

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
Tuesday, September 7, 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, Dixon, Franzel, Ross and Diaz

ABSENT: Coats

GUESTS: Matt & Susan Cole, Commissioner Gary Heberling, Al Stoutenburg, Jason Radloff, Randy Fahs,
Attorney Adam Flori, Mr Scribner and his daughter.

MINUTES

Franzel requested approval of the August 3, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

*** Cambridge made the motion to accept the August 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes as presented. Ross supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ross requested that

- Annual Insurance Policy Review be added under New Business, item #3

Franzel requested that

- Elk Township Correspondence & Letter of Complaint be added under Correspondence as items #7 & #8.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Update Status on the American Rescue Plan Act request for funds. Franzel & Dixon reported the American Rescue Plan Act Application has be submitted, accepted, audited, received audit approval and is now pending funds transfer.
2. Bill for wiring sign – Franzel received the invoice of \$1,075 for wiring the sign.
3. Bill for Dumpster – Franzel reported that Waste Management was the only company that could provide the dumpsters for free trash cleanup days. The cost is \$2,439.48. Franzel paid for the dumpsters online and will provide proof of payment. As officials for the township, Franzel & Dixon will the morning (9 am – 12 pm) and Cambridge & Ross will work the afternoon (12 pm – 3 pm).
4. FOIA request policy – The township received a FOIA request that is approximately 10 pages. Kyle O’Mara, Township Attorney is advising the township to adopt an official FOIA request policy. Mr. O’Mara supplied a sample policy. Ross will work with Mr. O’Mara on the policy.

*** Cambridge made the motion to accept a FOIA Policy and Procedures Policy. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

5. Letter from Landsburg Attorney – Franzel reported that the township received two letters regarding Mr. Landsburg and Mr. Franzel.
6. Auditors stated that all sewer funds were allocated in the proper places and was a normal standard of accounting – Franzel reported that the sewer funds are not an issue.

7. Elk Township Correspondence – Franzel passed out the Elk Township Updated Master Plan for the Board’s Information. Watertown’s update is due next year and it must be sent to all neighboring townships.
8. Letter of Complaint – Franzel reported that a resident notified the Board that she was not satisfied with the service she received from Thumb Veterinary Clinic.

ROAD COMMISSION

1. NEW Street/Road Signs have been completed – Reported by Franzel – Dixon suggested that “Welcome to Watertown Township” signs be purchased and installed. Franzel will follow up with the Road Commission.

TREASURER

Ross requested approval of August 2021 checks number 16589 thru 16616 for a total amount of \$42,656.27.

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

CLERK

Ross Requested a motion to approve the monthly bills to be paid.

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

CEMETERY REPORT

Ross presented the Cemetery Activity Report through August 2021 as submitted by John Harding, Sexton:

- On August 4, 2021 there was a casket burial during the week.
- On August 14, 2021 there were two burials on the weekend. One was a casket burial and one was a cremation burial. They were buried together in the casket.

SEWER REPORT

Dixon reported:

- Water meters were read on or about August 27th.
- He included in the Board’s Monthly Information Packet a spreadsheet detailing the August Sewer Flow Rates.
- No reader pads were replaced during the month. At this time, he is estimating residents that require inside access to read the meter.

PLANNING BOARD

Dixon reported:

- He included in the Board’s Monthly Information Packet, the unofficial minutes for Planning Board’s August 19th Meeting.
- The members are primarily discussing setbacks. He discussed the issues concerning this.
- The last scheduled meeting is September 16th. Franzel confirmed the Township Board would like the Planning Commission to continue with monthly meetings.

Dixon requested the Board seek advise from legal counsel regarding placing a time limit on special land use or home occupancy permits. This would give the neighbors a chance to let the Board know of any grievances they may have. The Board will seek legal advice.

WEBSITE

Cambridge reported that she:

- Updated or achieved minutes and agendas as needed

TAX ASSESSOR

1. Solar taxes – What are they going to be taxed and how are they going to be taxed? (What is in it for the township)

Diaz reported:

- That Samsung leases the property so would get a personal property tax bill on the value of whatever they place on the property.
- The township would receive .75 or 1 mill.
- Projects like this are very difficult to estimate without a true depreciation scale and length of contract. However, a rough estimate is that a 200-million-dollar project, that depreciates, may bring the township approximately \$750,000 over a 30-year cycle.

PUBLIC OFFICIAL

Commissioner Gary Heberling reported at the Commissioner's Meeting they:

- Approved the Community Grant Programing for Substance Abuse.
- Rescheduled resurfacing of the County Parking Lots until next spring.
- Added and updated sidewalks at the County Courthouse.
- Contacted MSP regarding mowing of lawn and care of sidewalks on their property.
- Noted that the next M-Dot meeting will address the dangerous intersection on the end of Ruth Road on M-46.
- Approved the hired Carl Osentowski to represent Sanilac County with the Brownfield EPA Cleanup Agency.
- Approved Sanilac County News as the newspaper of record.
- Reported that the new building and repairs on the old building are finished at the Recycling Center.
- Approved the purchase of a new police trailer.
- Are working on the 2022 budget.

Discussion was held with Mr. Heberling regarding a zoning officer. Options continue to be explored.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Randy Fahs spoke about a very informational open house that was held by Samsung on solar farms. It was a great opportunity to learn about solar farms and there was very few in attendance that had concerns.

Smith Bovill, PC Attorney, Adam Flori, represents Ken Landsburg regarding the solar panels matters occurring in the township. He and his client have a couple of concerns regarding the process of establishing appropriate regulations on solar panels. 1) The length of the moratorium. He and his client respectfully request it be lifted immediately and regulations be put in to allow the process work for everyone. 2) Encourages the Board to discuss the Host Community Agreement their counsel. He believes this is an appropriate and effective document for the township to come to an agreement with the solar company with terms that works for everybody.

ZONING

Franzel reported that he issued the following permits:

1. Land Use Permit Application for a new sign.
2. Land Use Permit for a pole barn.
3. Land Use Permit for a pole barn.
4. Land Use permit for an addition.
5. Special Land Use Permit for Summer Outdoor Market –
Franzel reported special features on this permit are market hours will be 8 to 8, summer operation and there will be no parking on the road

OLD BUSINESS

1. LeCom reimbursement for sewer damage from June 2020
 - Ross has not received a return call. Franzel instructed Ross to have the township attorney send a letter.
2. Update status of Cemetery Database
 - No update
3. Front Door Seal
 - Ross reported it is done

4. Front Door Issue – No way of knowing how bad it is without removing the vinyl flooring
 - By unanimous consensus the Board consented to have the flooring fixed. Franzel will look into this.
5. Planning Board requested and extra work session or two
 - The Planning Board meetings will stay on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at 6:00 until the issues are resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Audit was completed on 9-2-2021
 - Franzel confirmed
2. Upcoming Plan for Improvements
 - Upcoming Plans for Improvement
 - A. Cleanup Day- Who wants to work?
 - Franzel & Dixon will work 9 am – 12 pm and Cambridge & Ross will work 12 pm – 3 pm.
 - B. Sand could be used to fill in the South Ditch of the Township Driveway over some tubing.
 - No action on this item
3. Annual Insurance Policy

Ross reported that the Liability Insurance renewal is \$7,532. She needs the annual approval for the Causality Limited Terrorism Coverage for \$65 and the Increased Nonmonetary Defense cost to \$250,000 per aggregate for \$25.

*** Franzel made the motion to approve the insurance package as presented. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

ADJOURN

***Cambridge made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 p.m. Dixon supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Dixon, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,