

## THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

### Regular Meeting, Monday, August 12, 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: Tom Armintrout, Jim Dull, Chief Randy Eaton, Bryan Finkbeiner, Jim French, Luke Froncheck, Kay Genther, Catherine Getty, Robert Hinklin, Dan Parker, Eric Schaefer, Stephanie Skidmore, and Joel Strickland. (3 unidentified attendees who neglected to sign the attendance sheet.)
3. **MOTION** by Campbell, support by Buckowing to approve the Printed Agenda as Amended with the addition of Resolutions 12-2019 and 13-2019: Duncan Lake Weed Control Special Assessment to 10a. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
4. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Campbell to approve the Consent Agenda as Printed. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes. Bremer stated that he may include the agenda item "Discussion/Payment of Current Bills" to the Consent Agenda going forward for approval. If a board member needed to discuss a particular bill, it could be taken off the Consent Agenda and discussed during the board meeting prior to approval.

#### First Public Comment

5. None.

#### County Report

6. Commissioner Parker reported on the activities of the Barry County Commissioners, including briefly touching on the status of the Barry County Jail and a recycling survey that was sent out by Supervisor Dan Brown to other township supervisors.

#### Reserved Time:

7. Gale Kragt, Spiritual Care Consultants did not attend the meeting.
8. Tom Armintrout, Burnham and Flowers, discussed the 2020 Township Employee Health Insurance Policy. Armintrout stated that the current plan is not affordable care compliant and is a Priority Health Plan. Armintrout went over the differences detailed in the handout in the packet that provides an overview of the current and proposed plan options. Armintrout stated that the policy went up 5.6% and reminded the board members that our existing plan is grandfathered and once the township leaves the policy, it can not return. HMO plans are priced less then the PPOs. Armintrout stated that Burnham and Flowers have no idea what the ACA plans will look like in the future. This topic has been tabled until the Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to discuss health insurance and statutory/non-statutory wages.
9. Jim Dull, Barry County Drain Commissioner, described the rain event on July 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> that produced five inches of rain within a three-hour time period along Noffke Drive. Dull stated that this type of rain event typically only occurs every 500 years. Due to the sheer volume of rain, this event blew out the drain tile that was installed in 2016 and caused flooding along the road and

certain houses in the area. Dull stated that repairs and improvements are needed. Dull stated that there is an emergency fund that can pay for a portion of the repairs, however, the Drain Commission can not go over \$10,000.00 without a Township Resolution authorizing this work. This additional amount would be added to the Drain Tax Roll. Bremer stated that the Board would review the potential Resolution and bring back to the September board meeting for review, discussion and potential adoption.

### **Discussion/Payment of Current Bills**

10. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Willshire to pay current bills totaling \$104,457.96. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Public Hearing**

11. Duncan Lake Weed Control Special Assessment

Bremer recessed the Board Meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Bremer opened the Public Hearing at 7:44 p.m.

Bremer stated that this public hearing was published in the Sun & News and Bremer provided a brief overview of the Duncan Lake Weed Control Special Assessment process. No public comment. Bremer stated that after the letter went out to the property owners impacted by this assessment, he received a phone call from a resident that asked why property owners with deeded access were not included on this property list. After a review, Bremer stated that an additional five properties were added to the property list and the amount proposed to be added to these resident's tax bills was reduced to \$78.82.

Bremer closed the Public Hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Bremer opened the Board Meeting at 7:50 p.m.

12. Resolution 12-2019: Declaration of Intent to proceed with public improvements and defray cost by special assessment; directive to Township Supervisor to prepare special assessment roll. **MOTION** by DeMaagd, support by Rairigh to adopt Resolution 12-2019 with the following changes: change "dust control of Moe Road to Duncan Lake Weed Control Special Assessment" and removal of the additional "Control" on page two. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
13. Resolution 13-2019: Acknowledgement of Presentation of Special Assessment Roll to Township Board; Notice of Public Hearing. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Willshire to adopt Resolution 13-2019 with the following change: change "Moe Road Dust Control to Duncan Lake Weed Control." Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **Clerk's Report**

14. Resolution No. 11-2019 regarding establishment of cost recovery rates per Thornapple Township Ordinance No. 01-2003. It was determined that this Resolution would be postponed for approval until the September 2019 board meeting after additional clarifying language is added into the resolution.

### Treasurer's Report

15. Buckowing discussed the need to convert the Delinquent Personal Property system from Pervasive to .NET. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Rairigh to expend \$1360.00 as a one-time fee to purchase the Delinquent Personal Property system from BS&A and pay annual fees totaling \$270.00. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### Emergency Services Report

16. Motion to approve HIPAA updates at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Eaton stated that these HIPAA updates consist of a disk that employees can watch and take a test afterwards to ensure knowledge. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by DeMaagd to purchase HIPAA updates at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. Willshire asked which GL number this expense should be applied. Eaton stated that it should be taken out of the 303 Education and Training Budget. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
17. Discuss PA 256 regarding fireworks: Eaton stated that there was a request to have fireworks after scoring drives at the Thornapple Kellogg Football home games. Eaton stated the Lion's Club will obtain a permit from the Village of Middleville in order to have this display after the scoring drives. It was discussed whether there was a need in the Township to allow fireworks only with an approved permit except during the defined fireworks dates/times by the State of Michigan. DeMaagd expressed his viewpoint that fireworks should not be limited by government statute in a rural community. **MOTION** by Rairigh, support by Willshire to adopt PA256 as Thornapple Township' Fireworks Ordinance. There was discussion as to whether the Board needed to host a public hearing to obtain public input prior to approving the ordinance. Rairigh withdrew her **MOTION** with Willshire's support. **MOTION** by Rairigh, support by Willshire to move forward with holding a public hearing on September 9, 2019 to discuss the possibility of adopting a fireworks ordinance per PA256. **MOTION APPROVED** with 6 yes voice votes and 1 nay vote.
18. Barry County Active Shooter Training: Eaton provided an overview of the TTES training that occurred at the TTES building with the Barry County Sheriff's Department and TTES staff. In addition, Eaton stated that the 5<sup>th</sup> District provided TTES with plates and MMFR bags for the ALS ambulances.
19. Eaton stated that three individuals were interviewed for paid on call firefighters and the officers recommend the hiring of Corey Lipscomb, Paul Bohez and Lloyd Skiba. **MOTION** by Willshire, support by Buckowing to approve the hiring of up to six new firefighters for fire school training pending successful background checks and interviews with officers. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION**

**CARRIED.** Eaton, Buckowing and Willshire stated that this Fire School Training expenditure would be taken from 206-000-960.000.

20. Eaton stated that recently Quality Air determined that the bearing assembly was not working properly for Water Heater #2. **MOTION** by Willshire, support by Rairigh to replace the bearing assembly for the Water Heater #2 at a cost of \$1097.00. **MOTION CARRIED.** Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes.

### Planning and Zoning Report

21. Ordinance No. 01-2019 An Ordinance Amending Article XXI: General Provisions, of Thornapple Township, Michigan; and when ordinance shall become effective. Getty provided an overview of the changes to Section 21.14: Swimming Pool Regulations; Section 21.18 Recreational Vehicle Parking in All Residential Zoning Districts; Deletion of Section 21.37 Solar Energy Systems; Addition of Section 21.37 Solar Energy Collectors; Section 21.41 Outdoor Furnaces (DeMaagd asked that coal be added to permitted fuel list.); Section 19.69 Commercial Ground-Mounted Solar Energy and Solar Farm Special Use Standards. It was determined that the Board Members will review these proposed changes and bring any comments/concerns/changes to the September 2019 board meeting for possible adoption.

### Unfinished Business

22. Health Insurance: This topic will be discussed in further detail at the Special Meeting to be held on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to allow for the board members to review the information provided within tonight's board meeting packet.
23. Budget Amendments: 101-000-402.000 Gen OP from \$254,612 to \$270,533; 101-000-447.000 Gen Admin from \$110,541 to \$117,993; and 205-000-402.000 EMS (voted) from \$499,340 to \$530,995. Buckowing stated that these budget amendments were in relation to increase in property tax received. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Willshire to approve the amendments to the current property tax budget as presented. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes. Buckowing challenged the different department heads to review their budget since the township has actual revenue figures and bring to the September 2019 Board Meeting any necessary budget amendments.
24. Date for statutory/non-statutory wage discussion: The Board decided to hold a Special Meeting on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. to discuss health insurance and statutory/non-statutory wages.

### New Business

25. Township Counsel: Bremer stated that the board has discussed exploring other Township Counsels. Rairigh indicated that her preference would be to have representatives from three different legal firms come to a future board meeting to discuss their rates and services. Rairigh stated that our current counsel is not proactive in bringing certain legal issues to the Township's attention, however, is very responsive to questions. Rairigh stated that she would like Mika Myers and Jeff Sluggett invited to a future meeting while Jelsema stated that he would provide Supervisor Bremer with names of three legal firms to possibly invite.

**Committee Reports**

26. Administration: The committee stated that the Office Coordinator position is available, and future discussion will center on whether to restructure the position.
27. Cemetery: Willshire stated Skidmore will be attending the Michigan Association of Municipal Cemeteries Conference in Traverse City on August 15, 2019.
28. Elections: Willshire stated that both Thornapple Kellogg and Caledonia Schools will have ballot proposals on the November 2019 election.
29. Emergency Services: The Supervisor, Chief Eaton and the Village of Middleville had discussions regarding the changing face of Middleville and whether a ladder truck was needed for future use.
30. Finance: Buckowing stated that she agreed with adding the Finance Reports to the Consent Agenda.
31. Parks and Recreation Representative: Bremer stated that TAPRC will be hosting their annual 5k/10k run/walk during Heritage Day on August 17, 2019. Registration ended for youth flag football and the practices and games will begin shortly after team formation. Bremer announced that Jared Nichols was awarded the 2019 TAPRC Andy Saldivar Coach of the Year award.
32. Personnel – Compensation: None.
33. Property, Public Utilities: Campbell stated that he spoke to StoreFront, Inc. who indicated that Morgan Electric will need to complete the electrical work for the new doors prior to door installation.
34. Roads and Highways: None.

**SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

None.

**POLL OF MEMBERS:**

Jake Jelsema, Trustee: None.

Sandra Rairigh, Trustee: None.

Curt Campbell, Trustee: None.

Ross DeMaagd, Trustee: None.

Deb Buckowing, Treasurer: Buckowing discussed the hiring of a new health insurance agent and inquired where the TTES equipment replacement plan was since the Township is discussing purchasing new equipment.

Cindy Willshire, Clerk: None.

Mike Bremer, Supervisor: Bremer stated that the time sensitive trail application for the 2019-2020 cycle was submitted on time and is moving forward through the grant application process.

**CLOSED SESSION: Discussion surrounding the TTES relocation progress.**

Bremer recessed the Board Meeting at 9:48 p.m.

Bremer opened the CLOSED SESSION at 9:48 p.m.

Bremer closed the CLOSED SESSION at 10:20 p.m.

Bremer opened the Board Meeting at 10:20 p.m.

**MOTION** by DeMaagd, support by Campbell to move forward with the sale of 128 High Street. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

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

Adjournment of meeting by Supervisor Bremer at 10:25 p.m.

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Stephanie L. Skidmore, Recording Secretary

Approved 9/9/2019