

Watson Township Board Meeting
1895 118th Ave. Allegan, MI 49010
October 3, 2024

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Present:

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

Absent:

Michelle Harris

Agenda:

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

Minutes:

Treasurer Davis made a motion to approve the minutes from September 5, 2024; Clerk Morris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Bills:

Clerk Morris made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$17,304.21, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Budget Report:

Supervisor Travis gave a budget report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Open- 7:06 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Closed- 7:07 P.M.

REPORTS:

A. Planning Commission:

Trustee Caras gave a report on the Allegan County Sand and Gravel project, letting the board know the project met all ordinances, had proper bonding, and completed a study for dust and noise. Trustee Caras made a motion for the board to approve the Allegan Sand and Gravel mining operation, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

B. Libraries:

Reports were emailed.

C. Sexton:

Sexton Mark Simpson gave the board a report including one foundation and one cremation burial for the month. He is also currently working on another foundation. Sexton Simpson also thanked the board for providing him with a small rototiller to assist in the cemetery work.

D. WAEMS:

Supervisor Travis gave a report that the Par Plan dropped their insurance, and the cost of townships "doing business" with WAEMS from an insurance standpoint will likely go up.

Old Business:

A. Seven Generations Park:

Trustee Caras explained that the projected cost is going to be significantly higher than that of the original \$250,000.00. This is because of the MDOT driveway requirements that will cost around an additional \$50,000.00. The new budget is going to be around \$340,000.00. Trustee Caras continued that the plan is to put it out for bid in the next week and hope that the bids come in at a better price.

New Business:

A. Bloom Slugget P.C.:

Supervisor Travis introduced Blake Conklin of Bloom Slugget P.C. Attorney Conklin gave the board a short outline of Bloom Slugget P.C. He mentioned that municipal law is the primary focus of Bloom Slugget P.C. He made a point that they do care about the townships they represent and are interested in the focus and needs of each township. He explained there are two attorneys at the firm that deal with ordinance enforcement full time. He explained that his rate is \$225/hr.; associates time is \$210/hr.; ordinance enforcement matters is \$195/hr.; and paralegal rate is \$100/hr.

Trustee Caras made a motion to sign an engagement letter with Bloom Slugget P.C.; Treasurer Davis supported; all in favor, motion carried.

B. Ballot Box:

There was discussion on the "Election Ballot Box" being installed outside.

The supervisor asked Attorney Conklin to weigh in on this. Attorney Conklin offered to look up the State of Michigan requirements for an Outside drop box. Trustee Caras wanted to get the outside box installed. Clerk Morris explained that ballots had already been sent out and are returning in the indoor "Ballot drop box." Additionally, because it is the clerk who is responsible for the collection and safeguarding of the ballots, she feels better with the indoor collection. Clerk Morris added, after the November election cycle, the new clerk will be able to make whatever choices within the State of Michigan election laws she feels most comfortable with for her and Watson Township voters.

C. PC Pay for Brady Cole:

Clerk Morris needs to have an I-9 form from Brady Cole to process payroll for him.

Trustee Caras will ask that Brady Cole contact the clerk.

D. TV Controller:

Trustee Caras explains the need for a TV controller, stating that it is not easy to connect a phone to the Television. He explains that a bridge connector is needed. Trustee Caras makes a motion to approve the purchase of a Screen beam 1100 Plus for approximately \$850.00, Clerk Morris supports, all in favor, motion carried.

E. Fall Clean-Up:

Fall clean-up will be Oct. 12th from 9-2 p.m. The fire department will be collecting scrap metal items.

Board Round Table:

Trustee Caras questions the process of emptying the trash receptacle at the park and asks if it can be added to the lawn care bid next season.

Trustee Caras questions doing "rental" for the pavilion at the township park.

Supervisor Travis is in favor of renting the pavilion at the park, in his opinion this will make it less chaotic.

Adjourn:

Supervisor Travis made a motion to adjourn, Trustee Caras supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Adjourn:

7:30PM

Kelli Morris