

TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Eric Schaefer, *Supervisor* / Laura Bouchard, *Treasurer* / Cindy Ordway, *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

June 10, 2024

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Present Present Present Present	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Present Absent Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Bill Richardson, Phil Gensterblum, Commissioner Jon Smelker, Commissioner Catherine Getty, Amy Brown, Sheryl Lewis Blake, Curt DeKam, David Laansma, Gary White, and Heather Wing.			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell– Motion to approve the Printed Agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd – Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended with some corrections to misspelling and minor grammatical errors in the Special Meeting Minutes dated 5-09-24.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Yes Absent Yes
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6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Heather Wing: Wing introduced herself saying that she is the Assyria Township Clerk and is running for County Treasurer. There are two challengers also running. She would like to restart the monthly Treasurer meetings and work on some updates to the BS&A program so that the townships and county have better communication.

B. Gary White: White introduced himself and stated that he has been visiting various townships and is running for county commissioner. He has concerns about the location of the new COA building as it pertains to pedestrian traffic safety. Feels the commissioners should have done a better job on this project. Also, feels they should have done a better job on the old courthouse building project. The space is too big for just the drain commissioner. He also has concerns about the millage. Feels the increases in tax revenues should cover the budget without an added millage.

C. Sheryl Lewis Blake: Blake explained that she is currently serving on the COA Board of Trustees and came to tell the board about all the services that community members receive from the COA. There are a variety of services which include shared meals, in-home services, and social engagement opportunities. She also spoke about the cost of the millage. They are asking for .466 mils which equals about less than \$3 per year in taxes per household.

D. David Laansma: Laansma introduced himself and stated he is running for county commissioner. He feels it is important to restore local control. He is concerned about the COA building being so closely connected with Thornapple Manor and the disadvantage that puts on the private facilities that serve the elderly in the community.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

<p>County Commissioners Jon Smelker and Catherine Getty:</p>	<p>Getty spoke about their search for a new county administrator and outlined their timeline. They hope to have their first round of interviews in mid-July. She explained the importance to townships that the county has a good administrator and how that helps townships obtain bonds at a better cost. There were also several board interviews and resulted in some appointments. Also, Getty spoke about the draft of a solar ordinance that was written with the hopes that control will be restored to local entities from the state level.</p> <p>Smelker spoke about the replacement of the air conditioning in the courthouse and selection of an insurance policy for employees. He also spoke about the selection of the location for the COA. He feels the board had done a thorough job in putting them together to create a senior campus, which is a common way of doing things. The location will be added to the transit route as well.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>Ordway thanked commissioners for their report.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME: None.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: The Fire Chief gave an overview of activity for the month and the upcoming classes being offered. Rairigh asked about the status of the MABAS agreement. The Chief said that he was waiting for final decisions from other Fire Chiefs in Barry County. They would need at least four of them to agree. Otherwise, they could also join with those in Kent County if there are not enough Chiefs in Barry County. He has spoken with several chiefs and feels there is a good chance they will sign the agreement as well.

10. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Gensterblum said that he has three special land use permits for the next Planning Commission Meeting as well as he hopes they will discuss the draft of the solar ordinance from the county. There was one complaint received but it turned out to not be a violation, so it was closed.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. NTA – Mowing: Chief Richardson explained that the mower was not working very well, and it had been discussed that rather than purchasing a replacement it would be a good time to transition over to having NTA do the mowing.

<p>MOTION STATED:</p>	<p>Rairigh – Motion to sign a contract with NTA for mowing of the fire station lawn.</p>
<p>MOTION SUPPORTED:</p>	<p>Campbell</p>
<p>MOTION STATUS:</p>	<p>Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.</p>

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Yes Absent Yes
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B. EBAY ACCOUNT: Chief Richardson explained that several surplus items had been auctioned off through Miedema Auction, however one of the buyers explained that he could make money from reselling the items he bought on eBay. The Chief would like to sell items directly through eBay and keep more of the funds from the sales. Bouchard asked for some more time so that she could check into the financial and legal side of things and bring those details to the board for discussion before moving forward. She agreed it was a good idea to keep more of the profits from the sale price. Campbell agreed with Bouchard.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to table the discussion for further research of the creation of an eBay account for the sale of fire department surplus.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Yes Absent Yes
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C. FIRE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE: Chief Richardson explained that he would like a website for the Fire Department so that residents would be able to sign up for and make payments for the classes they are offering, post about their ambulance transfer service, and apply for a fire burn permit. He would like to hire Pixelvine to create the website. Ordway asked if he had gotten other quotes. The Chief said that he hadn't as the township had recently gotten quotes for the township website and had selected Pixelvine at that time. Campbell said he liked the idea but wondered if they could afford it if the millage doesn't pass. Ordway asked if this information could be added to the township website instead of a separate website. The Chief said that Pixelvine had recommended a separate website because of the amount of content. Bouchard stated that the millage proposal was on the August election and that it might be a good idea to wait until after the results before committing to the cost.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to table the discussion for further research of the creation of a Fire Department website until after the August Election.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Yes Absent Yes
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D. SCBA BOTTLES: Chief Richardson said that he had budgeted for the purchase of four per year as the bottles have a 15-year life span. Rather than buying all 28 bottles in one year he would prefer to allocate the purchase of four per year.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to approve the purchase of four SCBA bottles NTE \$5,500.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Absent
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

E. IRVING CONTRACT CORRECTION: Chief Richardson explained there were a few areas of Irving Township which Thornapple Township was providing fire protection services to, but which had not been recorded as being covered in the contract. Furthermore, those areas were listed as being covered by Hastings Fire Department even though that wasn't the case. The Chief requested the correction be made for the next year of service with an estimated increase of \$4,500 per year in revenue.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve corrections to the Irving Township Fire Contract.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Absent
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway) Nothing new.

B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh) Rairigh said she was meeting a cement contractor at the cemetery in the morning regarding stamped concrete around the columbarium. She invited both Ordway and DeMaagd to join her if they wished.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) Bouchard spoke on Schaefer's behalf and said the Music Series started this past Friday and there were about 100 people in attendance. This week's guest will be Lighting Matches.

D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer) Ordway said just gearing up for the August Election.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) This was covered.

F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh) Had been discussed.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer) Bouchard said, on behalf of Schaefer, that the week of June 24th is the final week of the season. Getty added there were 327 players on 29 teams and that the regular season wraps up this week. There are plans for a post-season tournament which is being held on a voluntary basis. Many families prefer to wrap up the season before the 4th of July.

H. Personnel – Compensation (Ordway, Campbell, Schaefer) Nothing new.

I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) Campbell shared that a group had toured the Fire Station and made note of several things that will need to be addressed over time. Selleck agreed and said that the building is 20 years old, and they wanted to set up a revolving maintenance program so that repairs could be budgeted appropriately.

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Nothing new there.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) The authorities met last week, and the system is working well. There was a claim made, but it was determined to be the responsibility of the homeowner rather than a problem of the system.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

A. Gary White: He stated in the late 90's he was the Village President of the Village of Nashville. He also served as a Village Trustee. He said when they received grant money, they would do an impact study before completing a big project. He also added that there was a meal center near Nashville, but it wasn't well attended and was closed. However, he said he mostly wanted to talk about the county's search for a new county administrator. The current administrator made \$143,000 salary. He attended several of the meetings regarding the search and suggested they go with 3 different search firms, but they ended up with only one. This search firm is talking about going up to \$160,000 for a salary and he feels the wage disparity among county employees is too great. He likes the COA, but not the location commissioners chose.

B. Sheryl Lewis Blake: She enjoyed the meeting and said thank you to the board.

C. Catherine Getty: There are trail improvements funded through APRA. A mile of paved trail in Nashville should be done by mid-July. It bisects the community and connects all their schools. There will be parking at the VFW right off M-66. There is also an eight-tenth of a mile of paved trail behind Thornapple Manor and to Barry County Christian School. There will be other areas of crushed concrete on the east side of the road. The Thornapple Trail Association meets monthly. Rick Moore and Cal Lamoreaux have served for many years. They will be looking at maintenance of the trail in Middleville and repairing the bridges. The county closed on the Metcalf Lake Natural Area and Park in Assyria Township. It is 160 acres with Metcalf Lake and Wabascon Creek. This came with a \$500,000 donation which will be used to set up an endowment.

D. David Laansma: Laansma gave a rebuttal to what was said about the COA and the Thornapple Manor connection. He said he had spoken with the manager of Carveth Village. He said his point is that the COA should be equally representing all the aged residents all over the county and not favor Thornapple Manor. The conveniences and amenities offered at the COA location are impacting the other private facilities and making it more difficult for them to operate competitively.

E. Makenzi Peters: Peters introduced herself as the Carveth Village Manager and said that she wanted to speak to the board to explain that the COA location next to Thornapple Manor was indeed impacting their business. Also, that she had people withdraw from their commitments because of the extra amenities that are being offered. She thanked the board for the opportunity to talk about it.

15. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Selleck said that the North County Trail has been upgraded to a federal trail which should help with funding.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – The meeting at the cemetery regarding stamped concrete is scheduled for 9 am.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – DeMaagd had a suggestion regarding the Memorial Day Parade fly-over. He said that because of the cloud coverage the fly-over was canceled. He thought perhaps sound effects could be added for effect if the weather didn't allow for the planes to be seen. Second, some people from "Ax Mi Tax," had stopped by with a petition to put a proposal on the ballot. However, if there are services that are wanted by a community then there needs to be a way to fund it.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Campbell asked about the EMS flyer and if it could wait until the next board meeting.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – Bouchard suggested they would need another meeting before then for there to be time to get it distributed. However, she also felt that we might want the attorney to review it as well. Furthermore, she reported that they were busy getting the summer tax bills ready to be mailed out.

Cindy Ordway (Clerk) – Ordway said she is working on the August Election, but the Personnel Committee should meet to discuss changes to the Employee Handbook.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Absent.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:22 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 p.m.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 7/8 /2024