

**Watertown Township**  
2630 South Sandusky Rd  
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, September 3, 2024 –6:09 pm

**1. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, William Dixon. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and roll call taken.

PRESENT: Cole, Dixon, Coats & Ross

ABSENT: Cambridge & Diaz

GUESTS: Rick Panburn, Matt Cole, Jason Radloff, Michael Homier, 3 from Samsung, Lyne Stauffer, Bill Parish, Gary Herberling, Diane & Don Ferguson, Dick Henderson, Scott Kenny, Jeff Renaudin, Jim Hacker, Clint Stoutenburg, Ken Landsburg and Steve Scribner

**2. AGENDA**

Bill Dixon requested that:

- Remove - The next Board Date Tuesday, September 3, 2024 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the agenda and replaced with the next Board Date Tuesday, October 1, 2024.
- DTE Energy be placed under Correspondence 5a
- Land Permit VanAlstine Truck, 91 Marshall Drive be placed Under Planning Commission 12c
- Collin Rymarz, 130 W. Cooper be placed under Planning Commission 12d

\*\*\* Motion by Cole supported by Coats to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES:**

Dixon requested approval of the July 30, 2024 Minutes.

\*\*\* Motion by Cole supported by Ross to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

**3. PUBLIC OFFICIAL**

County Commissioner, Gary Heberling reported that:

- He appreciates the Board approving applying limestone to some of the township's side roads. It has really helped his side road.
- Sanilac County Parks is enjoying their best season. Next spring, Evergreen Park will be adding a kayak launch and a Putt Putt Golf Course.
- The purchase of new 911 pagers have been approved .
- The purchase of vehicle for DTF has been authorized
- Authorized to post a clerk position.
- Authorized the posting of a custodial position at the courthouse.
- The Forrester Park Director, Steve Pozsgay has resigned.

#### **4. CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) DTE Energy
- Dixon reported receiving four notifications from DTE regarding their notice of a hearing from the Public Service Commission in regards to its renewable Energy Plan and its related relief, reconciliation of their Waste Reduction Plant in 2023, reconciliation for the 2023 Demand Relief Program and renewable energy cost reconciliation for a 12-month period ending December 2023. No action is required.

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Townline Rd – Walker To Frenchline Rd Improvements (6A 1-2) Consideration/Approval
- Dixon reported that, as the Treasurer was not at the last meeting, this issue was tabled until this meeting. The Road Commission is requesting that the township approve a gravel patch on Townline Road between Walker and Frenchline Roads. This area is low and the township receives frequent complaints about it. The Township's cost will be \$20,175. Elmer Township and the property owners would also be responsible for a portion of the expense.

\*\*\* Motion by Coats, supported by Cole to approve the request. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ross inquired about the possibility of another road brining. Dixon confirmed that there will be one, along with three additional brinings funded by MDOT due to road construction.

- b) Blight Complaint (2486 & 2455 Cash Rd) received and referred to SCSD
- Dixon reported that there was a citizen complaint called regarding the accumulation of junk vehicles. The complaint was referred to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department.
- c) Dangerous Building complaint (3055 Bennett Rd) referred to attorney
- Dixon reported that this complaint was received, but is not in our township. He will refer it to Elk Township.
- d) Authorization for Application for RRCA Grant
- Dixon requested permission to apply for the Renewable Ready Care Act funds, if the Special Land Use Permit application is approved. The government allocated these funds as an incentive for communities to host renewable energy facilities that are larger than 50 megawatts.

\*\*\* Motion by Dixon, supported by Coats to approve permission for Dixon to apply for the Renewable Ready Care Act Funds if the Special Land Use Permit is approved. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

- a) Sylvan Drive Dangerous Buildings Complaint Referred to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department & Sanilac Bldg. Dept.
- Dixon reported no update on this matter, which is currently with Township Attorney Kyle O'Mara. Dixon has attempted to contact O'Mara for an update but has not received a response. The Building Department and Sheriff's Department are also collaborating on this complaint.
- 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 also with Township Attorney Kyle O'Mara.
- c) DTE Re-Leaf Grant Tree Planting Schedule Extension granted to 10-15-24.
- Dixon reported that he received permission to extend the deadline to plant trees until 10-15-24 as recommended by Western Tree Farm. This is a reimbursement grant; the Township will pay expenses upfront and then get reimbursed.

#### **8. TREASURER'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a) Approval of Checks Issued. Consideration/Approval
- Coats requested the Board's approval of the monthly checks.

\*\*\* Motion by Cole, Supported by Ross to approve checks number 17677 through 17725 in the amount of \$67,022.98 as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### **9. CLERK'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a) Approval of current month bills

Consideration/Approval

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

#### **10. CEMETERY REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION**

Ross reported:

- a) Burials & Lot Sales  
- One weekday cremation burial.
- b) Headstone Repair  
- No Update

#### **11. SEWER REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a) Townley Asset Assessment & GPS Location Ongoing  
- Dixon and Hacker will examine the new maps and send them back to Townley with their recommendations. However, Townley will need to get a backhoe to uncover some of the manholes before they can be mapped.

Jim Hacker reported that:

- He completed the monthly meter reading.
- Several readers are not working. He is taking a new meter when he goes out to replace a non-working meter.
- Some houses that are getting new siding are covering up meters. On one meter, he was able to successfully take the reading through the vinyl siding. Mr. Hacker will give the addresses of those houses in violation to Coats and they will work on a way to notify homeowners.

#### **12. PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION**

- a) PC Recommends Approval of the Samsung Solar Land Use Application (12A, 1-4) CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL
- Dixon reported that the Planning Commission recommends approval of the Samsung Solar Land Use Application.
  - Jim Hacker explained the thorough process the Planning Commission used to process the application including but definitely not limited to numerous meetings, considering public input, bargaining with Samsung, consulting attorneys and the engineering company. The Planning Commission is unanimously recommending approval of the application.
  - Michael Homier, Foster & Swift Attorney, explained that the Special Land Use Permit under consideration is a land use permit, but also is a contractual obligation to fulfill the conditions agreed upon. He then went on to read and explain some cleanup/clarification items in the permit made after the Planning Commission review. Also, a public hearing was held.

\*\*\* Motion by Coats, Supported by Cole, approval of the Samsung Special Land Use Permit as recommended by the Planning Commission and modified by legal counsel with reluctance. Roll Call Vote, Cole aye, Coats aye, Ross aye, Dixon aye. Motion carried unanimously.

- b) PC Recommends Solar Ordinance Amendments

CONSIDERATION/APPROVAL

- Dixon reported that after receiving the Samsung Special Land Use Permit, the Board asked the Planning Commission to review the township ordinances to identify any changes that needed to be made moving forward. One major change identified was in the definition section. There were no definitions for participating and non-participating parcels. This has been clarified and added. Also, there were some spelling and grammar errors that were corrected. Also, a Public Meeting was held on the ordinances.

\*\*\* Motion by Coats, Supported by Cole to adopt the amendment as described. All in favor. Motion carried

- c. Land Permit VanAlstine Truck, 91 Marshall Drive
  - Dixon reported this permit is commercial, \$200 and paid for by check. No action needed
- d. Collin Rymarz, 130 W. Cooper
  - Dixon reported this permit is private on a residential parcel, \$100 and paid in cash. No action needed.

**13. WEBSITE REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION**

No Report

**14. TAX ASSESSOR/POSSIBLE ACTION**

No Report

**15. OTHER GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- a) Free Dump Day 9/14/24
  - Dixon reported 2 people will be needed to monitor the dumpsters. Dixon and Cole will be there in the morning and Ross and Cambridge will take the afternoon.

**16. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Resident Lyne Stauffer question if the vehicle that has been abandon 15 plus years is considered part of the Sylvan Drive Dangerous Building Complaint. Dixon responded that it not, but abandon vehicles are also against the blight ordinance. Lyne would like that complaint initiated. Lyne then questioned if the lawyer is the delay in processing the Dangerous Building Complaint.
- Resident Jeff Renaudin stated that he respectfully disagrees that the limestone being used on the roads is of a benefit. He feels it is great when dry, but really bad when it rains. He also believes that someone should let the Road Commission know that they should take care of the roads better. Mr. Renaudin then gave Coats his tax payment.
- Resident Diane Ferguson, read a notice of Constitutional Declaration and Claim. After her allotted 3 minutes, Mrs. Ferguson refused to stop reading when asked to by Supervisor Dixon. Dixon adjourned the meeting.

**17. ADJOURN**

\*\*\*Dixon adjourned the meeting at 6:56 p.m.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS.**

Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk