

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 TELECONFERENCE July 13, 2020

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

TIME: 7:03 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bremer: Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Present Present Present Present	Jelsema: Rairigh: Willshire:	Present Present Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Alex Middleton, Amy Brown, Catherine Getty, Chad Klutman, Dan Parker, Eric Schaefer, Chief Randy Eaton, Dan Veldhuizen, David Warren, Heather Wing, Megan Corndyk-Mott, Michael VanArski, Rob Dykstra, Rod Preslar, Carry and Patrick Murphy, Jason Holzhausen and Scott Harmsen.			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell- Motion to approve the printed agenda as amended with Megan Cordyk-Mott added to the Reserved Time.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes, and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer: Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Jelsema: Rairigh: Willshire:	Yes Yes Yes
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5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh- Motion to approve the consent agenda as printed.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes, and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer: Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Jelsema: Rairigh: Willshire:	Yes Yes Yes
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6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: Heather Wing asked Bremer if she could speak during this time rather than wait to speak during the reserved time as she had another meeting to attend yet this evening. Bremer approved the change. Wing introduced herself as the chairwoman of the Barry County Commission. But that she is not attending the meeting for that reason but rather that she is running for the Barry County Register of Deeds position on this August’s ballot. While she applauded the current Register of Deeds for keeping up with technology, she believes there is room for improvement within the office. Wing stated that her contact information is available online at the Barry County website in case anyone has questions for her. She thanked the board for giving her a few minutes to share at tonight’s meeting.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

County Commissioner Dan Parker:	Parker announced that a meeting will be held tomorrow at 9 am at the community center on Broadway St. in Hastings. It would be hosted by John LaForge of Great Lakes Energy where he would explain their plans regarding this area of Barry County.
Board Response:	Bremer thanked Parker for the information and asked if there were any updates on the jail bond mileage. Parker replied, no updates but will be on the November ballot.

8. RESERVED TIME:

A. Dan Veldhuizen - Siegfried/Crandall – Veldhuizen reviewed the annual audit results. He stated he likes to cover two main topics (communications covered and financial position). He started with the auditors report which gives the opinions that there are good internal controls in place in Thornapple Township. He recommended performing year-end accruals for property taxes, payroll and payables. Reconciliations have seen great improvement over the years due to the work by Buckowing and Willshire. Page 15 of the audit shows an overview of the financial position. Veldhuizen stated that Thornapple Township has a very healthy fund balance of 186% of current year’s budget. Emergency Services fund collects taxes for both ambulance and fire. Everything that goes in comes out, so funds are relatively small but is healthy. Page 17 shows the accrual accounting for ambulance and sewer fund. The ambulance fund is limited in what can be collected on, so the fund has always been a concern. The bottom line shows equity went down on the ambulance fund as well as on the sewer fund. Overall the fund balances look healthy.

Bremer asked if the bottom line is that the internal controls are working appropriately. Veldhuizen stated that the internal controls are working well.

Buckowing thanked Veldhuizen for the work he did by working virtually during the Covid-19 closure.

DeMaagd asked for further explanation as to why the township can’t combine the ambulance and fire department under one budget. Veldhuizen replied that he had sent an email explanation in early April but in general terms, you would lose track of how the ambulance operation is doing. There may be benefits in that it would be easier to operate within on a day to day basis. Also, it could be done. However, it should be done at the beginning of the budget year. He would not recommend changing back and forth. It would be difficult to

divide out those activities, when there was a separate mileage for the fire department. State laws required there be a separate fund due to the way the mileage was passed. DeMaagd said the explanation was helpful and DeMaagd said he thought the board should discuss it in the future. Veldhuizen stated that the email would likely be helpful and Willshire stated she would forward it to the board, so everyone could think about it. Bremer thanked Veldhuizen for the work he has done over the years.

B. Megan Koorndyk-Mott – Representative from Julie Calley – Gave an update that the legislature has brought legal action against the governor regarding the use of the state of emergency act from 1945 rather than the 1976 law. The Michigan Supreme Court is scheduled to hear the case August 21. They should have a final decision in September. UIA is not opening regional branches and won't commit to a time frame when they will open. Many people are frustrated with their lack of response and have not been able to receive payments nor even open a case as they are not able to reach anyone at the UIA. Auto insurance coverage underwent reform starting July 1. New laws give drivers a choice about how much PIC (Personal Injury Coverage) you can purchase. The new website is now operational, and more information can be found at <https://www.reduceiratesnow.com/> Also, representative Calley wrote a bill which the governor signed into law regarding clerks and the AV counting board. Small communities are now able to combine resources and create a counting board for multiple jurisdictions in order to process absentee ballots more efficiently. Bremer asked if there are any updates regarding broadband being named as an essential service? Koorndyk-Mott replied that the House was looking into this issue especially in light of the demands that Covid-19 has placed on people working remotely and the additional need for better services being available to rural areas. However, currently there is no plan.

9. CLERK'S REPORT: none.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT: none.

11. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: none.

12. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Lucas Replacement - The equipment is 9 years old and has a life span of 10 years. EMS has investigated replacing this with the Zoll Auto-Pulse because of several features. It has a wider span, reduces pauses/delays in delivering compressions and is able to be used on patients even while they are turned on their side. The wider span allows for more efficient compressions to be delivered. The reduction in delays is due to the fact it can continue to deliver compression even while it is monitoring the patient's pulse. The machine doesn't need to stop to listen to the patient's pulse. The replacement costs are comparable. The band can be cleaned and reused before needing to be replaced. The replacement cost of the band is \$120.00. the replacement cost of the suction cup on the Lucas which is disposed after use is \$80.00. Four rechargeable batteries come with the unit and last 5 years. Their replacement cost is \$825.00 each.

Rairigh asked if any grants are available to purchase the equipment? Buckowing offered to send link to LARA where someone could look for available grants. Jelsema asked if the life expectancy is the same? Eaton replied that it was. Jelsema asked if there was a difference in the warranty coverage. Eaton replied

that there is a 2-year warranty, but no maintenance is needed. Rairigh asked if any of the replacement costs could be charged back to the patient? Eaton stated that those items were not on the itemized list but might be able to be charged by Accumed as they could possibly be added to the list. Bremer stated that he'd like to bring this topic back at the August board meeting for a vote.

B. Bravo 53 Replacement – It is a 2001 truck with 176,000 miles on it. It has been used as the Covid-19 patient transfer unit. There is much wear and tear evident on it. For example, the driver side panel is rusted out and the seat's fabric is worn through. He recommends replacing this with a new ambulance and moving the 2nd ambulance down to be the new third vehicle. Jelsema asked if the Bravo was a basic unit or advanced? Eaton replied that it's a basic unit and that the plan was to get rid of the vehicle after 15 to 17 years of use. Buckowing stated that she had contacted Roger Sweats, the bond attorney and Mr. Budzinski, the bonding agent. Once Buckowing hears back regarding their schedules, she will schedule a special meeting to discuss the details regarding the bond funding. Jelsema and Eaton are both wondering if they would be able to purchase the replacement through the Apparatus fund? Bremer asked about the time frame for the meeting. Buckowing stated she thought it could be in the next 2 weeks. Buckowing stated she has the original bond series from 2014 if anyone was interested in reviewing them. Bremer asked if anyone was opposed to purchasing a replacement? Buckowing asked if Eaton was considering a re-chassis type of situation? Eaton replied that there are some difficulties which came out the last re-chassis purchase. The ambulance was a 2015 GMC Chevy truck with a 2006 Ford back section and that the fuel tank wasn't quite right when they got it from the shop in Mt. Pleasant that did the rebuild. In fact, the fuel line had to be redone so that it could be filled with gas. Also, the A/C never worked well, and it was difficult on patients and staff. Jelsema asked if the bond series had an expiration date on it. Buckowing stated that it would need to be paid by the end of 2021.

C. Summary –

- a. U/V Light – Eaton announced that the light had finally arrived and they will be assembling it so they can use it to clean the ambulances and dispatch room in the TTES building.
- b. CARES Act – Buckowing stated that she and Eaton were working on getting their application in for the FEMA grant.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Server Update – Bremer asked Campbell if he would like to give a summary on the server update. Campbell stated that it appeared the in-house server was the less expensive option, so he recommended we stay with that option for now. Buckowing stated she is still having trouble connecting remotely. Willshire stated she too has experienced some issues. Bremer asked what the life expectancy of the server was. Willshire stated it is five year and had reached its life span this August.

MOTION STATED:	Jelsema- Motion to approve the purchase of a HPE DL380 server to replace the in-house server under quote # KZ006434 from Aanalytics.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes, and 0 no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer:	Yes	Jelsema:	Yes
	Buckowing:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes		

B. Township Ordinance No. 01-2020 – An ordinance to amend Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-48 entitled, “Open Fires, Land Clearing Fires and Fireworks;” To enact Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-51 entitled, “No Burning Restrictions;” and to enact Chapter 18, article V entitled “Fireworks” of the Thornapple Township Code of Ordinances.

Rairigh said she would like to see #6 under section 18-91 removed. DeMaagd said his position is not to regulate fireworks. Bremer stated that several residents have contacted him with concerns regarding fireworks and referenced a couple of emails. DeMaagd replied that the board shouldn’t regulate based on only a few complaints. Buckowing said that many residents had posted complaints about fireworks on social media. Carrie Murphy, a resident, stated that the fireworks were disturbing the peace and well after midnight were still being lit. They disturb both her husband who leaves for work early in the morning and her dog. Jason Holzhausen, a village resident, said that even though the village has restricted fireworks usage, people are still able to apply for a permit. Michael VanArski said he would like to see the ordinance pass. Rob Dykstra agreed with DeMaagd that the township shouldn’t have a fireworks ordinance if the state allows for a shooting range in a neighborhood where the person can shoot all day long without regard for any common courtesy. Jelsema stated that this ordinance would be hard to enforce. Either the chief or a designee would have to go out and issue a misdemeanor offense. This would mean a lot of calls during the holidays as well. Jelsema further stated that the township would likely have to pay the cost of prosecution which could become expensive. Bremer clarified that it would be a municipal civil infraction with a fine of \$1,000.00 per offense. However, \$500.00 of that cost would go to the Barry County Sheriff’s department to cover the cost of them responding to the complaint. Rairigh said if a permit is possible, how would the Sheriff’s department know who had been granted one? Bremer wondered if the dispatch would be notified and then know. Eaton stated that he didn’t think dispatch would be willing to manage that as they have many other tasks to focus on. DeMaagd stated that he still had 4 of his 5 items left to discuss. First, he wouldn’t want to impose an undue burden on the township by requiring additional tracking of complaints and permits. Second, he would be supportive of a restriction on fireworks from 11 pm to 11 am every day. Third, the township would incur expenses by having to prove guilt. Fourth, many of the complaints are coming from neighborhoods, so couldn’t their association police their own residents? Fifth, I realize that many veteran’s have PTSD and are receiving treatment, however, many veterans are generally opposed to seeing government chipping away at their freedoms. Jelsema asked if the board needed to hold a public hearing before voting on the passage of the ordinance? Bremer didn’t think so and Getty confirmed that it was not required for general ordinances but was required for planning and zoning ordinance. Getty also stated that a public hearing could be held if the board chose to but that it wasn’t a requirement.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing- Motion to approve ordinance 01-2020 to amend Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-48 entitled, “Open Fires, Land Clearing Fires and Fireworks;” To enact Chapter 18, Article III, Section 18-51 entitled, “No Burning Restrictions;” and to enact Chapter 18, article V entitled “Fireworks” of the Thornapple Township Code of Ordinances. However, with #6 under section 18-91 being removed.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 5 yes, and 2 no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer: Yes Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: No	Jelsema: No – Would have preferred to talk with Sheriff and Prosecutor regarding enforcement first. Rairigh: Yes Willshire: Yes
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C. Computer replacement/upgrade – Supervisor, Office Administrator and Lt. Klutman

Bremer stated that he and Campbell had reviewed options to purchase them at a slightly better price from a third party rather than if they bought them from Aanalytics. However, Aanalytics would still set them up so that all the necessary software and connections to servers would be there. Rairigh stated she appreciated the extra effort to keep costs down.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing- Motion to approve computer replacement/upgrades for the following computers: Supervisor, Office Administrator and Lt. Klutman, not to exceed \$5,000.00 for computers and \$1,050.00 for set up fees.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes, and 0 no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer: Yes Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes	Jelsema: Yes Rairigh: Yes Willshire: Yes
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14. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 10-2020 to support the annexation of Thornapple Kellogg School properties 08-14-027- 004-00 and 08-14-027-006-00 from Thornapple Township into the Village of Middleville.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh- Motion to approve Resolution 10-2020 to support the annexation of Thornapple Kellogg School properties 08-14-027-004-00 and 08-14-027-004-10 from Thornapple Township into the Village of Middleville.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes, and 0 no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer:	Yes	Jelsema:	Yes
	Buckowing:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes		

B. Sanitizing the Hall and TTES –

Rairigh suggested using the U/V light to sanitize the areas rather than this service. Eaton stated that he will need to look into it further. Eaton recommends that for the TTES building they use the light to sanitize rather than the biological. Bremer asked if it is transportable and what the life span of the cleaning? Eaton stated that it has a 1 sq. ft. base and 20 inches tall. Rairigh asked why not bring the light to the hall? Bremer wondered if the light could be brought over every evening. The Biologic lasts for up to 10 to 12 days. Buckowing reminded the board that many people are coming into the hall for property taxes and for the election. Eaton stated the light sanitization only lasts until someone touches the surface. Bremer doesn't feel it is a viable option. Getty asked if the residue is safe? Buckowing stated that they'd just sprayed the village and that after spraying an hour later its settled onto surfaces and it adheres to the items rather than transferring to your skin. Jelsema asked which chemical it is. Buckowing said it was one approved and recommended by FEMA for use. Jelsema is concerned about the chemicals and that their use makes viruses even stronger. DeMaagd is skeptical about the chemicals, but that it can give peace of mind and if that's what people want then he won't oppose it. Jelsema said that his research has led him to be concerned about the gases released over time and prefers the use of U/V light. Jelsema says since he doesn't work in the township hall he'd leave it up to whatever the rest of the board would like. Bremer stated that because they use it in hospitals he feels it is relatively safe, but he hopes it will just be used during the Covid outbreak and not indefinitely. Campbell said he would like to hold off on this until further research can be done. Buckowing suggested one treatment before and one treatment after the election. So perhaps two treatments would be enough.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire- Motion to approve the expenditure as quoted by Reliable Management Systems for the Biological Cleaning Monthly rate of \$365.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes, and 0 no.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bremer:	Yes	Jelsema:	Yes
	Buckowing:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes		

C. Township Board Member salaries –

Bremer stated that trustees’ salaries back pay had been processed in today’s payroll and payable on Friday. Bremer also mentioned that he had included an article by Fahey Schultz, “Can a Township Board Member’s Salary Be Reduced During that Official’s Term?”

D. Handicap parking space –

The second space to be designated as handicap was found to be too small for the ADA requirement therefore Bremer suggested to have it be “Reserved for persons with limited mobility.” This is just for informational purposes and not something that needs to be voted on. Bremer asked for questions and comments. DeMaagd wondered if it wouldn’t make more sense to locate it at the other end of the lot. Buckowing explained this is the spot closest to the Nook and the Lox Hair Salon where residents with mobility issues often like to park. In the past, drivers have stopped in St. James Circle to help their passengers. This parking space is a safer option.

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Bremer, Buckowing, Willshire)

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh)

C. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Bremer) – Election workers were confirmed today at the Elections Commission meeting today. 1200 ballots have been sent out so far, but usually have about 400. 3 weeks away from election.

D. Emergency Services (Demaagd, Bremer, Rairigh)

E. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, DeMaagd)

F. Parks and Recreation Representative (Bremer) – There will be a 5K/10K virtual run as part of Heritage Days. Participants will be able to run at their convenience and then will receive a “Get Active, Stay Healthy Bingo Card.” It has 25 different options for activities as ways of earning a bingo. Those who earn a Bingo will receive prizes. TAPRC is continuing to work on their new 5-year Plan. Day of Caring request sent out. No baseball or softball as there was no season this year. The charity shed is continuing to take cans and bottles.

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

H. Property and Public Utilities (Jelsema, DeMaagd, Campbell) – Campbell stated that he met with Dan Van Kolker. He has also talked with Larry Schaidt and Campbell thinks the Duncan Lake Sewer Authority could afford to pay for half the cost of the feasibility study. Campbell would like to have a meeting with the Duncan Lake Sewer Authority to discuss the issue further. Bremer stated he would be in touch tomorrow to schedule the meeting. Campbell suggested they invite Todd to that meeting.

I. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Jelsema) – Jelsema said that the cracks in the roads in the cemetery need to be cleaned and sealed. He'd like to see the maintenance done to protect the roads. Rairigh asked if the Barry County Road Commission would be responsible? Bremer said no, they are not public roads but might be a contact for who to talk to about getting a quote. Buckowing said a couple of weeks ago when the roads were being worked on, the cemetery road was used as a detour and took a lot of wear and tear.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

A. Eric Schaefer – Schaefer asked if anyone had a UW Day of Caring project in mind.

17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Jake Jelsema (Trustee) – Asked if the bond meeting could be scheduled while everyone was here. Bremer stated that couldn't be done until they heard back from the bond attorney and bond agent.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Suggests sending a doodle poll for scheduling a meeting.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – none.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – none.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – none.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – Just a reminder that she will not be at the August board meeting.

Mike Bremer (Supervisor) – none.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME:10:06 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Move to adjourn
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with 7 yes voice votes.

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved ____/2020__