

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
Tuesday May 4, 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, Gary Heberling, Ken Landsburg, Jason Radloff, Rick Pangburn and Randy Fahs

MINUTES

Franzel requested approval of the April 6, 2021 Regular Meeting and April 14, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes.

***Dixon made the motion to accept the April 6, 2021 Regular Meeting and April 14, 2021 Special Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Dixon requested that –

- Planning Commission Activity be placed under Sewer Report (Per Board consensus, this will be a monthly update while Special Planning Commission Meetings are being held)

Franzel requested that –

- Copier Readings be placed under Correspondence
- Legal Correspondence be placed under Correspondence
- Road Sign Agreement be placed under Road Commission

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

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Copier Readings

- Franzel reported that the copier reading has been made. (100 Copies)

2. Legal Correspondence

- Franzel report he received correspondence from Kyle O'Mara, Watertown Legal Counsel, regarding updating the Zoning Ordinance from a misdemeanor to a civil infraction. Per the correspondence, the update is requires it to go before the Planning Commission. Dixon reported that there will be a public hearing regarding this Zoning Ordinance update at the beginning of the Planning Commission Meeting on Thursday, May 20th at 6:00 pm.

ROAD COMMISSION

1. Road Sign Agreement

- Franzel presented the Road Commission Sign Agreement for 6" green identifying road signs, with 4-inch white reflective lettering to be placed on all roads in Watertown Township.

***Cambridge made the motion to accept the Road Sign Agreement as presented. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

TREASURER

Coats requested approval of April 2021 number 16476 thru 16501 for a total amount of \$6,607.57.

***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 presented a listing of residents that, due to a billing issue, will need adjusted tax invoices. She requested the Board's approval to have the adjusted invoices processed.

***Franzel made the motion to approve the tax billing correction, with the attached list, as presented. Cambridge. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CLERK

Ross reported:

- No monthly invoices for approval.

CEMETERY REPORT

Ross presented the Cemetery Activity Report through April 13, 2021 as submitted by Dick Henderson, Sexton (final report):

- Burial – April 13, 2021 in Section E, Row 17, Grave 4, Township rates of \$475 applied. Sexton Pay for April 2021 is \$375.

Ross presented the Cemetery Activity Report through April 26, 2021 as submitted by John Harding, Sexton (initial report):

- Burial – April 26, 2021, No additional information

Dixon reported that, due to the transition of Cemetery Sextons, he was contacted about footings for headstones. He requested that written notices be sent to area funeral homes identifying the new sexton and giving contact information, and also signage be posted at the cemetery. Dixon will contact Stoliker's Design regarding the signage and John Harding, Sexton to get approval to put his contact information on the sign.

Franzel reported that the after a burial there is paperwork the needs to be submitted to the township. He instructed that the paperwork be placed into the drop box located outside the hall entrance and John Harding, Sexton be notified.

Franzel reported that grave blankets did not get picked up. Bob Wagner requested permission to trim trees up for lawn mowing and to be paid \$50 to do the extra clean up.

*** Coats made the motion to approve an extra \$50 for Bob Wagner for the extra cemetery clean up. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

SEWER REPORT

Bill Dixon reported:

- The Dell Street Lift Station continues to be monitored electronically daily. The system was down twice this month. Last month it was down once. However, it was back online within hours.
- Flow rates are consistent.
- Next meter reading is at the end of the month.

Planning Commission Activity – Bill Dixon reported

- The first special meeting of the Planning Commission was held to hash out the Industrial/Residential Solar Ordinances. The meeting was well attended. Three different people addressed the Board during public comments and were not in favor of the solar development. Ken Landsburg addressed the Board under an Agenda Item and presented a demonstration of soil that had been rested and soil that had not been rested.
- The annual election of officers was held. Mark Batkie is Chairperson, Nathan Campbell is Vice-Chairperson and Bill Dixon, Secretary.
- 3 & 4 year terms were delineated and which appointments expire when.
- Several discussions were held about wording that had to do with height, glare, development agreements, green belts and so on.
- Next scheduled meeting is May 20th at 6:00 pm.

WEBSITE

Cambridge reported that she:

- Added Jason Radloff as Planning Commission member
- Added April 14th Township Special Board Meeting Notice and agenda
- Added March 2nd minutes and April 6th agenda
- Added John Harding as new Sexton with his contact information announcement
- Removed outdated Sexton contact information
- Added March 18th Planning Commission Meeting
- Achieved March 2020 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
- Updated Mark Batkie phone number
- Checked on the township supervisor's email information. It is correct on the website.
- Will post May 20th Public Meeting as part of the Planning Commission Meeting

TAX ASSESSOR

Franzel submitted the Tax Assessor's report as submitted Jeannie Diaz.

- Clint Stoutenburg, Managing Member of C. Stoutenburg, LLC is requesting to combine parcel

240-028-100-010-07

and

240-028-100-010-04

240-028-100-030-03

240-028-100-040-20

240-028-100-070-02

with

240-028-100-010-05 (Main parcel zoned agricultural)

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

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Gary Heberling, Commissioner reported that:

- Tire Scrap Day is May 19th at the Sanilac Fair Grounds from 2-6 pm.
- Commissioners wrote and signed a resolution regarding return of Revenue Sharing from taken away from counties from 2010 to present. For Sanilac County this is \$806,990.
- Townships are receiving recovery funds. Franzel reported that this is approximately \$112,000 for Watertown.
- The State of Michigan has increased the technology usage and the structure of the court system and how they function. A meeting was held with Judge Ross to address these changes. Judge Ross presented a plan on how the current work staff could be restructured. Unfortunately, this would be a

\$55,000 increase in the yearly budget. It was suggested Judge Ross address the increased of duties with the State of Michigan Court.

- The current Park's Manager and Electrical Inspector are retiring and the current Building Inspector has resigned from his position.
- The City of Sandusky approved a new cold storage shed at the recycling station
- Thanked the Board on the great jobs done on the roads and the new limestone is nice.
- DTF reported that the Meth usage has increased by close to 150%
- Discussed the marijuana growing operations and how the issues with the operations can be addressed. Mike Moore from DTF will be addressing this issue and possible resolutions at the next meeting of the County Commissioners.
- He is a member of the EOP Committee that meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The COVID test rate has dropped. Three weeks ago it was 34.4 and is now 20.6. Also, approximately 30% of Sanilac County has been vaccinated.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Resident Rick Pangburn respectfully addressed the Board regarding his concerns and opposition to Solar Panel Fields being allowed in the township.

ZONING

Franzel reported:

- He received land split request that will leave a parcel with an easement but will not be buildable due to lack of road frontage.

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

- Received a land use permit request for a wood deck
- Received a land use permit request for a covered deck
- Thumb Online Auction would like to add a shed and also additional buildings for a Flea Market Business – Consensus of the Board is that this must be put before the Planning Commission and the owner must be notified as this may cause a taxable event.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Lawn mowing – Bob Wagner asked to remove low lying tree limbs and the removing of grave blankets. Wanted to let you know he had COVID 19 and was running a little behind to start the season.
 - A. Additional \$50.00 requested
 - See Cemetery Reports
2. Upcoming plans for Improvements (spending)
 - A. Clean up Day Plans and Volunteers – Received some quotes for dumping and dumpster
 - Franzel reported that
 - Knox's Disposal will bring an employee with a truck in for 8 hours, Monday - Friday for \$600. A 10-yard dumpster is \$250 and a 15-yard dumpster is \$350.
 - Waste Management's 20-yard dumpster is \$606, a 30-yard dumpster is \$751 and a 40 yard is \$912. Dumpster can be left 1 day or up to 2 weeks.
 - Board consensus is that when the day and times are set, a notice should be sent out with tax invoices.
 - B. LED Sign – Estimated cost and samples of signs.

Franzel presented estimates on an LED Sign to be placed in front of the hall.

***Coats made the motion to approve the purchase of an LED sign at a cost of \$26,966.34 plus the cost of electrical service to the sign. Board will receive a final proof. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

C. Need Minutes for Blight Fines to update the Ordinance

Franzel reported that Ross sent this information to Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara

D. Sand could be used to fill in the ditch south of the Township driveway

Franzel reported that there is a large amount of sand removed and not reused during burials. He suggests that a tube be put in the roadside ditch in front of the hall and the sand be used to cover the tube. This will eliminate the ditch but still allow drainage.

3. Ordinance Book needs to be updated to reflect new changes to Blight Enforcement fees.

- See New Business, 2C

4. Front door floor issue – No way of knowing how bad the problem is without removing vinyl flooring

A. I suggest that we cut out the smallest area and start there first. Front door needs a new seal between doors.

- Franzel reported that the door seal is worn out on the front hall door allowing the floor to get wet and decay.
- Ross will call Sanilac Glass to get an estimate on fixing the door seals or if a new door would more cost effective.
- After the door is repaired, the floor can be fixed.

5. New ideas to improve township wanted.

Franzel areported that :

- The straps broke on the hall meter box pole. The straps have been replaced.
- Additional maintenance items that are needed at the hall include painting of the back door, a replacement threshold is needed on the back door, and the light on the pole is falling down and should be removed.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,