

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting, Monday, January 14, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bremer at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by those present.
2. Present: Mike Bremer, Deb Buckowing, Curt Campbell, Ross DeMaagd, Jake Jelsema, Sandy Rairigh, and Cindy Willshire. Also present: Chief Randy Eaton, Catherine Getty, Deputy Chief Rod Preslar, Eric Schaefer, Stephanie Skidmore, Joseph Smith and Ian Watson.
3. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Campbell to approve the Printed Agenda as Amended with the addition of 12a. 2018 Year End Report; 14a. Fleet Card Discussion; 15i. Cemetery Tree Removal Proposals; and 15j. Green Gables. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
4. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Rairigh to approve the Consent Agenda as Printed. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

First Public Comment

5. None.

County Report

6. Commissioner Parker asked Supervisor Bremer to let the board members know that a change in leadership occurred within the Barry County Board of Commissioners with Heather Wing being elected Chairperson and Vivian Connor being elected Vice Chairperson.

Reserved Time

7. None.

Discussion/Payment of Current Bills

8. **MOTION** by Willshire, support by Campbell to pay current bills totaling \$102,426.92. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Clerk's Report

9. None.

Treasurer's Report

10. None.

Emergency Services Report

11. 2018 Year End Report: Chief Eaton provided an overview of the 2018 Emergency Services Year End Report. Eaton stated that there were 965 calls in 2018 which was down by 82 calls from 2017. Eaton stated that equaled 2.88 calls per day and that 70% of the calls were EMS related. Jelsema asked what the status of the 800 mhz radios that were previously approved for purchase by the

Board. Eaton stated that he will check with Jim Yarger, Emergency Management Coordinator on the status.

Planning and Zoning Report

12. Zoning Administrator's Report and Code Enforcement Report are contained within the Consent Agenda.

Unfinished Business

13. Fleet Card Discussion: Bremer provided an overview of the State of Michigan fuel discount program through WEX, Inc. which will allow TTES to receive fuel discounts at gas stations and allow for a longer payment time period. **MOTION** by Rairigh, support by DeMaagd to approve the application to sign-up for the State of Michigan WEX Fuel Discount Program. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

New Business

14. Verbal Report from TTES Relocation Ad-hoc Committee: Bremer stated that the Committee had local excavating companies look at the prospective sites to determine which property would be easier to build upon.
15. Quotes for appraisals of Hall and TTES Building: Bremer asked three different companies for quotes for appraisals of the Township Hall and the TTES Building. The received quotes were different in scope and the price reflected the scope. Bremer stated that only two companies provided quotes for a restricted appraisal which were Van Stensel Appraisal in the amount of \$3200.00 and Boersma Appraisers in the amount of \$2400.00. **MOTION** by Bremer, support by DeMaagd to accept the quote from Boersma Appraisers in the amount of \$2400.00. Campbell inquired whether the Township received an appraisal two years ago when the Township Hall was for sale. Bremer stated that the Township did not previously get an appraisal on the Township Hall. DeMaagd asked whether one company would have more credibility over another for a prospective buyer. Bremer stated that it is just a price difference between the two quotes, not a content difference. Campbell asked whether the purpose of the appraisal was to set a future sale price for the building(s). Bremer stated that the purpose was to set a sale price for the building(s). Jelsema asked whether it was the Board's prerogative to move forward with this project. If not, Jelsema is hesitant to spend the money on the appraisals if the sale of the buildings was not the route the Board wanted to take. Eaton stated that the equipment bays are larger than needed. Bremer stated that he spoke with former Supervisor Boysen who stated that the current location of the TTES building was not the first choice of the Township. The location was chosen since it was cheaper than the preferred location and helped to eliminate blight in the Village of Middleville. Buckowing inquired whether there was a safety issue with the current site. Bremer and Eaton stated that many people come into the Village for events and it makes it difficult for the TTES vehicles to turn right onto Main Street from Railroad Street. Both lanes of traffic on Main Street have to be stopped in order to make the right-hand turn. Bremer stated that interested parties want to know costs of the buildings and it is hoped that the sale price will be equal or greater than the costs of the new building. **AMENDED MOTION** by Bremer, supported by DeMaagd to accept the quote from

- Boersma Appraisers in the amount of \$1200.00 for an appraisal on the Emergency Services Building at 128 High Street. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
- 16.
17. N Noffke Dr. re-build: Bremer stated that the Township is still waiting for the official survey results regarding whether the N. Noffke Drive residents would be receptive to a special assessment to rebuild/repair N. Noffke Drive.
18. Disposal of unused/unrepairable Township properties: Bremer stated that there is a need to dispose of unused or unrepairable properties/materials that the Township owns. Buckowing stated that she will contact the Michigan Township Association to receive guidance to ensure the Township is following the proper steps to properly dispose of property/materials.
19. Appointment of Township representative to T.A.P.R.C.: Bremer stated that Cory Robinette resigned due to his work schedule. Bremer stated that he interviewed Jamie Holmes for the vacant representative. Mr. Holmes is a Thornapple Kellogg Middle School teacher and a Village resident who is looking to get involved in the community in which he lives. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Campbell to appoint Jamie Holmes as the Township representative to the T.A.P.R.C board. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
20. Appointment of Township representative to Community Center Committee: Bremer stated that the Lions Club is looking to put a committee together to research Community Center options. The Lions Club has representatives from TK Schools, the Village of Middleville, Rotary Club and Bradford White. The Lions Club also wants a representative from Thornapple Township. Bremer asked the Board if any of the trustees or officers would like to serve on this Committee. In addition, Bremer stated that Catherine Getty has offered to serve as the Township representative. DeMaagd, Campbell and Buckowing all agreed that Bremer would be the logical choice for the Township representative since he has championed this cause in the past. Supervisor Bremer will be the Township representative to the Community Center Committee.
21. Committee Assignments: Rairigh asked that the Relocation Committee and the General Ordinance Committee be added to this listing. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Campbell to approve the 2019 Committee Assignments, as amended. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
22. Irving Township Fire Contracts (new 5 year and 2019/2020): Bremer stated that he and Chief Eaton attended the last Irving Township Board Meeting and that the Irving Township Board tentatively approve these contracts with the understanding that the Thornapple Township Board would also vote to approve these contracts. **MOTION** by DeMaagd, support by Rairigh to approve the Fire-Rescue Services Contract between Thornapple Township and Irving Township, effective April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2024. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Buckowing to approve the 2019-2020 Annual Contract for Fire Suppression Services in Irving Township, as presented. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
23. Cemetery Tree Removal Proposals: Willshire discussed the two quotes received for removal of trees at Mt. Hope Cemetery from NTA Property Management and TK Tree Services. NTA Property Management's quote was in the amount of \$2800.00 for removal and cleanup of three trees while TK Tree Services had two options for removal. One option was for cutting down the trees (without removal) in the amount of \$2,000.00 and the other option for cutting, removal and clean-up in the amount of \$4350.00. Joseph Smith from TK Tree Services stated that he was a certified arborist

and cautioned the board to compare the two quotes carefully and not just go with the least expensive quote. Mr. Smith asked the board to remove these trees as soon as possible because they are dead or have hanging limbs which can be dangerous to residents walking in the cemetery. Mr. Smith stated his quote covers four trees in the cemetery while NTA Management only covers three trees. DeMaagd was concerned about the parasite in the oak trees and whether it could spread by cutting down these trees. Mr. Smith said that these trees are dead and that by removing these trees in the winter would not cause any parasites to spread. Mr. Smith stated that his company was insured in case any of the trees during the removal process caused any damages to the headstones and that he would give the wood away. Mr. Smith was uncertain whether NTA Management (not present) had the proper equipment to remove these trees. Willshire stated that the discussion could be tabled until the Tuesday, January 22, 2019 Budget Meeting to discuss and have both companies present to discuss and approve a quote. Board members agreed, and discussion will be tabled until the Budget Meeting on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

24. Green Gables: Bremer will reach out the Green Gables to obtain a donation contract for the board to review. Buckowing stated that she would like to know specific figures and information on how Green Gables impacts Thornapple Township residents. Bremer will attempt to obtain this information and bring to the February 2019 board meeting.

Committee Reports

25. Administration: None.
26. Cemetery: None.
27. Elections: None.
28. Emergency Services: No further updates.
29. Finance: No further updates.
30. Parks and Recreation Representative: None.
31. Personnel – Compensation: None.
32. Property, Public Utilities: Buckowing informed the board that the drop box door was stuck open over the holiday break and Campbell is looking into solutions to fix this issue, including possibly making the drop box larger. Also, Buckowing stated that the rear township hall door is not latching properly so the Property Committee needs to look at this situation immediately. In addition, Buckowing is taking the door lock battery pack to replace the battery the weekend of January 18th.
33. Roads and Highways: Campbell discussed the topics that were included in the annual Road Commission meeting that Campbell and DeMaagd participated on January 14, 2019. Campbell stated that the Road Commission recommended that new housing developments keep their roads private thus the cost of road maintenance is only shared by the households within the development. Bremer reminded the Board that the Township does have private road standards in which these developments must adhere. Bremer requested the committee bring road maintenance and repair figures to next Tuesdays (22nd) Budget Meeting so it can be debated and possibly included into next year's budget.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Chief Eaton stated that Lani Forbes approached the Village of Middleville to locate space within the community for emergency housing. Different entities will be “adopting” a room within this emergency housing apartment to remodel and repair. Eaton will be approaching TTES employees to see if they would be willing to donate time and/or personal funds to “adopt” a room within this important community outreach. Bremer will research whether this endeavor could be partially funded through the township’s community promotion budget line item.

POLL OF MEMBERS:

Jake Jelsema, Trustee: None.

Sandra Rairigh, Trustee: None.

Curt Campbell, Trustee: None.

Ross DeMaagd, Trustee: None.

Deb Buckowing, Treasurer: None.

Cindy Willshire, Clerk: None.

Mike Bremer, Supervisor: None.

MOTION by Jelsema, support by Buckowing to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

Adjournment of meeting by Supervisor at 9:01 p.m.

Stephanie L. Skidmore, Recording Secretary

Approved 2/11/2019