

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
Tuesday, November 12, 2021 – 6:15 pm

The Watertown Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Scott Franzel at 6:15 pm.
All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Susan Cole, Matt Cole, Al Stoutenburg, Jason Radloff, Mike Smith, Adam Flory.

MINUTES

Franzel requested approval of the October 5, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

*** Dixon made the motion to accept the October 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented with one caveat - Under Sewer Report there is a 30% match requirement up to \$100,000 not \$400,000. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Franzel requested that

- Approval of the October 5, 2021 Closed Session Minutes be added to the agenda.

*** Coats made the motion to accept the October 5, 2021 Closed Session Meeting Minutes as presented. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Franzel requested that

- BSA Proposal be added under Tax Assessor

OFFICIAL GUEST

None

CLOSED SESSION – FOR THE PURPOSE LITIGATION

*** Regarding the case of Adam Flory v Watertown township, now pending in the Sanilac County Circuit Court, Case No. 21-039302-CZ, Franzel made the motion to move into closed session at 6:27 p.m. to consult with the Township's attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation because an open meeting would have detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township. Dixon supported. Ayes by roll call vote: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

*** Dixon made the motion to accept the recommendation made by the Township Attorney during closed session. Cambridge supported. Ayes by roll call vote: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel, and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. City of Sandusky and Eagle-The State of Michigan regarding Cramer property over VanAlstine's new signage.
 - A. Stating that Cramer's could clean up the property.

- B. Stated that Cramer's wanted to use a charging station in the future. (property is too small for any business)

Franzel reported that Sandusky City Manager, Dave Faber contacted him regarding the activity on Pine Street. He explained the replacement VanAlstine's business sign was being installed and that Eagle was making sure that no contaminated dirt from the adjacent Cramer property was removed during the installation. The company stated that the Cramer property can be cleaned up as long as no contaminated soil is removed. Franzel will contact Mr. and Mrs. Cramer regarding clean-up of the property. Coats requested that Eagle put in writing that the property can be cleaned up.

2. Letter from a member of the planning board.
Franzel inquired if the Board had any questions regarding this letter. No questions.

ROAD COMMISSION

No update on "Welcome to Watertown" signs

Ross requested that roads be graded with crowns on each road for better drainage. Franzel will speak to Andrew Palmer at the Road Commission.

TREASURER

Coats requested approval of October 2021 checks 16643 thru 16669 for a total amount of \$36,136.87.

***Coats made the motion to approve checks 16643 thru 16669 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 the monthly checks as presented. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT

1. Missing Sewer Map – No Update
2. Cemetery spreadsheet is being worked on.
 - Franzel reported that John Harding, Sexton is continuing work on the cemetery spreadsheet and appreciated the \$500 stipend approved by the Board.

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

- Cremation burial – week day rates
- Cremation burial – weekend rates

SEWER REPORT

Dixon reported:

- No failures for the month of October.
- The spreadsheet report of the daily rain totals still shows increased activity during rain events. He is working on the identifying the addresses that run through the lift station.
- No outages power or otherwise
- The meters will be read November 27th or 28th.
- The 811 Miss Dig Membership Renewal invoice for 2022 will be sent out in November. The application, setup and orientation have been completed. A new code will be added for fresh water lines. The next step is to install a mapping program on the township laptop.
- He attended the webinar for a Grant. It is due November 19th.

PLANNING BOARD

Franzel reported:

- Board members have a copy of the Committee's Solar Draft to review
- A copy of the draft has also been sent to the Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara.
- Kyle O'Mara requested to attend the next Planning Meeting to explain any changes he suggests. It is also the Public Hearing night and adoption of the Planning Commission's recommendation to the Township Board. Franzel will let Mr. O'Mara know that the Board would like him at the meeting

WEBSITE

Cambridge reported that she:

- Updated or archived agendas and minutes as need.
- Added the Miss Dig Announcement, the FOIA Procedures and Guidelines and the Planning Commission Public Meeting Information.

TAX ASSESSOR

1. BS&A Proposal

Jeannie Diaz proposed that a BS&A link be added to the Township Website. This program will provide users with property appraisal information. There is no cost to the Township. There is a \$2 fee to each user.

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

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Attorney, Adam Flory addressed the Board regarding the solar project setbacks and other solar matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ZONING

1. Would the Board like to start sending letters to abandon/dangerous buildings to get cleaned up?

A. Waiting on a letter from Kyle to reflect new fines associated with blight

- Franzel reported that he is waiting on a letter from Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara regarding the new fines associated with blight.

2. Land Split Application to be approved

- Franzel distributed the application, associated paperwork and payment to the Board.

PERMITS ISSUED

1. Land Use Permit for a Pole Barn.
2. Land Use Permit for a Covered Porch and Deck.
3. Land Use Permit for a Garage

Franzel distributed the applications, associated paperwork and payments to the Board.

OLD BUSINESS

1. LeCom reimbursement for sewer damage from June 2020

- Ross reported that LeCom contacted her. Their recommendation is to execute the settlement release as long as the inspection is satisfactory.
- Franzel reported that the County did the inspection and it is satisfactory.
- Ross will sign and execute the settlement release.

- LeCom will hand deliver the settlement check.
- 2. Front Door Issue
 - A. I suggest that we cut out the smallest area and start there first. (Door still has a gap at the bottom)
 - B. Back door needs wood replaced under the threshold.
- Franzel will contact someone to fix the gap at the bottom of the door.

NEW BUSINESS

1. FOIA request policy needs to be adopted and fees to be updated.
 - Franzel reported there is not an update on this issue.
2. Welcome to Watertown Township signs at borders. Waiting on Road Commission
 - Franzel reported there is not an update on this issue.
3. Highline Internet should be here on the 17th of November.
 - Franzel reported that Highline Internet will drop service at the Hall on November 17th.

Franzel reported he went to a supervisors meeting and the solar project was a big issue.

Franzel reported that the Zoning Administration Certification Program has classes coming up and shared the information with the Board.

Franzel reported that he completed Township projects – i.e. put batteries in the thermostat, disposed of a dead deer, etc. and he submitted an invoice.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,