

TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Eric Schaefer, *Supervisor* / Debra K Buckowing, *Treasurer* / Cindy A. Willshire, *Clerk*
 Curt Campbell, *Trustee* / Ross DeMaagd, *Trustee* / Kim Selleck, *Trustee* / Sandra Rairigh, *Trustee*

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



REGULAR MEETING ZOOM MEETING & IN PERSON September 12, 2022

1. INVOCATION
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

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| ROLL CALL: | Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd: Rairigh: | Present Present Present Present | Schaefer: Selleck: Willshire: | Present Present Present |
| OTHERS PRESENT: | Amy Brown, Heath Seelye, Randy Parsons, Felicia Caruso, Nikole Canute, Rhonda VanPolen, Dana Yarger, Chad Klutman and Jason Preslar. | | | |

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

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| MOTION STATED: | Selleck – Motion to approve the printed agenda as amended with item 10(g) Labor Legal Representation added. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Buckowing |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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| MOTION STATED: | Willshire – Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Buckowing |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:

- A. Randy Parsons – 11762 Green Lake Rd. He said many gravel trucks have been coming down his road even though there is a “No Through Trucks” sign posted. He is concerned about the safety of his neighbor’s children getting on and off the bus with the trucks. He contacted the Barry County Road Commission, Michigan State Police Weights and Measures Division, and the Barry County Sheriff’s Department but they say there isn’t anything they can do. The gravel trucks keep coming. He is not referring to the farm equipment. These are Old Dominion trucks filled with gravel.
- B. Felicia Caruso – Nurse at a local ER department and a resident of Thornapple Township. Caruso said she has always supported EMS millages on the ballot. She was not happy to learn that TTES would not be doing transfers between 9 pm and 7 am as of June 1. She was told it is because TTES does not get paid to do transfers. She doesn’t believe this is the case. She would like to see transfers be offered once again during the overnight hours.
- C. Rhonda VanPolen – VanPolen read an email that she sent to Willshire regarding the vote on election worker wages. She stated that she agrees with Willshire that election workers should be paid more as it is no longer a fun, volunteer opportunity anymore. Election workers work long days with minimal

breaks. Some take time off from their regular jobs and don't get paid for that time off. Others are retired and on a fixed income.

7. COUNTY REPORT: None given, Getty unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness. Schaefer said he will ask Getty to send an email report.

8. RESERVED TIME:

A. Nikole Canute, Mika Myers – Canute introduced herself and explained the areas of legal expertise that Mika Myers has which include municipal entities business, employment issues, by-laws, disability, employee complaints, fire services, ambulance services as well as others. However, they do not specialize in patents, high level criminal law or tax law. Canute stated that she has been at Mika Myers covering employment law for about 15 years. She is available to take calls or emails to answer any questions that may come up. However, there are other staff members at Mika Myers who have all ranges of experiences. She stated she has done a lot of work with Fire Departments and wage and hour issues.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Election Worker Wages: Willshire stated she had sent out an email to ask other surrounding townships what they pay their election workers. This information is included in the packet. Thornapple is much lower than most of the others in Barry County. She would like workers to be paid more in line with what they are worth.

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| MOTION STATED: | Campbell – motion to increase election worker wages from \$12 to \$18 for the election chairs and from \$11 to \$15 for the election inspectors. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Rairigh |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Door Replacement – Schaefer explained that he had tried several times to work on repairing the back door but has not been able to do so. It has rusted to a point that it doesn't work properly. He has received a few quotes and would like to get the door replaced. Campbell asked if the quotes include replacing the steel jam. Schaefer said it did include replacing the steel jam and filling it with concrete. It also included adjusting the second internal door so that it would close completely.

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| MOTION STATED: | Willshire - Motion to replace the back door at a cost NTE \$2195. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Buckowing |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

B. Transfer Plan – Schaefer explained Chief Richardson was at a conference but there is an agenda request for a 90-day trial of a second staffed ambulance as part-time staff became available. This would allow for second calls and transfers.

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| MOTION STATED: | Campbell - Motion to hold 90-day trial of a second staffed ambulance 12 hours per day as part-time staff is available to accommodate second calls and transfers. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Rairigh |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

C. Repair of Equipment – Heath Seelye from HS Fleet Services – Seelye introduced himself and gave a brief background of his experience in mechanical work on ambulances and fire trucks. He began his career as a mechanic at Life EMS before starting his own business. He has found several issues just with a flashlight and a creeper. He outlined the repairs he would recommend which were included in the Board Packet. He would need to have the trucks at his shop in Lawton for this work. He acknowledged that with supply chain issues some parts are on back order. The other option is to have the part rebuilt which may cause some delays, but which would be faster than a replacement part order. He reviewed the list of repairs submitted by Chief Richardson as a starting point. Rairigh asked how long it would take to get through the whole list of repairs. Campbell said he would not be surprised if the cost ended up being higher than the initial quote. Buckowing said that the Board can't afford to not do the repairs. Campbell agreed. Schaefer asked if the motion could be changed from \$31,700 to \$35,000. DeMaagd asked that the Board consider this as a review rather than a contract and not a complete list of needed repairs, but just a starting point. Buckowing asked Schaefer to amend the budget for Fire/EMS repairs for the next board meeting.

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| MOTION STATED: | Campbell - Motion to perform immediate repairs NTE \$35,000 on M-51, Bravo-53, E-51, E-56 and Tanker 56. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Buckowing |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

D. Station Chairs – Schaefer explained that the department has old, donated couches. Chief Richardson received a quote from Firehouse Built and is requesting authorization to purchase three chairs. He had these same chairs at Meridian Township, and they have held up over 20 years. Rairigh stated that this has been something they have looked at for years. DeMaagd asked if the Chief had determined which budget line item the funds would come from. Buckowing directed the board to page 6 of the Consent Agenda (GL# 206-336-740.000 and 505-651-740.000.) Buckowing believes there are funds available in operating supplies that could be used for this purchase. However, she recommended that Schaefer review this with Chief Richardson and work on a budget amendment for them as usually these GL accounts are budgeted closely and there may need to be more funds allocated to these line items.

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| MOTION STATED: | Rairigh - Motion to purchase 3 new fire station chairs at a cost NTE \$2416.50 |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Campbell |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

E. New Hires – Schaefer introduced the agenda request by Chief Richardson stating the request to hire additional staff members. Schaefer read the background about paramedics. DeMaagd said the topic had been discussed thoroughly and was ready to make the motion. Selleck asked if these are new to the roster rather than replacing staff. DeMaagd stated this would not add to the cost as it would still be the same schedule. Rairigh said this would help as Chief Richardson would not have to rely on paid on call members to take shifts, but would have part-time staff able to cover shifts when staff took personal time, holidays, and weekend shifts. DeMaagd asked where the Chief found people when there is a shortage of workers. Schaefer explained that some of the people are from Meridian Township. Selleck said that higher wages may have lead to making it easier to find people as well.

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| MOTION STATED: | DeMaagd - Motion to hire six part-time and four paid-on-call EMS staff members. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Schaefer |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

F. Ordinance 3-2022 – Schaefer read the agenda request asking for the board to adopt this resolution. DeMaagd asked for some further background. Rairigh explained this is the parcel just south of the NTA on M-37. There was a public hearing at the Planning Commission meeting. Nick Suwyn would like to put in a self-storage facility there. DeMaagd asked if this was the one that Dave Dykstra was going to build at one time. Rairigh didn't recall. Selleck asked if it was Jean Poll's old property. DeMaagd and Rairigh thought that it could be. Rairigh explained that there were some restrictions placed on how it could be built.

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| MOTION STATED: | Rairigh - Motion to adopt ordinance 3-2022 Rezone parcel 08-14-027-002-09 from Ag/Res to General Commercial. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Selleck |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

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| ROLL CALL VOTE: | Buckowing: | Yes | Schaefer: | Yes |
| | Campbell: | Yes | Selleck: | Yes |
| | DeMaagd: | Yes | Willshire: | Yes |
| | Rairigh: | Yes | | |

G. Labor Legal Representation – Buckowing explained that several months ago the long-time township labor attorney, Kevin Krauss, from Varnum, retired. He passed the township along to another individual in his office who we haven't met yet. The township has had questions regarding labor issues involving fire departments. Buckowing stated that she had been at the MTA conference and had asked if there was someone with a lot of experience in this field and ended up meeting Nikole Canute from Mika Myers. Buckowing has been familiar with Mika Myers and was impressed by Nikole and what she had to say about her expertise with Fire Departments. DeMaagd asked if this motion was for a contract or just a policy. Buckowing said this would not be a retainer, but rather as an opportunity for the board to see if they are comfortable with the relationship. Rairigh asked if she would be the labor attorney for the township. Canute stated she would be the main contact but that other staff members would also be available to answer questions. Canute also suggested that Mark Neddleton, from Mika Myers who represents the Village of Middleville might be another resource for the township. Buckowing stated that

due to a conflict of interest, she would prefer not utilize his services although believes he has done a great job for the Village.

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| MOTION STATED: | Buckowing - Motion to hire Mika Myers utilizing Nikole Canute for our labor issues. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Selleck |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |

11. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire) None

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) DeMaagd said he had received a quote for the chip & seal for all the remaining roads in the cemetery. This would include two applications plus the patch work. This would add multiple years of wear and tear. It would cost .70 cents per sq. ft. for 1 application and \$1.00 per sq. ft. for 2 applications. It would be \$42,000 for the cemetery, \$19,000 for the fire station and \$3,800 for the township hall lot. The other company didn't recommend doing a chip seal on a parking lot because there wasn't enough time for it cure and cars would damage the surface. An inch and half lay costs about \$3.75 a sq. ft. DeMaagd asked if the Board wanted to put it off for another year or if they thought they could spend that much. The committee will discuss the issue further.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) – Summer activities are winding down and they are getting ready for the fall festivities.

D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer) – Applications for absentee ballots were sent out last week and many of them have already been returned. The Clerk's office will begin sending out ballots soon.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) – Nothing further.

F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) None

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) – Schaefer said there is a lot of used sporting equipment being saved for the next used equipment sale. They will be having a board meeting in October.

H. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Schaefer) None

I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) None

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) – Selleck suggested having Schaefer give Old Dominion a call and let them know their drivers weren't supposed to be going down Green Lake Rd. Schaefer suggested starting with a contact to Brad Lambert at the Barry County Road Commission. DeMaagd felt that would be a neighborly approach. Selleck asked Parsons from which gravel pits they were coming. Parsons said he wasn't sure. Campbell said he had heard from John Corner that they were

100 ft from their goal. Schaefer has an email from Sluggett asking some questions as to which streets would be considered part of the area for assessment. Campbell said the Intercounty Drain meeting is having a meeting on September 22 and they may discuss raising 108th street at the low spot so that water coming from Kent County going south would go through the culvert and ease the water flow into Duncan Lake. However, there is a farmhouse on the north side of 108th street and west of Duncan Creek that may be impacted.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – Schaefer stated they are close to finishing the upgrade. Campbell said that Larry Schaidt was going to call Triplepoint and follow up on the delay.

12. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None

13. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Nothing

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Welcome to Nikole Canute.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Covered everything.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Thanked everyone in the audience and feels they are working on resolving the issues that Felicia Caruso voiced. He thanked the TTES members.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – Nothing further.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – Nothing further

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – The EGLE report found no PFAS in the 15 wells sampled. DeMaagd said this report still didn't resolve from where the PFAS was coming.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:17 P.M.

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| MOTION STATED: | Campbell – Motion to adjourn. |
| MOTION SUPPORTED: | Buckowing |
| MOTION STATUS: | Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's. |



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 10/10/2022