

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471  
Tuesday, August 3, 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, Franzel, and Ross

ABSENT: Dixon, Diaz

GUESTS: Matt Cole, Ken Landsburg, Michael & Karen Smith, Jason Radloff, Al Stoutenburg, Clint Stoutenburg, Randy Fahs, Leroy & Cynthia Graves, Jeff Renaudin and Elwin Eggert.

**MINUTES**

Franzel requested approval of the July 6, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to accept the July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Franzel requested Solar Correspondence be added as #9 under Correspondence –

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Franzel reported that:

1. He received an email from Eric Levine regarding shared services of a zoning officer and shared his reply with the Board.
2. Huron Economic Development Corporation and Thumb Electric would still like to provide Broadband and are encouraging the Township to update the franchise agreement.
3. M-Dot requested a zoning map. He will check on getting them one.
4. He received an email against the proposed solar panel project from a resident of Watertown Township.
5. Comcast contracted him that residents at 2985 S. Sandusky Road would like to set up business service. He responded that it is zoned as a residential property.
6. He has received numerous phone calls regarding the solar project. Although it is resident's right to contact him at all times of the day, it is getting to be unappreciated.
7. He received a blight complaint. He is working on contacting the property owners.
8. He discussed with the Board a list of questions he submitted to Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara regarding the solar moratorium. The ordinance would have to be ready and submitted to the Board before the September 2021 meeting. The committee has been working steadily on this, but believes it will not be ready that quickly. Mr. O'Mara suggested a resolution to extend the Solar Moratorium for 6 months.

\*\*\* Franzel made the motion to approve the resolution to extend the Solar Moratorium for another 6 month and rescind permission for 2 Special Planning Commission Meetings in August. Meetings of the Planning Commission will return to the regular monthly schedule. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Franzel will contact the Planning Commission with the Board's decision.

#### 9. Solar Correspondence

- Ross reported she received an email from a community member who is totally against the solar project.
- Cambridge received numerous phone calls against the solar project.

#### **ROAD COMMISSION**

Franzel reported:

1. Road signs are being put up.

#### **TREASURER**

Coats requested approval of June 2021 number 16559 thru 16588 a total amount of \$21,021.75.

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

#### **CEMETERY REPORT**

Franzel reported:

- Still working on finding the missing cemetery map.
- No burials during the month of July.

#### **SEWER REPORT**

Franzel presented the Sewer Report as submitted by Bill Dixon.

- There were numerous issues during the month of July. All were resolved.
- The biggest issue one was that the electric was down. An electrician was called in and there may be a charge for the service.

#### **PLANNING BOARD**

No report

#### **WEBSITE**

Cambridge reported that she:

- Added and archived minutes and agendas as appropriate.
- Updated free trash day notice to include items that will not be accepted.
- Updated Land Use Permit to a fillable PDF Document
- Verified Clerk's email address.

#### **TAX ASSESSOR**

Franzel reported:

- The only question for Diaz regards the solar tax form.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Michael Smith – Thanked the Board for doing a very difficult job and letting the political process happen. He encourages everyone he talks to be courteous and respectful as everyone has to live in the community after the solar project decision is made. Although the public is supposed to contact their representatives with their views, he realizes it is a lot of extra work for them and again expresses his appreciation. He then explained to the Board his negative opinion of the solar project and why.

## **PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

Representative Andrew Beeler provided an update on what the House of Representatives is and will be working on.

The House of Representatives:

- Finished up the 65-billion-dollar budget except for approximately 10-million-dollars for in-district projects. All departments are funded to the amount needed to stop any government shutdown.
- Continues to work on election reform.
- Voted on the Unlock Michigan Petition to repeal the 1945 Emergency Powers Act. Both House and Senate approved the petition. The 1945 Emergency Powers Act is no longer law in the State of Michigan.

In his first few months in office, Representative Beeler has also worked on:

- Veteran employment
- A tax bill moving the City of Port Huron's income tax deadline to match the Federal Deadline.
- A bill to ban gender and racial stereotyping in K-12 curriculum.

Coats – How will solar farms be taxed within our district? Representative Beeler will find out.

Franzel – Is there a way that the State can help with the rapidly increasing Medical Marijuana Operations in our area and the skirting of the licensing law? Representative Beeler's position is that should be a county or township decision but will find specific information on guidance that may be available now.

## **ZONING**

Franzel reported that he:

- Received a Land Use Application requesting to update a business sign. He is waiting on payment of the fee.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

1. LeCom reimbursement for sewer damage from June 2020
  - Ross spoke with a LeCon representative who will have his supervisor contact her.
2. Update status of Cemetery Database
  - Ross is working on it.
3. Front Door Issue
  - Ross contacted Mark Kaatz from Sanilac Glass. He is scheduled for Thursday.
4. Auditors Selection
  - Coats spoke with two firms. Campbell's out of Bay City is booked and can not take on any more clients. King and King CPAs out of Marlette is accepting new clients and have sent her a bid of \$3,500. They will be able to meet the September 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

\*\*\*Cambridge made the motion to approve King and King CPAs do the audit. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Planning Board request for an extra work session or two.
  - See item #8 under Correspondence.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. American Rescue Plan Act  
Franzel reported that the application is submitted
2. Internet service plan  
Franzel reported that he is still waiting on a call back.
3. Clean-Up Day Plans and Volunteers  
Franzel reported that workers are needed for the day and backhoe or heavy equipment is needed to help get the garbage into the dumpsters and pack it down. He also asked for the number of dumpsters needed.

Clint Stoutenburg offered the use of his equipment for the day. By unanimous consensus, the Board approved ordering three (3) 30-yard dumpsters for the day.

4. LED Sign
  - Franzel reported that the sign will be delivered on Thursday and electrician Mike Ponting, will be connecting the electric.
  
5. Sand could be used to fill in the ditch south of the Township Driveway.
  - No Update

**ADJOURN**

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,