

**Watson Township Board Meeting**  
**1895 118<sup>th</sup> Ave. Allegan, MI 49010**  
**November 7, 2024**

**Call to Order:** 7:06 P.M.

**Present:**

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

Trustee Harris will officiate the meeting until Supervisor Travis arrives.

**Arrived Late:**

Kevin Travis

**Agenda:**

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

**Minutes:**

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

**Bills:**

Treasurer Davis made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$41,932.67, Trustee Harris supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Open- 7:11 P.M. NONE Closed- 7:11 P.M.

**REPORTS:**

**A. County Commissioner Report:**

Commissioner Gail Dugan gave a report on the County Commissioners' meetings for the past month. Minutes from these meetings can be found on the Allegan County Government Website. Highlights from the commissioner's meetings were the approval of the 2025 budget of the road commission (the compensation of the road commission and county board was tabled); the annual report (available online); the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter capital report, a presentation of 2024 tax levies (there will be an amendment to tax levies after the results of the current election); the abolishment of the duplicate record fee and the re-dedication of the Union Soldier Stature at the court house on November 11<sup>th</sup> on the river front.

**B. Planning Commission:**

Trustee Caras gave the board a report including the ordinance update for private roads.

**C. Hopkins Fire Department:**

Supervisor Travis reported that the new fire truck had been delivered to the Watson Fire Sub-Station. He complimented the truck manufacturer in the quality, and many extras that were included on the truck at no extra cost to the township or fire board. He offered a tour of the truck after the conclusion of the board meeting.

**D. Martin Fire Department:**

A representative from Martin Fire Department gave a report including the conclusion of the annual hose and ladder testing and annual preventive maintenance on all equipment. Also, the Halloween Hot Dog roast was a success with almost four hundred hot dogs handed out to attendees.

**E. WAEMS:**

None. Will revisit in new business.

**F. Libraries:**

Library reports have been emailed to the township.

**G. Sexton:**

Sexton Simpson gave a report that this month had been relatively quiet. He reported a foundation relocation at Hicks Cemetery. Lastly, he will remove the flags at the cemeteries and prepare for the winter months after Veteran's Day.

**H. Code Enforcement:**

Ordinance Code Enforcement Officer Jim Davis was absent- no report.

**Old Business:**

**A. 7 Generations Park:**

Trustee Caras gave a report that included the construction plans have been submitted. Additionally, they are still collaborating with Consumers Power on a power pole, and M-DOT on the implementation and cost of M-DOT driveway specifications.

**B. Private Drives/Road Frontage Ordinance Review:**

The ordinance change was presented by a representative from McKenna, outlining the changes in the ordinance. Trustee Caras explains that the intention is not to disallow private roads, but to encourage the use of the public roads. The changes in the ordinance include making the parent parcel for divisions be a minimum of five acres, and after any land divisions the parent parcel and divisions be no less than 1- acre. The new ordinance will have a minimum of one acre and one hundred foot of road frontage. There is discussion on the new ordinance. Trustee Caras made a motion to approve Ordinance#11072024-1; supported by Supervisor Travis; Roll Call Vote: Kevin Travis-yes; Tera Davis-yes; Michelle Harris-yes; John Caras-yes; and Kelli Morris-yes. The supervisor declared Ordinance #11072024-1 adopted by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes.

**New Business:**

**A. BS&A online Tax Bill Payment:**

Trustee Caras explained the online tax payment option, payment can be made online with a 2.8% (plus .50 cent charge per transaction); with ACH transfers costing (\$3.00 fee for \$1,000, \$6.00 fee for \$5,000, and \$12 fee for over \$12,000). Credit Card transactions could be made at the township office; however, ACH payments would need to be done online. The township would need to purchase a credit card reader at a cost of under \$400.00. Trustee Caras made a motion to implement the collection of tax payments by Credit Card or ACH payments, Supervisor Travis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**B. WAEMS:**

Supervisor Travis explained that he is resigning from the WAEMS board. Trustee Harris made a motion to appoint Tim Holmes to the WAEMS board, Treasurer Davis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**C. Michigan Gas Utilities Franchise Renewal:**

Trustee Harris made a motion to approve Ordinance #11072024-2 to renew the Franchise agreement with Michigan Gas Utilities; Trustee Caras supported. Roll Call Vote: Michelle Harris-yes; John Caras-yes; Tera Davis-yes; Kevin Travis-yes; and Kelli Morris-yes. Supervisor Travis declared Ordinance #11072024-2 passed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes.

**D. Hall Cleaning:**

Trustee Harris made a motion to contract Rebekah Cornish to do janitorial services for the township, Supervisor Travis supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**E. Snow Plowing Bid:**

Treasurer Davis made a motion to approve a bid from ATS Enterprises for snowplowing services for the 2024-2025 winter season at the township offices/hall/fire department (\$3,000), and park (\$1,000), and salting (as necessary at \$140.00 per application); Trustee Caras supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**ROUND TABLE:**

**Trustee Harris:**

Reported another complaint that sand is being hauled from the pit on 122<sup>nd</sup> Ave. The board had a discussion on how to manage the complaints. Trustee Harris will contact PCI about this Zoning Ordinance Violation.

**Trustee Harris and Treasurer Davis:**

Expressed their appreciation to Clerk Morris for her 24-year commitment to the township serving as its clerk. They presented her with gifts of appreciation. Clerk Morris reciprocated her appreciation to Trustee Harris and Treasurer Davis for the acknowledgement and thanked them both, as well as the whole sitting board. She has felt truly honored and blessed to work with so many wonderful township officials over the years and will leave with many great memories as she departs as a township official.

**Trustee Harris/Treasurer Davis and Supervisor Travis:**

Expressed their appreciation to Trustee Caras for his commitment to the township and all the improvements to the township office operations, as well as the new Seven Generations Park, and his contributions to the township Planning Commission. They presented Trustee Caras with a gift of appreciation. Trustee Caras expressed his appreciation to the two of them and the entire board for the opportunity to be a part of the township's growth.

**Kevin Travis:**

Thanked Brady Cole for the new office chairs. They will certainly be beneficial to the township.

**John Caras:**

Introduced new Township Trustee Elect Joe Yearous.

**Kelli Morris:**

Introduced new Township Clerk Elect Mary Ann Baker.

**Adjourn:**

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

Adjourn:

8:29 PM

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Kelli Morris