

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 29, 2024 –6:00 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: Cambridge, Coats, Cole, Diaz, Dixon & Ross

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Lauren Thrall, Matt Cole, Jim Hacker, Lyne Stauffer, Bill Parish, Al Stoutenburg, Jason Radloff and Jeff Renaudin.

2. AGENDA

Bill Dixon requested that:

- Remine be placed under Correspondence 5c
- Warren be placed under Correspondence 5d
- State of Michigan Public Service Commission Letter 1 be placed under Correspondence 5e
- State of Michigan Public Service Commission Letter 2 be placed under Correspondence 5f
- Add Consideration/Approval to the right column of New Business 6b – Submit RRC Application

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

3. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES:

Dixon requested approval of the October 1, 2024 Minutes.

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

3. PUBLIC OFFICIAL

None

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- a) New SLRF Compliance Report Due by 10-31-2024
 - Dixon reported that he is in the process of researching this and putting together the information to complete the report. Funds are required to be committed by December 31, 2024. Coats will confirm the amount awarded and deposited for this grant.
- b) DTE ReLeaf Grant Reimbursement Filed
 - Dixon reported that the trees were planted in the cemetery and adjoining lot on October 14, 2024. The invoice has been received from Western's Tree Farm and the \$4,000 grant reimbursement is filed and approved.
- c) Remine
 - Dixon reported that Remine, a company specializing in digitizing real estate properties, has requested the cost and availability of a list for each property parcel in the township. The list should include property details such as

the number of rooms, living and total square footage, HVAC information, garage/building details, and other relevant characteristics.

- Diaz reported that the information is available. Sanilac County previously provided it, but the townships are now being requested to supply the data. She recommends implementing a processing fee on a per-parcel basis.
- Coats suggested a cost \$3 per parcel, with \$1 of that being paid to the township assessor as compensation for the extra duties in processing the request and providing the information.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Ross to approve that this type of request be made by submitting a FIOA request to the township and the cost will be \$3.00 a parcel with \$1.00 of that being paid to the township assessor. Also, this new fee will be added to the Fee Schedule. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Diaz will send a letter of explanation and a copy of the minutes to Remine

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Ross to approve that this type of request be made by submitting a FOIA request to the township and the cost will be \$3.00 a parcel with \$1.00 of that being paid to the township assessor. All in favor. Motion carried.

d) Warren Group

- Dixon noted that this request is similar to item under Correspondence, Letter c and will be handled in the same manner.

e) State of Michigan Public Service Commission Letter 1

- Dixon reported that a Power Supply Cost Recovery Hearing will be held Thursday, November 14, 2024

f) State of Michigan Public Service Commission Letter 2

- Dixon reported this correspondence is requesting completion of a survey on the Uniform Video Local Franchise Act. He will complete the survey.

6. NEW BUSINESS

a) Authorization Appeal Litigation Class Action w/Foster Swift (6A1-2) Consideration/Approval

- Dixon reported that Foster Swift Law Firm has instigated a Class Action Suit challenging Public Act 233 of 2023. The Michigan Public Service Commission, in Foster Swift Law Firm's opinion, is attempting to do something the Legislature promised not to do by adopting a very narrow definition of compatible renewable energy ordinance ("CREO") and attempting to further limit local input. At last count, there are about 20 municipalities that have signed onto this class action suit. The exposure is approximately \$10,000 per municipality.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to approve Watertown Township's participation in the Foster Swift Law Firm's Class Action Suit as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Dixon will contact Foster Swift Law Firm to confirm participation in the suit

b) Authorization to Submit RRC Application Consideration/Approval

- Dixon requested authorization to submit the Rural Renewable Ready Community Application. The Developer's questionnaire results are back. The award is anticipated to be approximately \$750,000.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cole to authorize Bill Dixon to submit the RRC Application. All in favor. Motion carried.

c) Blight Complaint 108 Sylvan Dr., (Domingo) referred to SCSD (FYI)

- Dixon reported that this issue has been referred to the Blight Officer. He will inspect the property and contact the neighbors for more information.

d) Gallery Chair Purchase Consideration/Approval

- Coats requested permission to purchase gallery chairs

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to approve the purchase of ten (10) Gallery Chairs. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- a) 108 Sylvan Drive Dangerous Buildings Complaint Referred to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department & Sanilac Bldg. Dept. (FYI)
 - Dixon reported that this matter was addressed under New Business, Letter c
- b) M-19 and Marlette Road Dangerous Buildings Complaint Referred to the Sanilac County Sheriff's Department & Sanilac Bldg. Dept. (FYI)
 - Dixon reported that the attorney sent a letter that stated the building will be demolished and the demolition has been started.
- c) Blight Complaint (2486, 2455 Cash Rd.) received and referred to SCSD (recheck Nov 1, Nov 8) (FYI)
 - Dixon reported that a recheck on 2455 Cash Road is Friday, November 1, 2024 and the recheck on 2486 Cash Road will be on Friday, November 8, 2024.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of Checks Issued. Consideration/Approval
 - Coats requested the Board's approval of the monthly payments, check numbers 17751 thru 17786 equaling \$37,844.78.

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

9. CLERK'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of Current Claim Consideration/Approval

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Coats to approve the current claim as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

- Ross reported that as of today 60 voters have participated in Early Voting. Absentee voting will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024.

10. CEMETERY REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Ross reported:

- a) Burials & Lot Sales
 - One weekday cremation burial
 - One weekend cremation burial
 - One weekend burial
- b) Headstone Repair
 - Sexton, John Harding reported to Ross that he has been repairing the headstones he can as he identifies them.
 - Cambridge commended that on 10/22/23, the Board approved the repair of headstones that were damaged due to tree removal. This was put on hold because the Board was waiting to see if the tree company would contribute to the repairs. She spoke with the owner of Patterson Tree Service and they have not been contacted.

11. SEWER REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Townley Asset Assessment & GPS Location Ongoing (Prelim. Drawing returned with edits) FYI
 - Dixon reported that Townley is anticipating starting the last phase of the location process on Friday, November 1, 2024. They pulled two Miss Dig tickets for parcels located between one parcel North of Miller Road to one parcel South of Wedge Road on the West side of the road. The goal is to locate and uncover the access points this week.

12. PLANNING COMMISSION/REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Special Meeting 10-23-24 Recap
 - Cambridge reported that this meeting was to review with Foster Swift the amendments to ordinances – Zoning Ordinance No. 2019-1 regarding Wind Energy, Zoning Ordinance to Establish the Renewable Energy Overlay District, Zoning Ordinance to Regulate Utility Scale Battery Energy Storage Systems and Ordinance 2022-1 regarding Solar Energy Systems to Comply with PA 233. After the review, a public hearing was scheduled for November 14, 2024.
 - Also, the Planning Commission would like to organize the ordinance book. They asked for a quote from Foster Swift on the organization.
- b) Special Meeting (ZA Public Hearing 11-14-24)
 - Cambridge reported that a Public Hearing will be held on November 14, 2024 for each of the four ordinance amendments stated under Planning Commission, Letter a.

13. WEBSITE REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Cambridge reported the she:

- Added and archived proposed and approved Minutes as appropriate
- Added 2024 Clean-Up Day pictures
- Added approved Solar Ordinance to the appropriate tab
- Added the Special Meeting on 10/23/24 to the Announcement and Calendar
- Added Early Voting Hours to the Announcements

14. TAX ASSESSOR/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) PA 116 Request Ron Kovach (14A 1-6)
 - Dixon reported that this is a similar request as to the one that was approved a few months ago. There was one particular part of the property that wasn't pulled out. This matter is being handled by relator, Carl Ulfing.

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

15. OTHER GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Dixon thanked the Board. It was a pleasure serving with the Board. Al Stoutenburg got him involved with the Township about 15 years ago and he has filled all positions except Sexton, Clerk and Treasurer. It was rewarding to make progress such as Free Dump Day, road signs, computerization and Wi-Fi. Board members thanked him for his many hours of service to the Township.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

17. ADJOURN

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to adjourn the meeting at 6:33. All in favor. Motion carried.

UPCOMING MEETINGS.

Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk