021 agenda.
- Made a Board of Review website tab and under that posted the Board of Review Notice.
- Added Board of Review meeting dates to the homepage calendar and announcement for Board of Review dates and information links
- Added Application for Topography Exemption.
- Added 20-21 Poverty Exemption Guidelines.
- Updated Board of Review Contact List.
- Archived minutes and agendas as needed.
- Added 9/17/20 Planning Commission Minutes
- Reviewed the Summer Tax Deferral Form. It is the most current.
- Board requested that she make the Land Use Permit and Parcel Division Application fillable forms. She will need the original electronic copy of the forms.
- 2018-1 Prohibit of Marijuana and 2019-1 Wind Energy Turbine are the only ordinances on the website. Dixon – The Planning Commission is working on getting digital copies of ordinances. They will forward as soon as they are ready.

TAX ASSESSOR

Jeannie Diaz

- No report

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Ken Landsburg spoke to the Board about his opinion regarding the Samsung Solar Meeting and possible ways to inform the public how the solar farms are installed, the benefits to the land and the revenue to the community. The Board informed Mr. Landsburg that if wants to make an impact on the outcome of solar farms, he should consider attending the Planning Commission Meeting on March 18th at 6:00 pm.

ZONING

Franzel reported:

- Had an application for a Land Use Permit submitted for commercial purposes. This will have to go to the Planning Commission. If denied, the application fee will be returned.
- No new permits were issued.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sexton discussion – No discussion
2. Lawn mowing discussion – Franzel and Dixon will work on the specifications for the lawn mowing needs, Dixon will setup a request for proposal and send it to Cambridge to post on the website.
3. Bid specifications for mowing cemetery – See New Business, Number 2.
4. Upcoming Plans for Improvements (spending)
Coats requested additional Board input on Township needs to be budgeted for during the upcoming fiscal year.

- Dixon - Internet at the township hall.
- Dixon - Central server for all township files.
- Cambridge – Sewer needs? Dixon – Is looking into grants. He will write and submit but will need help with the specific information that the grants require.

***Franzel made the motion to authorized Bill Dixon to write and submit grants on behalf of the Township. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- Coats - How much should she budget for the LED sign suggested at the February meeting. Dixon – approx. \$20,000. Franzel – Will research the cost.

5. Acceptance of Planning Commission request for a Solar Moratorium.
Franzel – Reported the Planning Commission is requesting an extension of the Solar Moratorium.

Dixon – Requested that the public hearing for the solar ordinance moratorium be held during the Planning Commission Meeting on March 18th at 6:00 p.m. Then the Board could formally adopt it at the regular Board Meeting in April. Then the Moratorium would be in effect 7 days after the meeting and would last into October. He would like to then have Planning Commission Meetings monthly instead of quarterly until the issue is handled.

***Franzel made the motion to approve monthly meetings of the Planning Commission until the Solar Ordinance is completed. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

***Cambridge made the motion to approve the solar moratorium as requested. Franzel supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

6. TEC Fiber Ordinance
 - Per legal counsel, Kyle O'Mara, there will be no revenue from this project.
7. Board of Review (Need Board Approval to Appoint Jason Radloff to the Board of Review)
 - Franzel reported that Jason Radloff agreed to be on the Board of Review.

***Franzel made the motion to approve the appointment of Jason Radloff to the Board of Review. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

8. Ordinance Book needs to be updated to reflect new changes to Blight Enforcement fees.
 - Franzel will contact township counsel, Kyle O'Mara regarding the ordinance update.
9. Planning Commission members – Should we reduce down to 5 or stay at 7?
 - Franzel reported that the majority of people he spoke to would like to keep the members at 7.
 - The Board consensus is to keep the committee at 7 members.
 - Open positions will be put out for applicants.
 - As it is important to have a full committee due to the solar ordinance issue, Dixon requested that the positions be filled before the next meeting on March 18th. Franzel suggested advertising for the position and appointing members from the letter of interests that are received.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 6th at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk