

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471  
Tuesday, April 6, 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 Diaz

ABSENT: Ross

GUESTS: Susan Cole, Dick Henderson, Andrew Palmer, Gary Heberling, Ken Landsburg, Jason Radloff

**MINUTES**

Franzel requested approval of the March 2, 2021 regular scheduled Board Meeting Minutes.

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to accept the March 2, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Franzel requested - Three Land Use Permits be placed under Zoning

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Franzel:

- Had a call regarding sending emails to watertowntownshipsupervisor@yahoo.com need to remove from website and any other places that we have it.
  - \* Cambridge will update the township supervisor information on the website.
- Resignation Letter from Dale Schoen from the Planning Commission.

\*\*\*Dixon made the motion to accept the resignation of Planning Commission Member, Dale Schoen, with regrets and appreciation for 15 years of service. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to appoint Jason Radloff to the Planning Commission Committee. Ross will administer the Oath of Office before the next committee meeting. Franzel supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried

**ROAD COMMISSION – Andrew Palmer**

Andrew Palmer, Sanilac County Road Commission Representative presented the Board with Road Service Work Agreements and discussed the details and costs of each.

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to approve \$75,000 in limestone for the next year. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion to approve a 2<sup>nd</sup> road side weed mowing at a cost of \$1,373. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried

The Board requested that Mr. Palmer also put together a quote for road side brush spraying.

Road Brining will be done on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **KEN LANDSBURG**

- Soil demonstration to the Board  
Ken Landsburg presented to the Board a demonstration, from National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), showing soil health. The demonstration uses soil samples taken from 3 different areas (farm land, woods and under solar panels that is in the NCRS conservation area) The samples are placed in water to see which the water falls through or soil breaks apart faster. The theory is that soil such as farm land will dissolve faster than the richer woods or solar panel samples, because there is more “life” in the woods and solar panel samples making it richer, healthier and more usable soil. Mr. Landsburg believes that old over used farm soil will get the rest and get the rejuvenation it needs at the same time it is being used for solar panels.

### **TREASURER**

Coats requested approval of March 2021 number 16449 thru 16475 for a total amount of \$35,498.31.

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

### **CLERK**

Deputy Clerk Susan Cole (in place of Ross) requested approval to pay the monthly bills.

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion to approve the payment of the monthly bills. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Susan Cole presented Treasurer’s Report as submitted by Ross:

- The Election Source representative returned the repaired Watertown voting tabulator with the Election Source tabulator exchanged during an Election Day repair.

### **CEMETERY REPORT**

Deputy Clerk Susan Cole (in place of Ross) presented the Cemetery Activity Report through March 2021 as submitted by Dick Henderson, Sexton:

- Burial on March 3, 2021, Section a, Row 35, Grave 4, Out of Township and Winter Rates applied of \$925.
- Burial on March 21, 2021, Section C, Row 21, Grave 3, Out of Township Rate applied of \$675.
- Emptied trash barrels on March 22, 2021 - \$10.00
- Dumpster emptied on March 23, 2021
- Sexton Pay for February \$1,410.00

### **SEWER REPORT**

Bill Dixon reported:

- The Dell Street Lift Station continues to be monitored electronically daily.
- There is a bit of an uptick in flow which he suspects is from winter melt and spring rains
- Both pumps are carrying the load equally.
- Ross received a customer call reporting water in their basement that they thought might be due to sewer backup issues. However, no adjacent homeowners reported issues.

### **WEBSITE**

Cambridge reported that she:

- Removed the Planning Commission Member Needed Announcement from the Home Page.
- Added Special Meeting Updates on the calendar.
- Added February 25, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes for the Planning Commission.

- Updated Planning Commission Member information and positions
- Added March 18, 2021 Special Board Meeting Agenda and February 22, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes
- Archived Special Meeting Minutes
- Removed Lawn Mower Proposal Notice as the final date to submit was March 31, 2021

Dixon reported that Election of Planning Commissioner Offices will be done at the Committee's April Meeting. Until that election is done, Cambridge can remove Dale Schoen, report the Chair and Vice-President positions as vacant and add Jason Radloff as a member.

### **TAX ASSESSOR**

Jeannie Diaz

- Weather is nice so she will be out assessing the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the township.

### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Gary Heberling, Commissioner reported that:

- The Planning Commissioner's sent out a notice -
  - o Currently updating the County Master Plan and will be seeking input from the community.
  - o Will be considering cannabis related businesses
  - o Will be considering utilities such as wind and solar energies
  - o The county website is a great place to get these updates.
  - o The Commission meets monthly and the dates were included in the notice
- Update on April 6<sup>th</sup> Board of Commissioner's Meeting
  - o Reelected Pam Willis as Health Board Representative
  - o Reelected Pat Bainbridge to Parks and Recreation and added Chris Kopacz to fill vacant position.
  - o Approved Tim Moody and Tom Schaefer to the Pension Board for 3 more years.
  - o Approved the purchase of 3 new vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.
  - o Approved the Parks & Recreation purchase of 2 new Gators from Tri-County
  - o Approved to continue the virtual meetings through May 31, 2021
  - o Free Tire Day is April 21, 2 pm until 6 pm. To give all resident an equal chance to dispose of tires, each resident may only drop off 7 tires at a time. However, the resident may then return to the end of the line as many times as they would like and room allows to make another drop off of 7 tires.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- None

### **ZONING**

Franzel reported:

- One variance permit was requested.
- One building demolition permit was requested.
- One building improvement permit was requested.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Sexton discussion
  - Franzel asked the cost of digging a grave. Dick Henderson, Sexton answered that it is \$100 dollars less than the fees the township collects.
2. Lawn Mowing Discussion
  - See below
3. Bid specifications for mowing cemetery – BIDS received

\*\*\*Franzel made the motion to accept the Wagner Lawn Care bid. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- Franzel noted there was another item on the bid for a quote of \$420 to rake and clean-up the cemetery.
- Discussion was held on clean-up of the cemetery, frequency of mowing and who the mowing company is responsible for reporting to and receiving instruction from.

By Board consensus Wagner Lawn Care will mow the cemetery at their discretion as per usual and the company works for the Township Board.

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion that Dick Henderson do the grave cleanup on April 15<sup>th</sup> as per usual. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion to approve the \$420 quote to rake and cleanup the cemetery per Wagner Lawn Care bid. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried.

By consensus, the Board will poll other townships on cemetery and sexton costs. The Board also requested that Ross look back 6 to 12 months in our township books and compile cemetery/sextion cost information to compare with the other township poll information

4. Upcoming plans for Improvement (spending)
  - A. Clean up day Plans and Volunteers
    - o Clean up day will be advertised on the new sign
  - B. LED Sign.
    - o Discussion was held on specifics of a sign. I.e. location, price, 1 or 2 sided. Franzel will continue to research a LED Sign.
  - C. Need Minutes for Blight Fines to update the Ordinance
    - o Franzel requested a copy of the minutes from the Blight Fine Update Meeting so that Kyle O'Mara, Township Lawyer can institute it into the Ordinance Book. Also need to publish the notice in the paper one more time.
5. Ordinance Book needs to be updated to reflect new changes to Blight Enforcement fees.
  - See Above

Franzel reported a weak spot in the floor in front of the entry way.

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion to authorize Franzel to get the weak spot in the floor in front of the entry door fixed. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried

## **ADJOURN**

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Franzel. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,