

**Watson Township Board Meeting**  
**1895 118<sup>th</sup> Ave. Allegan, MI 49010**  
**June 6, 2024**

**Call to Order:** 7:04 P.M.

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

None.

**Agenda:**

Treasurer Davis made a motion to approve the agenda, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**Circuit Court Candidate Emily Jipp:**

Circuit Court Candidate Emily Jipp attended the board meeting and gave the board and audience some background about herself, her experience, and her candidacy for the position of Allegan County Circuit Judge.

**Allegan County Sherriff Candidate Dean Brant:**

Dean Brant- Allegan County Sheriff Candidate gave the board and audience members some background on himself and his decision to run for Allegan County Sheriff. With one of his main goals being to implement a "Citizen Grand Jury" of twenty-four individuals (one representative from each township in the county) to address complaints and issues to encourage and bring back accountability to the system.

**Minutes:**

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments, Trustee Caras supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:**

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

**Bills:**

Trustee Harris made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$12,037.31, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Open- 7:21 P.M.

Closed 7:21 P.M.

**REPORTS:**

**A. County Commissioner Report:**

Gave a report on the past two County Commissioners meetings. The report included looking into the wages for assistant prosecutors (and implementation of a three-tier program), annual report from Sherriff Baker, Judges reports, and a "time capsule" that was buried in 1960 under the county courthouse that was uncovered and will be opened at 12 pm on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

**B. Planning Commission:**

Trustee Caras reported that there was discussion on Zoning to bring it into alignment with the Master Plan. This discussion is just in the beginning stages.

**C. Hopkins Fire Department:**

Captain Beilby gave the board a report from the Hopkins Fire Department.

**D. WAEMS:**

EMT Trevor Bielby gave a report including the completion of the construction project (which added four bedrooms for EMT's) and taking delivery of a new truck for service. Trustee Harris made a motion to add VOI (voice over internet) phone forwarding to the firefighter cell, Trustee Caras supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**E. Libraries:**

Alice Kelsey attended the meeting and gave a report on the Martin Library.

**F. Sexton:**

Sexton Cory Irish gave the board a cemetery report. He has two foundations marked out to pour (with some assistance from former Sexton Simpson). Sexton Irish also reported, two burials and three foundations currently being done, as well as one more foundation coming soon. Former Sexton Simpson added that Sexton Irish had helped with a burial and is getting acclimated to the processes of the Sexton position.

**G. Code Enforcement:**

Ordinance Code Enforcement Officer Jim Davis reported there are currently 10 open cases, five pending cases, and two cases pending hearings.

**Old Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

**A. Burnham and Flower Insurance:**

Supervisor Travis made a motion to renew the township insurance policy in the amount of \$18,025.00, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**B. Planning Commission Survey:**

The board discussed the recent approval of a private road in the township because there were no provisions in the current zoning to warrant a denial. It is becoming apparent that the current zoning ordinance and policies do not align with the master plan. Supervisor Travis asked planning commission member Jim Davis to reach out to a professional planner to assist the planning commission in reviewing the zoning ordinance and revising it to better serve the township and preserve its future. Supervisor Travis made a motion to contract with MCKENNA for work with the planning commission for professional services in the amount of \$6,000.00; Trustee Caras supported, all in favor, motion carried. Supervisor Travis made a motion to move \$6,000.00 from unassigned funds to Planning Commission Professional Services, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**C. MTA Membership Renewal:**

Supervisor Travis made a motion approve the membership renewal and add the Premier Pass for a total membership fee of \$3,589.61, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**D. VOI Phone and Forward Service:**

Trustee Caras made a motion to approve VOI Phone and Forward service to the Fire Department phone line for \$10.00-\$12.00, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**Adjourn:**

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

Adjourn:  
8:06 PM