

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 30, 2024 –6:00 pm

PRESENT: Cambridge, Cole, Dixon & Ross

ABSENT: Coats & Diaz

GUESTS: Diane & Don Ferguson, Dick Henderson, Scott Kenny, Jeff Renaudin, Lyne Stauffer and Bill Parrish.

1. AGENDA

*** Motion by Cambridge supported by Cole to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES:

Dixon requested approval of the July 3, 2024 Minutes.

- Cambridge requested under 8B Treasurer’s Report/Possible Action, the word secretary be replaced with treasurer.

*** Motion by Cole supported by Cambridge to approve the minutes as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. PUBLIC OFFICIAL

None

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Resident Diane Ferguson presented the Board with a Notice to Michigan Township Officers of the People’s Right to Instruct. She proceeded to read the document aloud. Although each member of the public is allowed a 3-minute speaking limit, Mrs. Ferguson continued to read several minutes beyond this timeframe despite the Supervisors’ attempts to intervene.

Resident Donald Ferguson presented and read aloud his request for the removal of his blight complaint concerning 2985 Sandusky Road, Sandusky, MI 48471. The document included his request, instructions for the Board to show him where they are authorized to encroach on private property, and the method for submitting responses.

5. CORRESPONDENCE

None

6. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Townline Rd – Walker To Frenchline Rd Improvements (6A 1-2) Consideration/Approval
 - Dixon reported that, as mentioned in the previous meeting, a resident of Townline Road informed him that recent rains had made a portion of the road nearly impassable. He then presented a proposal from the Sanilac County Road Commission to improve the section of Townline Road between Walker and Frenchline Roads. The proposal outlines a cost-sharing arrangement between Elmer and Watertown Townships. Due to the significant expense and its impact on the 24/25 budget, Dixon recommends deferring the decision until the Township Treasurer is available.

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Cole to approve that this matter be tabled until such a time that the Township Treasurer is present. All in favor. Motion carried.

- b) DTE Tree Removal agreement (6B-1)
 - Dixon reported that an agreement has been signed permitting DTE to brush hog and or hard cut 15 ft on each side of the DTE Right Away on Sandusky Road.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Sylvan Drive Dangerous Buildings Complaint Referred to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department & Sanilac Bldg. Dept.
 - Dixon reported that the matter is still going through the process. He is working with the Building Department, Sanilac Sheriff's Department and the attorney to address it. His understanding is that they need to pull a Building Permit and for an inspection they are going to need a search warrant.
- b) M-19 and Marlette Road Dangerous Buildings Complaint Referred to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department & Sanilac Bldg. Dept.
 - Dixon reported this matter is in process and there was no need for action this past month. He also reported that the Custer Street blight complaint has been resolved.
- c) DTE Re-Leaf Tree Planting Schedule
 - Dixon is having difficulty in scheduling this before the grant deadline at the end of September. Western's Tree Farm believes that planting the trees in October, just before a frost, would increase the likelihood of success. Dixon plans to contact DTE to request an extension of the deadline.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of Checks Issued. Consideration/Approval
 - Dixon, speaking on behalf of Coats, reported that she is requesting the Board's approval of the monthly checks included in the board packet

*** Motion by Ross, Supported Cole to approve checks number 17655 through 17676 in the amount of \$10,583.02 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- b) Audit
 - Dixon reported that the auditors were on site one day last week, with a full crew.

9. CLERK'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of current month bills Consideration/Approval

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

- b) August Primary Election 8-6-24
 - Ross reported that the election is all set. Election workers have been scheduled.

10. CEMETERY REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Ross reported:

- a) Burials & Lot Sales
 - No burials
- b) Headstone Repair
 - Cambridge will contact Sexton John Harding for an update.

11. SEWER REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Townley Asset Assessment & GPS Location Ongoing
 - Dixon updated the Board that Townley has submitted the preliminary drawings for the Asset Survey. He plans to consult with Supervisor Jim Hack for any further updates or feedback. He also noted that approximately 8 manholes still need to be located and uncovered. The next step in the process will be for Site Services to come out to locate, uncover and map the remaining manholes.

12. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Ad Hoc PC Meeting 6 pm on 8-8-24 – Solar Ordinance Amendment
 - Dixon requested approval to hold a Planning Commission Ad Hoc Meeting at 6 pm on August 8, 2024 regarding the Solar Ordinance Amendment.

*** Motion by Cole, Supported by Ross to approve a Planning Commission Ad Hoc Meeting at 6 pm on August 8, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dixon reminded the Board that there is a Special Planning Commission Meeting on August 22, 2024 at 6:00 pm for action on the Samsung Special Land Use Permit.

Cambridge reported that

- Since she was unable to attend the last Township Board Meeting, she provided each Board member with the minutes from the Planning Commission Meeting and Public Hearing. She strongly recommends that everyone listen to the public hearing tape maintained by Jason Radloff.
- There will not be a July meeting, as more time is needed to complete the next steps in the Samsung process.
- The next Planning Commission Meeting will be held on August 22, 2024, to review the revised Solar Land Use Application.
- Bound copies of the completed Master Plan and Future Land Use Map have been received. The future Land Use Map is now posted on the board.
- She emailed Mike at the Spicer Group regarding when the bound copies of the Parks and Recreation Map will be received. The electronic copy is available online

Dixon reminded the Board that the new solar and site laws will become effective on November 29th. He would like to see our ordinance followed. However, there is a real possibility that the Michigan Public Service Commission could grant the site plan and it would not look anything like the ordinance they have worked so hard to develop.

13. WEBSITE REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Cambridge reported the she:

- Added and archived proposed and approved Minutes as appropriate
- Updated the 2024 Poverty Guidelines
- Changed the Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan drafts to the finalized one.
- Added announcement as appropriate
- Updated the calendar as appropriate

14. TAX ASSESSOR/POSSIBLE ACTION

No Report

15. OTHER GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) Free Dump Day 9/14/24
 - Cambridge reported that Waste Management, a yearly contributor to free Dump Day, has set its donations for the year and Watertown was overlooked. Their donation plan was set last November and it is pretty much impossible to be added after it is set. Waste Management dumpsters will be approximately \$1,400 for 2 forty-

yard dumpsters. She then contacted GFL. Their donation plan is also set for the year. However, he could do a special rate of \$820.00 for the dumpsters.

*** Motion by Ross, Supported Cole to approve the expense of \$820 for 2 forty-yard dumpsters to be used during the 9/14/2024 Free Dump Day.

Cambridge will contact Waste Management to see if they will do a spring donation of dumpsters and GFL to see if they will do a Fall donation of dumpsters.

Cambridge reminded the Board that Sanilac Tire Collection will be on September 10th.

Dixon reported that he is continuing to work on updating the township information so that he can then update the township's SAM registration, CAGE Code, FSD (Federal Service Desk) and ARPA Reporting information.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Resident Dick Henderson inquired if the Board approved the gravel and black top millings that are being put on Townline Road. Dixon believes that the County approved it as a stop gap measure to stabilize the road. The Watertown Board did not. Mr. Henderson also inquired about the new zoning map posted on the Board. Cambridge explained that it is future use zoning map and does not affect present property zoning.

17. ADJOURN

***Ross made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:39 p.m. Cambridge supported. All in favor. Motion carried

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, September 3, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk