

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – 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: Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross

ABSENT: Cambridge & Diaz

GUESTS: Ron & Marilyn Payne, Matt Cole, Vicky Bright, Gary Heberling, Rex & Deborah Hazzard, Glenda Kirkbride, Jim Hacker, Jason Radloff, Ken Landsburg, Scott Kenny, Andrew Palmer, Eric Oswald, Mr. & Mrs. Ferguson (Diane), Samsung Lawyer Seth Arthur and Soyoung Park

MINUTES

*** Motion by Franzel, Supported by Dixon to approve the February 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Coats requested that

- Budget Hearing be placed on the agenda after Permits Issued

Franzel requested that

- 2023 Asset Forfeiture Report Email be placed under Correspondence #3

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Coats to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

District 2 Commissioner Gary Heberling, reported

- At a special meeting, held on March 6, 2023, a group of Master Plan Steering Committee members, Sanilac County staff, County Commissioners and planning consultants Beckett & Raeder discussed the issue of the development of alternative energy (solar & wind energy). They determined that it would be in the county's best interest to take proactive action on addressing alternative energy development. Mr. Heberling also made alternative energy history and information available for the Board and guests to take for review.
- A Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023 and will address alternative energy development.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Seth Arthur a lawyer for Samsung, spoke to the board about his conversation with Foster Swift Township Attorney Mike Homier and expressed his concerns on moratoriums.
- Rex Hazzard questioned the need to remove all the trees in the cemetery. Franzel said it was a unanimous decision by the Board based on the tree services' recommendation that the trees were passed their time and needed to be removed. This tree service previously removed trees that posed an immediate safety hazard and evaluated the rest.
- Jim Hacker a township resident spoke about the Planning Commission's work on the moratorium and that if everyone works together, they have the ability to create the best solar projects for Watertown Township.

- Deborah Hazzard asked the Board if there is any consideration of putting in new trees in the cemetery. If not, will families be allowed to plant trees? Franzel said there has been discussion by the Board on this and will be further discussion.
- Marilyn Payne expressed her disappointment over the cemetery tree removal. Discussion was held on the issues the trees were causing.
- Township resident Diane Ferguson, spoke about the Marijuana Establishment Ordinance for recreational or medical usage. She requested the Township's financial account balance. Coats said it is \$570,225.29. She requested an accounting for the Township funds. Coats said that the Township Year End Report can be found on the State's website.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Samsung letter from Varnum (Samsung)
 - Franzel stated that Seth reiterated what the Varnum letter stated.
2. Response from Mike Homier of Foster Swift to the Varnum (Samsung)
 - Franzel stated that Foster Swift response was basically what Seth said again.
3. 2023 Asset Forfeiture Report Email
 - Franzel reported that the Township does not have any Asset Forfeitures to report.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Solar Moratorium Discussion & Vote
 - Franzel reported the minutes and the moratorium recommendation must be sent to the County Planning Commission before the Board can discuss this issue. This must be done by March 14th. Jason Radloff will get the information to the County Planning Commission and Ross will verify.
2. Annual Budget
 - See Budget Hearing below
3. Ordinance Review
 - No action
4. Records Upkeeping Committee For Office Files
 - Tabled until the next regular meeting.
5. Quotes for Lawn Mowing
 - Ross reported Jeremy Radloff turned in a quote. There will be some adjustment based on the cemetery tree removal. Franzel requested Mr. Radloff attend the April meeting and that a notice be put on the website.

ROAD COMMISSION

Road Maintenance Director, Andrew Palmer,

- Handed out a packet showing where the limestone packing went, the Townline Road build info and projected miles for 2023.
- Discussed the repairs needed on Davis Street.
- Introduced acting foreman, Eric Oswald. Mr. Oswald will be able to answer questions on the packet.
- Gave Franzel the limestone and Second Road Side Mowing Agreements

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Coats to approve the purchase of 4000 ton of limestone for road maintenance. All in favor. Motion carried.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Coats to approve a Second Road Side Mowing. All in favor. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR/ZONING *Scott Franzel*

Franzel reported that no permits were pulled.

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Sheila Coats*

Coats requested approval of the February 2023 checks number 17137 thru 17158 for a total amount of \$10,537.09.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Franzel to approve the February 2023 checks as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

Ross requested a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Franzel to approve payment of the bills as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ross received the annual annexation check from the city.

CEMETERY REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

1. Database Update Progress 1/22

- Ross reported that she is updating the data base and when a Township computer is purchased, the program will be put on it.

SEWER REPORT *Jim Hacker*

- Meters were read on March 1st and submitted to the city on March 2nd
- A resident is contesting a reading and is requesting a history of actual and estimated readings. Discussion was held.
 - o The Board directed Mr. Hacker to negotiate with the resident. The present amount owed will be forgiven, but future readings will be actual and the resident will be invoiced accordingly
- Diaz will supply a resident address list for the Spicer Group Survey.
- He also requested direction. Should he turn in his extra hours on the solar project or should this be handled by someone else? Franzel directed that if he going above and beyond the normal job, he should turn in the hours.

PLANNING BOARD *Becky Cambridge*

No report

WEBSITE REPORT: *Becky Cambridge*

No report

TAX ASSESSOR *Jeannie Diaz*

Franzel presented the December 13th Board of Review Minutes and discussed the changes.

PERMITS ISSUED:

None

BUDGET

1. Budget Hearing

- Coats discussed the changes from the original 2022-2023 budget versus the final amended budget.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Franzel to approve the amended 2022-2023 budget as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Coats discussed the proposed 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Franzel to approve the 2023-2024 budget with the addition of \$5,000 to election costs. All in favor. Motion carried.

There were no public comments on the budget.

OLD BUSINESS

1. ARPA Money Plan

- Franzel reported that this issue is still being worked on. Dixon will look into the next reporting date.
- 2. Waste Removal Dates of Importance
 - Franzel reported that a public meeting will be held in May.
- 3. Weaver Sewage Issue
 - Franzel reported that this is still an ongoing issue.
- 4. Cemetery Tree Stump Removal
 - Franzel reported that Ross received a bid to remove the nine old tree stumps in the cemetery. Paterson Tree Service will remove the old stumps for \$75.00 each. The company will also put down three inches of topsoil, seed and straw for all the trees that were removed at a cost of \$75.00 each.

*** Motion by Dixon, Supported by Franzel to approve the bid to remove nine tree stumps in the cemetery at a cost of \$75.00 each. All in favor. Motion carried.

ADJOURN

*** Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m. Dixon supported. All in favor. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk