

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471  
Tuesday, October 5, 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, Dixon, Franzel, Ross and Coats

ABSENT: Diaz

GUESTS: Matt & Susan Cole, Gary Heberling, Al Stoutenburg, Adam Flori, Jason Radloff, Kyle O'Mara, Mike & Christine Papp, Mike & Karen Smith, Wes Messing, Jim Hacker and Jim Cambridge.

**MINUTES**

Franzel requested approval of the September 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

\*\*\* Dixon made the motion to accept the September 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Ross supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Dixon, Franzel, Coats and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Coats requested that

- Auditor's Report be added as the next agenda item.

Franzel requested that

- Closed Session for the purpose of Discussion of Litigation be added as the next agenda item after the Auditor's Report

Dixon requested that

- Samsung be added under Correspondence #4

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

**AUDIT**

Wes Messing from King and King CPAs LLC presented the Township Audit for the year ending March 31, 2021. ~ In the auditor's opinion, the financial statement presented fairly represents, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, business-type activities and each major fund of Watertown Township.

- Due to COVID, the audit was not performed for the year ending March 31, 2020.
- The minimum healthy fund balance for the township should be \$250,000 to \$300,000.
- The audit for the year ending March 31, 2021 shows General Fund revenues of \$334,976 and expenditures of \$290,951 or revenue over expenses of \$44,025 and an ending fund balance of \$723,524.
- Sewer fund shows that typically the revenue coming in matches expenses going out for sewer treatment leaving a fund balance of between \$95,000 and \$100,000. The fund balance as of March 31, 2020 is \$94,431 and is very healthy.
- Audit went well and staff cooperation was greatly appreciated.
- King and King CPAs would like to continue working with the Township. Mr. Messing presented a 3-year contract at a cost of \$3,300 per year.

\*\*\* Franzel made the motion to accept the 3-year contract with King and King CPAs as presented. Ross supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## **CLOSED SESSION – FOR THE PURPOSE LITIGATION**

\*\*\* Franzel made the motion to meet in closed session for the purpose of consulting with our attorney regarding trial and settlement strategy in connection with the case of Adam Flory v. Watertown Township currently pending in the Sanilac County Circuit Court due to the fact that discussing the matter at an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation and settlement position of the township. This motion is made pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) – 6:10 p.m. Dixon supported. Ayes by roll call vote: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

\*\*\* Coats made the motion to return to open session at 7:05 p.m. Dixon supported. Ayes by roll call vote: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

1. Update Status on the American Rescue Plan Act request for funds.
  - Coats reported that the Township received approval for one-half of the \$130,000 allotment. The balance will be received within the next year. Dixon reported that grant reporting requirements start in April.
2. Miss Dig 811 – Do we need to respond as we own sewer lines to a facility?
  - Dixon reported that the Township is considered the facility owners for the sewer lines and lift station. The Township's involvement with Miss Dig and the identification process is required through Public Act 754.13. As all sewer lines are not mapped, the townships will have to identify them. Membership is required but dues and fees are waived for 2020 and 2021.
3. DNR Allowing Solar in Their Parks Article
  - Franzel made the article available for the Board's review.
4. Samsung Correspondence
  - Dixon received two pieces of correspondence from Samsung 1) References additional information put on their website regarding glare and noise analysis and other updates. 2) References a conversation he had when he received a call from Mike and Chris Papp. They then spoke with Samsung.

## **ROAD COMMISSION**

1. Franzel reported he called Andrew Palmer, Foreman regarding "Welcome to Watertown" signs. Mr. Palmer will submit a quote.

## **TREASURER**

Coats requested approval of September 2021 checks number 16617 thru 16642 for a total amount of \$46,843.45.

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

## **CLERK**

Ross: Requested a motion to approve the monthly bills to be paid.

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

## **CEMETERY REPORT**

Ross presented the Cemetery Activity Report through September 2021 as submitted by John Harding, Sexton:

- There was a casket burial in lot D2711. Weekday rates
- There was a Cremation Burial. Weekday rates.

1. Missing Cemetery Map – Franzel requested that Sexton John Harding create a spreadsheet to replace the Cemetery Map. Discussion was held.

\*\*\* Dixon made the motion to pay Mr. Harding \$500 for the creation of the spreadsheet. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

2. Update status on Cemetery Database – The above spreadsheet may take the place of this database.

### **SEWER REPORT**

- Dixon:
- Discussed with the Board the results of the September 2021 Sewer Flow Rates spreadsheet. In particular, he explained the 9/22 & 9/23 rainfall totaling approximately 4 inches and the resulting affects
  - Will be out of town from October 15 through November 1<sup>st</sup>. He will monitor the Lift Station remotely and Franzel will respond if there are any issues.
  - Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has a grant opportunity where proposals are entertained for land-based industries. This includes ground water and water quality improvements for economically challenged counties. There is a 30% match requirement for grants up to \$400,000. He would like to apply for the grant to address water infiltration and mapping of sewer lines.

\*\*\* Franzel made the motion for Dixon to continue with the grant process. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

### **PLANNING BOARD**

Dixon:

- Disbursed the abridged Planning Board's Meeting Minutes.
- At the September 2021 meeting, they were able to complete a couple of things on the list.
- The Planning Board is still struggling to come to a consensus on four areas of the Solar Ordinance. Franzel reported that he recommends and legal counsel advises that the next agenda is made to clearly reflect that this must be completed and returned at the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. It must be sent to the attorney the following week to keep on the time schedule. If this is not possible, the items that a consensus cannot be met on, are to be given to the Township Board for review and decisions.
- Per attorney Kyle O'Mara, the Planning Board must also hold a public meeting.

### **WEBSITE**

Cambridge reported that she: Posted and achieved minutes and agendas as needed

### **TAX ASSESSOR**

No report

### **PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

Commissioner Gary Heberling reported at the Commissioner's Meeting they:

- Gave temp approval of 2022 budget with the exception of a few ARPA areas and it is moved on to the full Board
- Appointed Linda Graves, Republican and Loraine Gresh, Democrat to the Board of Canvassers.
- Approved the purchase of pagers, from Mid-Com, for the fire and first responders' departments at a cost not to exceed \$39,105 with funding from the 911 millage.
- Authorized the I-Paramedics bid for ARPA oversight and compliance services.
- Passed a unanimous resolution, for county workers and those associated i.e. contract workers, encouraging citizens to discuss and be informed of the risk and benefits of any available COVID medical interventions to make decisions for their own bodies and welfare. Sanilac County, shall not question any citizen's claim of exemption from wearing masks or other similar mandated preventative interventions. Sanilac County will not mandate any form of vaccines or medical intervention.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Dennis Smith thanked the Board for their hard work on the solar ordinance. He then read a summary of what he has experienced and learned about solar fields.

Smith Bovill, PC Attorney, Adam Flowy, represents Ken Landsburg regarding the solar panels matters occurring in the township. He also thanked the Board for their hard work. His client is looking for a reasonable compromise and has two requests. 1) A lift of the moratorium 2) Solar setback be set at no more than 300 feet.

## **ZONING**

1. Would the Board like to start sending letters to abandon/dangerous buildings to get cleaned up?
  - Franzel inquired since the zoning ordinance is now a civil infraction, would the Board like to start sending letters out to owners of abandoned buildings. By unanimous consensus the Board agreed.

## **PERMIT**

1. Land Use Permit for an Addition
  - Franzel presented to the Board

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. LeCom reimbursement for sewer damage from June 2020
  - Ross reported that a check for \$6,209.62 for damage to the sewer lines is available. However, the company would like a release form signed. Franzel instructed Ross to have the attorney look the form over before it is signed.
2. Clean up day was a success. Over 30 residents used and more afterward on Sunday. (90-yards)
  - The Board discussed making this a yearly event and possibly using the property for other community events.
3. Front Door Floor Issue – No way of knowing how bad to problem is without removing vinyl flooring.
  - A. I suggest that we cut out the smallest area and start there first.
  - B. Back door needs wood replaced under threshold.
    - Ross reported that the front door has been repaired, but the weakened floor also needs to be addressed. Franzel will contact Mike Ponting to look into repairing the front door floor as well as the back-door threshold.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. FOIA Request Policy needs to be adopted and fees to be updated
  - Attorney, Kyle O'Mara presented a sample FOIA Request Policy and forms from the Michigan Township Association. The policy directs all FOIA request be processed by the Township Clerk. The Township must adopt a policy in order to charge a fee for FOIA requests.

\*\*\* Franzel made a resolution to adopt the FOIA Policy as written. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

2. Upcoming plans for Improvement Ideas? (Removal of Bushes)
  - A. Welcome to Watertown Township signs at borders.
    - See agenda item - Road Commission for information on the Welcome to Watertown signs
    - The Board discussed the removal of bushes and trees.

## **ADJOURN**

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, November 2, 2021 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,