

# TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Michael Bremer, *Supervisor* / Debra K Buckowing, *Treasurer* / Cindy A. Willshire, *Clerk*  
Curt Campbell, *Trustee* / Ross DeMaagd, *Trustee* / Jake Jelsema, *Trustee* / Sandra Rairigh, *Trustee*

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PO Box 459 - 200 E Main St. - Middleville, MI 49333



## REGULAR MEETING January 13, 2020

1. INVOCATION - Supervisor Bremer
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Bremer: Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Present Present Present Present	Jelsema: Rairigh: Willshire:	Present Present Present
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Eric Schaefer, Commissioner Dan Parker, Rod Preselar, Luke Froncheck, Lauren Metcalfe of BEDHD, and Amy Brown.			

### 4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell- Motion to approve the printed agenda as amended with Bremer's request to move 5a. Minutes of Regular Meeting (revised) to 9b. and add 14e. Township Maps and 14f. Committee Assignments.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with 7 yes voice votes.

### 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell- Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended above with A. moved to 9a.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with 7 yes voice votes.

**6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:** Laurie Metcalfe of BEDHD, Flu vaccination still available for interested residents. Also, January is Radon Action Month and Free Radon Action Kits are available.

### 7. COUNTY REPORT:

<b>County Commissioner Dan Parker:</b>	Also, the Health Department has smoking cessation information available as well. Parks Commission held their first meeting and passed their by-laws. Daryl Cheeseman has been appointed Chair and is a representative of the Steam & Gas Club. Catherine Getty has been appointed the Vice Chair. Other members are: Dan Parker (Commission Liaison), Rick Moore (Trail Association), Jim Dull (Drain Commissioner), Jack Minor (Barry Co. Planning and Zoning)
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	<p>Commission), Frank Fiala (Road Commission) with three more to be determined for a total of 10 members. The next meeting will be held on January 23.</p> <p>Bethany Services would like to expand foster families in Barry county. Has one refugee child currently being fostered here. It is at the discretion of the county to approve or decline fostering of refugee children in county.</p> <p>No recent changes to staff of Barry County leadership.</p> <p>Nothing new in regard to the Barry County Jail nor the Commission on Aging proposals.</p>
<b>BOARD RESPONSE:</b>	none

**8. RESERVED TIME:** None

**9. CLERK’S REPORT:**

Willshire requested increase to deputy clerk’s wages. DeMaagd inquired as to the process in place for employee reviews and rate changes. Requested a process be drafted regarding reviews and wage increases.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire – Motion to approved deputy clerk’s wages from \$16 to \$18 per hour effective immediately.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with 6 yes voice votes and 1 no voice vote.

12/9/19 Regular Meeting minutes- Corrections were made to Dan Parker’s Report regarding staff of Parks Commission.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Jelsema- Motion to approve 12/09/19 regular meeting minutes with revision.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with 7 yes voice votes.

**10. TREASURER’S REPORT:** None

**11. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:**

**A.** Chief Eaton gave a report on the number of calls responded to during December and for the year with comparisons to the previous December and previous year totals. TTES has seen an increase in the number of calls. Of the last 6 people hired for the Fire Department they found the best response came by Facebook postings. Other activities included the purchase of CPR Mannequins (with some funds from the pancake

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breakfast), site plans being reviewed, 108 smoke detectors and 36 carbon monoxide detectors provided to township residents. Also, participated in service day, bike challenge, simulated bus/fire accident, Heritage Days, and 5<sup>th</sup> district training on an active assailant. DNR basic wildfire training is coming at the end of January.

## 12. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT:

**A.** Five new permits issued since the last board meeting. The number of homes built since last year has decreased some and the annual report will be given at the next board meeting.

## 13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**A.** MTA Annual Conference – Bremer requests update on who is attending and encouraged registration prior to deadline.

## 14. NEW BUSINESS:

**A. Revision of Resolution No. 08-2017** – Board members will email Jelsema with proposed revisions to the resolution. Jelsema suggested the policy could be covered in the existing township ordinances to codify the spending policy for both elected officials and other departments.

### B. Elected Officials Salary Resolutions

**Motion** - To approve Resolution 02-2020 Treasurer’s salary as of April 1, 2020 to \$38,640.00.

**Comments** - DeMaagd concerned about pay as compared to other townships in Barry County. Buckowing replied that the population of Thornapple Township is considerably greater and has both a fire department and EMS service and that the comparison actually shows officials here are paid less than counterparts in other townships based on the amount of time spent on duties. Jelsema suggested the board could pull a comparison based on statutory and non-statutory duties. Also, Jelsema mentioned that residents in the private sector pay in more for their health insurance costs than township officials and employees do currently. Feels there has been some progress made, but that more should be made in that regard. Officials and employees will be paying a percentage of premiums in April 2020. Rairigh agreed with Jelsema’s comments.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire- Motion to approve Resolution 02-2020
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with roll call vote. Five yes votes, one no vote and one abstained.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bremer:	Yes	Jelsema:	Yes
	Buckowing:	Abstain	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	No		

**Motion** - To approve Resolution 03-2020 Clerk’s salary as of April 1, 2020 to \$30,870.00.

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<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing- Motion to approve Resolution 03-2020
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with roll call vote. Six yes votes and one no vote.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bremer: Yes	Jelsema: Yes
	Buckowing: Yes	Rairigh: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Willshire: Yes
	DeMaagd: No	

**Motion** - To approve Resolution 01-2020 Supervisor's salary as of April 1, 2020 to \$31,705.00.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire- Motion to approve Resolution 01-2020
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with roll call vote. Five yes votes, one no vote and one abstained.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bremer: Abstain	Jelsema: Yes
	Buckowing: Yes	Rairigh: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Willshire: Yes
	DeMaagd: No	

**C. March Board Meeting move from the 9th to the 16th.**

**D. My Middleville DDA Partnership**

**Motion** - To approve spending \$150.00 on a full-page ad showing the Fire/EMS services and help wanted for fire department.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Bremer- Motion to approve purchase of an ad in DDA booklet
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with roll call vote. Seven yes votes.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bremer: Yes	Jelsema: Yes
	Buckowing: Yes	Rairigh: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Willshire: Yes
	DeMaagd: Yes	

**E. Township Maps** – The last map was published in 2006 by Barry County GIS team. Printing would likely be done by Boysen Graphic Design or J-Ad and we'll need to request price quotes as part of process.

**Motion** - To approve spending \$150.00 to begin process of updating map of Thornapple Township.

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<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell- Motion to approve purchase of an updated map of Thornapple Township area.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with roll call vote. Seven yes votes.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bremer:	Yes	Jelsema:	Yes
	Buckowing:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes		

**F. Committee Assignments** – Bremer asked board members if anyone would like to make changes to the committee assignments. Jelsema asked Campbell if he would be willing to exchange chair assignments with him. Campbell agreed, and Bremer stated that Campbell will now chair the Property and Public Utilities Committee while Jelsema chairs the Roads and Highways Committee.

## 15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Administration (Bremer, Buckowing, Willshire)
- B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh)

Josh Wickham, the cemetery sexton, had several comments and questions for the board:

1. Two trees will need to be removed in the next year or two.
2. Need a secure door on the green pole barn. Would you like to purchase a new door? If so, what kind? Will use an old door that he currently has and buy a lock set. Will provide keys to township.
3. Installed new water lines down center area of Mt. Hope. Will need to cut off pipes of old inoperable spigots.
4. Foundation repairs will need to be done in the Spring. Some headstones have been repaired with left over cement from pouring foundations, but usually headstone repairs are the responsibility of the families.
5. One of the roads at Parmalee has been severely washed out and if someone drives through may have issues. Who's responsible for making that repair? Bremer to contact the Road Commission to inquire.
6. The property owner behind Parmalee Cemetery is wondering about whether the Township is interested in buying adjacent land.
7. Fence may need to be replaced at Parmalee.
8. Would it be alright to have one big delivery of top soil so that it is on hand as needed as it would be less expensive to do rather than many deliveries.
9. New map of Mt. Hope cemetery with 9 rows is complete. Would you like to add trees and spigots? Yes, please add.

- C. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Bremer)

AV applications have been mailed out for the Presidential Primary.

- D. Emergency Services (Demaagd, Bremer, Rairigh)

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E. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, DeMaagd)

F. Parks and Recreation Representative (Bremer)

Green bins set up around community for used sports equipment donations.

G. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Bremer)

H. Property and Public Utilities (Jelsema, DeMaagd, Campbell)

Painting of hall will be completed this week and finished rooms turned out very well.

I. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Jelsema)

Campbell called Consumers Energy regarding the street lights that were out. The one at Gackler/Patterson and Finkbeiner/Crane needed to be replaced. One is done and the other is still out. Will double check and call again.

Campbell mentioned trucks are doing road maintenance and there is a potential spending resolution.

Jelsema suggests matching dollars to maximize repairs and be proactive.

Bremer the committee is to meet and bring report to the board in February or March.

DeMaagd asked when the next Budget meeting is.

Willshire stated February 5.

DeMaagd recommends we set aside as much funding as possible for roads and make a firm commitment to the funding.

County has stated there will not be any further public roads created at this time. All future roads in new developments will be private roads and has requested each township draft a resolution to that effect.

Getty state that the Planning Commission would enforce it as needed in the even the board formalizes this in a resolution.

## 16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

Eric Schaefer suggested a link to the new map on the website. Commissioner Parker asked whether the township or J-Ad would be the one to sell ads on map publications? Township thinks it could offset the cost of the publication similar to the last time.

## 17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

**Jake Jelsema (Trustee)** – None

**Sandy Rairigh (Trustee)** – None

**Ross DeMaagd (Trustee)** – Are people receiving his emails? Board responded yes.

**Curt Campbell (Trustee)** – None

**Deb Buckowing (Treasurer)** – Residents are using the option to pay taxes/utilities online via website. Working on renegotiating fees. In 2018, about \$150,000 paid. In 2019, about \$172,000 paid so there is an increase in the usage of paying online.

**Cindy Willshire (Clerk)** – None

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**Mike Bremer (Supervisor)** – State Representative Calley has invited township (and public) to meeting with MDOT regarding the M-37 corridor to be held on January 24, 2020.

## 18. ADJOURNMENT:

**TIME: 9:14 P.M.**

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Jelsema – Move to adjourn
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved with 7 yes voice votes.

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Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved\_\_\_\_\_/2020\_\_