

Watson Township Board Meeting
1895 118th Ave. Allegan, MI 49010
March 7, 2024

Call to Order: 7:02 P.M.

Present:

Kevin Travis, Tera Davis, Michelle Harris, and Kelli Morris.

Absent:

John Caras.

Agenda:

Trustee Harris made a motion to add pest control to new business and approve the agenda, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Minutes:

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the minutes from February as presented, Clerk Morris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Davis gave the Treasurer's report of account balances. Supervisor Travis made a motion to approve the report as given, Clerk Morris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills:

Treasurer Davis made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$22,488.03, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Open- 7:06 P.M.

Kevin Christinsen asked if there was verbiage within the recent gravel mine operation approval that included the use of engine brakes and possible allowed routes. The supervisor let him know those would be things PCI would be enforcing, if needed.

Gale Dugan explained a petition he was circulating to keep the control and approval of solar and wind farms at the local level and not the state level. He explained the current situation with the solar and wind farms.

Commissioner Dugan also gave his monthly report to the board, which included a DNR State Game Ordinance, A camera on M-89 for help in traffic control, and resolution to fund household hazardous waste differently.

Richard Davis mentioned that he had gotten letters for leasing his property for a solar farm.

Bill Holden Sr. asked if the township is considering increasing the size for land division splits. He expresses that he would not be in favor of that decision.

Kevin Christenson also asked if the driveway was going to be maintained at the park. Supervisor Travis explained that the maintenance of that will be in the township's upcoming budget.

Closed 7:26 P.M.

REPORTS:

A. County Commissioner Report:

Above in Public Comment.

B. Planning Commission:

None.

C. Martin Fire Department:

Martin Fire Department firefighter Demann gave the board an oral and written report of fire/emergency calls over the past month, as well as totals for the year. He also reported that the three new cadets in the fire program are all doing very well in the Academy.

D. Hopkins Fire Department:

Captain Beilby gave the board a report from the Hopkins Fire Department. He also reported that the Hopkins Fire Chief had resigned and expressed what a great loss for their department that will be. He let everyone know that Eric Alberta has been appointed Fire Chief, until a new Fire Chief is in place.

E. WAEMS:

EMT Trevor Bielby gave a report on monthly calls for WAEMS

F. Libraries:

Reports were emailed.

G. Sexton:

Mark Simpson reported two burials and three foundations currently being done, with more coming. He also let the board know that Cory Irish had helped with a burial and is getting acclimated to the processes of the Sexton position.

H. Code Enforcement:

Ordinance Code Enforcement Officer Jim Davis reported there are currently 14 open cases, and he also gave a report on the open and pending cases.

Old Business:

A. Zoning Ordinance and Police/ General Ordinance:

Supervisor Travis explained that these ordinances have all been re-published and are now live on the Watson Township Website. The final training is scheduled for Tuesday April 9, 2024 @ 1 PM.

New Business:

A. Planning Commission Vacancy (full term):

Trustee Harris made a motion to appoint Troy Baker to the planning commission for a 3-year term expiring on February 1, 2027, Clerk Morris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

B. Planning Commission Vacancy (partial term):

Supervisor Travis made a motion to appoint Travis Long to the planning commission for a partial term ending February 1, 2025, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

C. Set Budget Public Hearing:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to set the budget public hearing for March 26, 2024 @ 7PM, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

D. Move April 4, 2024 meeting:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to move the April 4, 2024 meeting to immediately after the Budget Public Hearing on March 26, 2024; Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

E. Set Meeting Dates:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to set the meeting dates for the next fiscal year as follows: May 2nd, June 6th, July 11th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th, January 2nd 2025, February 6th 2025, March 6th 2025(Budget Hearing), and April 10th 2025; Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

F. Recycling/ Clean Up Dates:

Spring Clean Up was set for May 11th 2024, and Fall Clean Up was set for October 12th 2024.

G. PCI Zoning Map Update:

Trustee Harris made a motion to partner with PCI to update the Zoning maps, with the cost being approximately \$750.00. Clerk Morris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

H. Pest Control:

Trustee Harris explains a pest problem in the kitchen and hall areas. The township currently uses Griffin Pest Control, however, it does not seem to be controlling the ant, box elder, and stink bug problems. Michelle will contact a new pest control company and address the problem.

Adjourn:

Treasurer Davis made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn:

8:23 PM



Kelli Morris