

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471  
Tuesday, August 6, 2019 – 6:00

The Watertown Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Franzel at 6:00 P.M.  
All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Kenny, Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Ross and Diaz

GUESTS: Dave Faber – Lucas from Air Advantage, Jeff Renaudin, William Dixon, Dick Henderson,  
Matt and Susan Cole

ABSENT: None

**ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO AGENDA:**

Add a monthly item titled Website monthly before Fire Association

\*\*\*Coats made the motion to approve the agenda, with the addition of a monthly category -  
Website, Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays:  
None. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS:**

1. Dave Faber – City Manager

Scott Franzel and Dave Faber met to discuss ways the township and city can work together.  
Dave Faber reported-

- He met with Scott Kenny regarding meter reading
- The Kramer Property (Gas Station in the City of Sandusky) - In 2017, the DEQ did a report on the property. The report is available and has the necessary information on what needs to be done to remediate the property. Dave will send a copy of the report to the Board. There is a potential that both the Kramer Family and the Brownfield Fund Board can work together to clean up and enhance the property for public use. Also, Watertown Township could possibly purchase the property and petition the Brownfield Board for help in making this property safe and usable. Mr. Faber is willing to go with Watertown to request funds from the Brownfield Board. Scott Franzel will meet with the Kramer Family concerning the options for this property and mowing the property before the school district's open house.
- In 2024 M-Dot is planning a large project on M-46 from the City of Sandusky to Ruth Road. The part inside the community will be totally torn out and redone. At that time, M-Dot is also planning to mill and resurface M-19 to Redmond
- City Yard Waste Dumping Ground Lot – To enhance the look of the property, the City's plan is to create a berm on the edge of the property and to plant a row of pine trees. They also plan to burn the brush in the next month or so. Concerns were raised regarding the smell coming from the lot.
- Sharing Program of a Blight Officer – Dave Faber will meet with the Chief of Police regarding sharing of the Blight Officer who is currently employed by season. Mr. Faber

cautioned the Board that the Blight Officer will need their backing and there may be legal costs enforcing the ordinance until property owners know that the ordinance compliance will be enforced.

2. Air Advantage –Lucas reported that
  - The State of MI Department of Management, Technology and Budgeting is offering grant for internet service in underserved rural areas.
  - Air Advantage is building an application for this grant.
  - Letters of support from the township, business owners, farm owners, trustees, etc. are helpful in getting approval. Support letters may be emailed to [info@airadvantage.net](mailto:info@airadvantage.net) or [szimmer@airadvantage.net](mailto:szimmer@airadvantage.net) or mail to 465 N. Franklin, Suite C, Frankenmuth, MI 48734.
  - Also, to show proof of need, Air Advantage will be sending out a survey to homeowners regarding internet service in Watertown Township and is requesting that the township encourage residents and businesses to complete and return the surveys.
  - Grant awards will be given in March or April of 2020. If approved, construction will start as soon as weather allows.
  - If funding is approved, an internet tower could be constructed on township property.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

#### **ZONING:**

1. Jonathon Boyle update – Scott Franzel talked with Eric Essenmacher and the homeowner has 10 more working days left to answer the complaint.
2. James Spoutz 105 Morris Rd – update – Village attorney Tim Wrathwell is recommending that he and 2 township board members and the homeowners and their attorney (if they have one) meet to discuss the blight issue. Scott Franzel’s recommendation is to wait until it is determined if the city and township will be sharing a blight officer with the City of Sandusky. If so, that officer can direct the township on the next steps to be taken. By consensus, the Board will wait on the outcome of sharing a Blight Officer.
3. Thidodue update – Village attorney Tim Wrathwell is recommending that he and 2 township board members and the homeowners and their attorney (if they have one) meet to discuss the blight issue. Scott Franzel’s recommendation is to wait until it is determined if the city and township will be sharing a blight officer with the City of Sandusky. If so, that officer can direct the township on the next steps to be taken. By consensus, the Board will wait on the outcome of sharing a Blight Officer.
4. Pritchett Land Split Application – Scott Franzel received a check for the application, but trailer is still on one of the properties.

\*\*\*Coats motioned to approve the Pritchett three (3) parcel Land Split Application located at 2985 S. Sandusky Road – 1.99 acres, 2815 S. Sandusky Road – 2.66 acres and 2801 Banner Road – 2.06 acres with the stipulation that the trailer is moved within 30 days, Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Scott Franzel received a Land Split Application and the fee payment from Richard Izworski. The property was originally zoned commercial but the property split off will be zoned residential.

\*\*\*Coats motioned to approve the Land Split Application from Richard Izvorski to split a 10.81 acre parcel on the back of his property located on Henderson Road. Kenny supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

6. Scott Franzel reported that Jennifer Sontag's Land Use Permit Application for property located on Wedge and Townline Road doesn't meet the side setback of 20 feet. If the township denies the permit, she would like to go before the planning committee to request a hardship variance.

\*\*\*Coats motioned to deny the Land Use Permit from Jennifer Sontag because the setback does not meet the township's 20 foot requirement. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

7. Scott Franzel spoke with Kyle Kaufman from Sight Services regarding a bid to kill the weeds, add weed preventative, remove the stump and put decorative stone(s) in the front of the township hall.

\*\*\*Cambridge motioned to accept the bid from Kyle Kaufman from Sight Services for land improvements in the triangle in front of the township hall for \$975. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

8. Scott Franzel has received many complaints regarding blight around the township. How does the Board want to deal with these issues?

Sylvan Dr.  
S. Sandusky Rd  
S. Sandusky Rd  
Morris Rd  
Watertown Rd

This matter was tabled pending the outcome of sharing a Blight Ordinance Officer with the City of Sandusky.

### **PERMITS:**

See above

### **Website**

Cambridge put on the township website, information on summer tax due dates and repaving of roads starting September 3<sup>rd</sup>. She deleted general use form, is archiving planning commission minutes and will add the website survey link.

### **FIRE ASSOCIATION:** Chief's report from the July 16, 2019 meeting:

1. Thumb Festival went well
2. Joe Nartker was there on July 9th to work on the annual audit.
3. MMRMA representative Tim provided the department distribution checks totaling \$8,498.00
4. Since the June 2019 report the department had 7 runs with 2 non-chargeables, 3 rescues and 1 Watertown Township on S. Sandusky & E. Miller on June 20 and 1 Custer run.

### **SEWER:**

Scott Kenny reported that:

1. Spare parts have been purchased.
2. To be on the same schedule as the City of Sandusky, meter readings will be during the last part of August.
3. He contacted houses without meters and they are ok with getting them put in.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Windmill ordinance – No Update

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. Schedule Fee – Tabled until the next meeting

**CLERK:**

She met with the representative for the township's liability insurance. Jonathan, insurance representative will present at the next meeting.

\*\*\*Kenny motioned to move the next Board Meeting to September 10<sup>th</sup>, the week following Labor Day. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

\*\*\*Motion by Cambridge to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 regular Board as presented. Kenny supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: none. Motion carried.

Motion by Cambridge made the motion to approve the bills to be paid as presented. Kenny supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

DTE – Public service commission hearing on July 31, 2019.

Semco Energy - Gas Facility Improvements Notice.

Drain assessments for cemetery and hall – no cost.

**TREASURER:**

Motion by Cambridge, supported by Kenny to approve July 2019 checks #15876 thru #15901 in the amount of \$11,470.99 as stated. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Cambridge reported that there is a Legislative Update meeting with breakouts on timely township topics on October 17<sup>th</sup> at the Frankenmuth Bavarian Inn Lodge.

**ADJOURN:**

Motion by Coats to Adjourn, supported by Cambridge. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats, Kenny and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Supervisor Franzel at 7:08 pm.

September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00

Respectfully submitted,  
Tammy Ross, Clerk