

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Drews, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: William Drews, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; Misty VanGessel, Treasurer; Tyler Nadeau, Trustee; Randy Robson, Trustee

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Drews, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk; Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Drews requested the addition of Snow Damage in the Cemetery to the agenda.

VanGessel moved, supported by Nadeau, to approve the amended agenda. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 8, 2024 MINUTES

Naadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the January minutes. MOTION CARRIED

REPORTS

- **Treasurer/Financial Reports/Bank Update (on file)**

Treasurer report was provided.

Current version of BS&A software will no longer be supported, the “cloud” version will be required.

VanGessel will seek further details and report to the Board in March.

Sprague moved, supported by Drews, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Zoning Administrator Report – Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator**

One zoning permit was issued in January. The barking dog complaint letter has been sent.

Has need of updated BS&A software for zoning purposes. VanGessel will look into sharing access.

Drews gave an update on the Phillips property complaint.

Robson moved, supported by Nadeau, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Road Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

Waiting for estimates for 2024 road work from the Road Commission of Montcalm County.

Current \$115,000 budget doesn't keep up with Township repair needs, millage needs to be sought.

Sprague reported 5:00 PM on 4/30/24 is the cutoff for providing ballot wording to the County

Clerk for a proposal to be added to the August 6, 2024 ballot.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Fire District Report – Bill Drews, Township Supervisor**

Meeting was February 1. There were 2 runs in Pine Township. Trainings have been residential solar installations and ice rescue. An air boat has been purchased. A grant of \$40,000 will help pay for tenders (held up due to supply chain issues).

Robson moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Cemetery Report – Marla Sprague, Township Clerk**

Two burials, one lot sold in Riverside Cemetery in January; none in West Pine Cemetery.

Robson moved, supported by Nadeau, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Library Board Report (Jamie Gorby)**

Meeting was on January 18, 2024. Next meeting February 15, 2024 at 5:00 PM. Book sale will be from 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM on February 15, 2024. Copies of the current newsletter were left for Board meeting attendees.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

- **Birch Landing Lots 1 & 35 Update**

Action tabled, waiting for property owners who go South for the winter to return.

- **Supervisor Report**

A cherry tree and cedar trees were damaged in Riverside Cemetery. Drews presented quotes for cleanup.

Drews moved, supported by Nadeau, to table action until the March board meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

Date for Spring Cleanup will be discussed at the March board meeting.

Sprague moved, supported by VanGessel to approve the report. MOTION CARRIED

- **Clerk Report**

Early voting will begin on Saturday for nine days, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM except for Wednesday, February 21, when hours will be Noon – 8:00 PM. Location is the new Drain Commission building at the driveway just north of the Montcalm County Sheriff's Department in Stanton.

The Montcalm County Clerk is accepting election inspector applications and hosting several training sessions.

The Electronic Pollbook will be live online and open to the public.

The local Michigan Townships Association chapter meeting will be held on February 20 at 6:00 PM at Settlement Lutheran Church.

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Entry Door Replacement – ARPA Update**

Sprague provided the Board with an ARPA fund update.

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to authorize up to \$1,500.00 for the purchase of a fiberglass entry door through Big L Lumber and installation at the Township Hall, with a key match.

Roll call vote: Robson – Yes; Drews – Yes; Sprague – Yes; Nadeau – Yes; VanGessel. - Yes.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Emergency Siren Update**

Drews met with Andy of Westshore Servies of Allendale, Michigan to obtain estimates for a Township emergency siren. Prices range from \$5,000.00 for used with limited warranty to \$28,000.00 new. Drews will look for grant opportunities.

- **Petition Signature/Gathering Policy Information**

Gathering petition signatures on Township property and hall rental rules were discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Compensation Status – Township Employees**

Sprague reported on an attempted countywide comparison of township board salaries/compensation that may be helpful during upcoming budget planning.

Sprague moved, supported by Nadeau, to compensate Steve Fisk in the amount of \$175.00 for past Fire District meeting mileage payments that have been missed and to increase his mileage compensation rates to ~~60 cents per mile~~ **\$175.00 per year** (*corrected 3/11/24*) for future Fire District meeting mileage payments.

MOTION CARRIED

- **State Requirements – Energy Permitting – CREO**

Drews reported on renewable energy, waiting for input from Michigan Townships Association

CREO = Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance

January issue, Renewable Energy in Michigan magazine

Robson moved, supported by VanGessel, to table action indefinitely.

MOTION CARRIED

- **Planning Commission Update (Nadeau, Board Liaison)**

Nadeau asked the Board to look at the proposed updated Special Land Use Permit Application form presented by the Planning Commission for consideration at the March, 2024 Board meeting. *Still seeking* current information on PLP Planning Group, LLC/Paul LeBlanc, the company that kept record of Pine Township Ordinances.

Drews moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report.

MOTION CARRIED

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS

Nadeau moved, supported by Drews, to pay checks 3482 – 3520 for monthly bills in the amount of \$11,177.42.

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dawn Sweet, Pine Township, expressed that it is not illegal to collect petition signatures on township property, but is not legal during election polling, at township functions, and cannot be funded by the township

Richard Ostrander noted that Master Plans are required to be reviewed every 5 years and commented on renewable energy

Lindsay *Simon* asked for comments to be placed on record

BOARD FINAL COMMENTS

Drews expressed understanding of people's feelings of government overreach

ADJOURNMENT

Robson moved, supported by Nadeau, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM.

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Sprague

Marla Sprague

Pine Township Clerk

Minutes typed by Barbara Kaaikala