

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471  
Tuesday, March 3, 2020 6:00 PM  
Public Accuracy Testing at 5:30 PM

The Watertown Township meeting for Public Accuracy testing began at 5:30 pm and was conducted by Clerk Ross and Deputy Clerk and Co-Chair Election Inspector Cole. The Accuracy test was completed by 6:26 pm and it was determined that all the equipment was working properly. The documents were signed by the township Election Commission: Clerk Ross, Deputy Clerk Cole and Treasurer Coats. All ballots and signed testing document were placed in the ballot container and sealed by Clerk Ross. The Public Accuracy test was adjourned at 6:15 pm and Regular Board meeting immediately followed.

The Watertown Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Franzel at 6:30 P.M. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Kenny, Franzel, Ross, Coats, Diaz

ABSENT: Cambridge

GUESTS: Jeff Renaudin, Susan Cole, Timothy Wrathell, Doug Sweet, Ken Landsburg, John & Norah Harding

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA**

- Franzel requested moving public officials before correspondence

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to approve the agenda with changes. Coats supported. Ayes: Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

- Doug Sweet, Sanilac County Drain Commissioner Candidate introduced himself to the Board, discussed his qualifications for the position and answered questions.
- Timothy Wrathell, Circuit Court Judge Candidate introduced himself to the Board, discussed his qualifications for the position and answered questions.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Received note from Andrew Palmer regarding gravel cost of \$9.56 per ton and limestone at \$17.31 a ton. Road brining dates are May 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Franzel will request Palmers attendance at the next Board meeting regarding yearly contracts.
- Received a letter from County for billing services offered and the charges associated with the services
- Received an email from Samsung and will take to the Planning Commission for an opinion
- Received correspondence from Greg Thorton, Assessor regarding small business for automotive products.
- Coats – Certificate of Compliance regarding liquor control enforcement. Franzel will contact the Sheriff's Department regarding this correspondence.

**TREASURER**

1. Approval of February 2020 checks number 16066 thru 16095 for a total amount of \$18,649.29.

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to approve the February 2020 checks number 16066 thru 16095 for a total amount of \$18,649.29, as presented. Ross supported. Ayes: Coats, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT**

1. February 2020 Minutes

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to approve the February 2020 minutes, as presented. Coats Supported. Ayes: Coats, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

2. Bills to be Paid

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to approve the bills to be paid, as presented. Coats Supported. Ayes: Coats, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**CEMETERY REPORT**

Ross reported that:

1. Cemetery activity through February 25, 2020 - A burial 2/3, snow plowed February 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, Sexton pay of \$860.00

## **SEWER REPORT**

Kenny report that:

1. The Sewer Control Box is not working correctly and has to be hand reset. It's time to get an engineering study to get an estimate on the work that needs to be done. This will allow the Township to apply for grants to help with the cost of a new system.  
\*\*\*Coats made the motion to approve a generic study be done on the sewer system at the lift station. Ross Supported.  
Ayes: Coats, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.
2. Detroit Edison seems to have corrected the electric issue.

## **WEBSITE REPORT**

No report

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **ZONING**

1. Tim Wrathell, to speak about Solar Ordinance.  
Mr. Wrathell reported that:
  - The present Township Solar Ordinance is very old and needs to be updated.
  - Samsung is interested in applying for a project and would like some changes in the ordinance.
  - Present solar ordinance requires a 125-foot setback from every boundary line whether the homeowner is participating (have signed a lease) or non-participating (has not signed a lease).
  - This setback is not the norm for neighboring townships especially for participating homeowners.
  - Companies interested in applying for projects are interested in getting the most solar panels in an area.
  - The present setback is not friendly for companies wanting to do business in the Township. However, the Township should also be interested in protecting the non-participating homeowners.
  - 17.02 Special Land Use Permits and 19.02 amending a Township Zoning Ordinance should also be modified as they are far outdated and require more strict notice requirements than what the State Law requires and each ordinance requires publications that are different than the State.
  - Discussed ways to update the ordinances.
  - o First the Township should consider a moratorium or freeze on Solar Ordinance Applications until a new ordinance is finished.
  - o There are two typical ways to create a new moratorium
    - Township Ordinance through the Township Act. Needs Board to approve a drafted moratorium by resolution at a regular meeting. After Board approval the moratorium would be published one time in the newspaper and would then go into effect for a period of time.
    - For additional strength, a moratorium would start with the Planning Commission, then go to the County Planning Commission for review and recommendations and then go to the Township Board for approval. Once approved the moratorium would be published. This process would include a public hearing at the Planning Commission level and land owner may request another public hearing at the Township Board level.
  - Cautioned the Board that there are 4 reasons that a Planning Commission Member must abstain from voting.
    - Member has an immediate family member involved in the request before the Planning Commission.
    - Member has a business or financial interest in a property in the request or has a financial interest in the applicant's company, agency or association.
    - Member owns or has a financial interest in a neighboring property – within the notice range.
    - Member has a reasonable appearance of a conflict of interest as determined by a majority of the board.
  - Cautioned the Board that the present ordinance does not require the applicant to pay for legal or engineer services. This should be amended very quickly as every application could be very costly for the Township.
  - Spoke with the Board about his own remote conflict as he has advised a township resident on a solar application. However, he did notify the applicant that he is the Township attorney and if there is a difference his first duty is to the Township.
  - Due to his candidacy for Judge and the need for a 2<sup>nd</sup> attorney in the case that Mr. Wrathell is unavailable, Scott Franzel spoke with him about a 2<sup>nd</sup> attorney for the Township. Mr. Wrathell recommends Kyle O'Mara who is involved with municipal work along with criminal work. The Board requested Mr. O'Mara attend the next meeting.

- The Board requested Mr. Wrathell attend the March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Planning Commission Meeting. Mr. Wrathell will check his calendar for that night, explained that the Planning Commission will only need to decide the type of moratorium and length of time they would set it for.
  - Reported that all township ordinances should be reviewed for needed updates.
  - Mr. Wrathell discussed and answered questions regarding zoning setbacks.
2. Franzel:
- a. Reported that Brad Bays will be applying for a license to sell cars/trailers. He will take it to the Planning Commission.
  - b. Presented a Zoning Administrative Certification for insurance reimbursement.
  - c. Presented a copy of sample Samsung Solar Farms.

### **PERMITS ISSUED**

Franzel:

1. Presented a Land Use Permit for a residential solar panel and payment.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Franzel reported:

1. Air Advantage – Grant Program – Delayed until August.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Renewal of Road Mileage – August 2020 Election  
\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to approve the Resolution for the Township of Watertown to renew the Road Mileage. Coats Supported. Ayes: Coats, Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.
2. Quote for Payroll Services – This will be added to the next Board meeting agenda

### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Scott Franzel – Kathy from Samsung will be at the Planning Commission Meeting to address any questions.

### **ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING**

\*\*\*Coat made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Kenny supported. Ayes: Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **CALL TO ORDER THE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING**

The Watertown Township Public Budget Hearing meeting was called to order by Supervisor Franzel at 7:20 PM.

Coats reviewed the amended budget. There was a drastic change due to black topping costs of \$210,000 that were not planned with the original budget. As this cost is not a normal cost and not expected next year, it was taken out of the fund balance. Another item over is the hall renovation expenses.

Franzel requested an allowance for his phone for township work. To not set a precedence, Coats would agree with reimbursements for additional costs, but not a monthly allowance. Franzel will turn in a reimbursement form monthly to include costs for phone, mileage, snow plowing, etc.

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to accept the amended budget as presented. Ross supported. Ayes: Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Coats presented the 2020-2021 projected budget.

\*\*\*Kenny made the motion to accept the 20/21 budget as presented. Ross supported. Ayes: Franzel, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Next Board Meeting Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Ross, Clerk