

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 3, 2023 – 6:00 pm

The Watertown Township Board meeting was called to order by Trustee, Rebecca Cambridge at 6:10 pm. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Cambridge, Coats, Ross and Diaz

ABSENT: Dixon and Franzel

GUESTS: Susan Cole, Jason Radloff, and Gary Heberling

MINUTES

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Cambridge requested that

- Unclaimed Property/Replacement Check be placed under Old Business, Item Number 5
- Federal Guidelines be placed under Tax Assessor, Item Number 2

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No Public Comments

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

District 2 Commissioner Gary Heberling, reported

- Board of Commissioners held the annual organizational meeting. He presented an informational list of each Commissioner serving in our county.
- There are committee openings on the Landfill & Recycling and Council on Aging Committees.
- The following Board of Commissioners Committee elections were made - Jon Block Chairman, Roger Ballard Vice-Chairman and Bill Sarkella Finance Chairman.
- As requested, he looked into the residency of a Road Commissioner. He is a legal resident of Fremont Township.
- He has been working with Bryant Wilke, Sanilac Health Department Director regarding the open sewer issue. Mr. Wilke has no update on the issue and no progress has been made. Mr. Heberling will continue to work on this matter and the township has the option to impose fines as allowed by township ordinance.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Samsung Solar Project Application

- Colin Daining from Samsung called Franzel about submitting an application for the project. Samsung has been working with the County Building Dept. and Sanilac County Road Commission for the past couple of months to get everything in place.

- Cambridge recommends doing a solar ordinance amendment to clearly define that participating homeowners will consider having solar panels installed and nonparticipating homeowners are not willing to have solar panels installed.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to notify township attorney Kyle O'Mara to amend the solar ordinance terminology to clearly differentiate between participating and nonparticipating homeowners. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Attorney Kyle O'Mara – Samsung Waivers
 - Franzel received a letter regarding his discussion with Colin Daining (Samsung) wanting waivers. He suggests using Foster Swift from this point forward as they do not have ties with the County. Also, Rob Eggers from Spicer Group noted from his review, that there are some deficiencies in the ordinance. Franzel recommends that Foster Swift review the Solar Ordinance and make suggestions for any amendments to be done ASAP. This may require a special meeting.
 - No action was taken.
3. Commissioner Gary Heberling Text
 - See Public Officials Report

NEW BUSINESS

1. Annual Budget
 - Coats discussed the annual budget process. She also recommended discussion be held on projects especially for the ARPA funds.
2. Smart Community Signs Installation
 - Cambridge will notify Franzel that the signs can be installed.

ROAD COMMISSION

1. Representative Does Not Want to Report to the Board
 - Coats will draft a letter to the Road Commission regarding the trees surrounding the Walker Rd location and also requesting a representative report to the Board at least twice a year. The letter will be reviewed at the next regular meeting of the Board.

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Coats to authorize Coats to draft a letter for the Board's consideration at the next meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR/ZONING: *Scott Franzel*

No Report

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Sheila Coats*

Coats requested approval of the December 2022 checks number 17074 thru 17106 for a total amount of \$44,572.81

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Ross to approve the December 2022 checks as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

1. Township Credit Card for Highline Internet and Other Business
 - Coats reported that due to a clerical error, the credit card application process must be started over.

CLERK'S REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

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

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

Ross reported that the township received a 2020-2021 Program Year Accident Fund Worker's Comp Dividend Check for \$166.95.

CEMETERY REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

No burials for the month of December 2022

1. Database Upgrade Progress 1/22
 - No update
2. Tree Removal Bids
 - Ross reported that she spoke with the contractor. The trees will be removed by spring.
3. Additional Tree Removal Bid
 - Ross reported that the contractor agreed to remove the remaining trees at the same price quoted for the original tree removal. Stumps will also be removed.

SEWER REPORT *Jim Hacker*

1. Iverson Sewer/Water Invoice Correction
 - Coats will remove the late fees from the invoice

PLANNING BOARD *Becky Cambridge*

Cambridge reported

- The last meeting was held on December 15th and she handed out the unofficial minutes.
- Discussion was held on a guide from MSU and U of M regarding Planning and Zoning for Solar Energy Systems. A copy of the guide is posted on the Township Website.
- Discussion was held on the ordinances.
- The Planning Board recommends that a Master Plan Survey be sent out to each resident of Watertown Township.

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Ross to approve mailing each resident a Master Plan Survey. Aye: Cambridge & Ross, Nay: Coats. Motion carried.

- Next meeting is Thursday, March 16th at 6 p.m.

WEBSITE REPORT: *Becky Cambridge*

- Added approved and proposed minutes as needed.
- Added 2023 meeting dates for the Township Board, Planning Commission and Fire Department.
- Added a new side tab with Board Member Information
- Updated the Cemetery Form wording
- Made a Google Analytical Account.

TAX ASSESSOR *Jeannie Diaz*

1. Filkins Land Split Application Status
 - The application is still pending. She has emailed the Filkins her concerns regarding the split.
2. Federal Guidelines
 - Diaz gave the Board a copy of the Federal Guidelines. The form needs to be filled out and signed by the Board Clerk.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to accept the Federal Guidelines as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

There is a mandatory Board of Review Training Class for members on February 8th at the Career Center in Peck. If members cannot attend, they may also take the training via a zoom meeting.

PERMITS ISSUED:

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. ARPA Money Plan
 - This item was tabled until the February 2023 meeting.
2. Master Plan
 - See Planning Board Report
3. Update all Ordinances & Completing Updating Ordinances (Get them Updated & Recorded)
 - Cambridge handed out a copy of ordinances to be addressed.
 - The Board made a schedule to address ordinances during regular Board Meetings as follows
 - o Prohibition of Marijuana Establishments and Medical Marijuana Ordinances – February 2022
 - o Dangerous Buildings and Blight Ordinances – March 2022
 - o Cemetery and Exotic Animals Ordinances – April 2022
 - o Fire Protection and Outdoor Gathering Ordinances – May 2022
 - o Sewer Ordinance – June 2022
4. Waste Removal For Township In Process
 - Cambridge will request that Franzel ask each company if the fuel surcharge is a part of the bid and the bottom line on each bid.
5. Unclaimed Property/Replacement Check
 - Cambridge has not received a reply back on the various township addresses that the check may have been sent to. Ross has not received a reply on her request to have the check reissued.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Cambridge supported. All in favor. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk