

APPROVED MINUTES
PINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023 AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. 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

STAFF PRESENT: Julie Drews, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk

AGENDA APPROVAL

Robson requested digital sign be included under PavilionProgress.

Robson moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS (3 minute per person maximum)

Dawn Sweet, Pine Township expressed appreciation of work of Planning Commission on the solar ordinance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sprague noted that she has not yet had time to purchase the ePollbook computer that was authorized at the March 13, 2023 meeting.

Nadeau moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER REPORT (attached)

VanGessel presented CD rates from Community Federal Credit Union.

Sprague reported having received authorization from the Hunter Lake Association to move the money in account #303 Hunter Lake CD to a Money Market account. Mike Rotter reported being on the Association Board and that Sprague has been very helpful when the Association members have questions.

Nadeau moved, supported by Drews, to move CD account # 303 into a Money Market account and to move the other three (all the remaining) CD's into a 15-month, 4.75% interest rate CD. Motion carried.

Sprague reported having contacted Michigan Townships Association attorney Catherine Mullhaupt regarding the Township resident's tax payment that was returned in error, resulting in late fees being assessed by the Montcalm County Treasurer. Mullhaupt advised that the property owner is still responsible for the taxes and that the Township cannot use taxpayer funds to pay the taxes or the late fees. Nadeau suggested that VanGessel contact the county treasurer to determine whether late fees can be forgiven .

Robson moved, supported by Nadeau, to accept the Treasurer report. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Buchholz was absent, as he is recovering from surgery.

ROAD REPORT

Drews reported that the road contracts were delivered and accepted.

Fitzner Road ½ mile between McBride and Kendaville road that was approved for rotomilling will not be completed due to residents asking for a delay and will be patched instead.

Robson moved, supported by Nadeau, to approve the road report. Motion carried.

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FIRE DISTRICT MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORTS (on file)

Drews reported that a contract has been awarded to CSI to build the two tender trucks. Pine Township had two fire calls - one vehicle accident and one CO alarm in March. He reported on the extensive ice rescue on Townline Lake, which was successful. Training was ice rescue. VanGessel moved, supported by Robson, to approve the report.

Motion carried.

CEMETERY REPORT

Drews reported that water has been turned on at Riverside Cemetery. The picnic tables have been removed from storage. Cleanup in both cemeteries was minimal after the ice storms. Drews noticed a Chinese Elm that needs to be removed when funds allow.

Sprague reported 1 burial at West Pine and that Brigham Funeral Home advised that other townships charge more for opening graves than does Pine Township. Pine's fees have not been raised in 20 years. Sprague moved, supported by VanGessel, to raise the fee for digging a full grave to \$500.00 and \$125.00 for digging a grave for cremains, to take effect July 1, 2023, the beginning of the new fiscal year.

Motion carried.

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

Motion carried

LIBRARY REPORT

Mike Rotter reported Cato and Hinton representatives' terms expired, appointments made, full board again. Pavilion construction is to begin soon. Minimum wage and paid time off are being reviewed by the State. The Library Board is preparing for when Supreme Court decides, and policies being updated, The budget being is reviewed, the new fiscal year begins July 1. Libraries are experiencing book ban concerns and conflict. There is litigation in one county. There will be a blood drive on April 20. On April 25th local crop duster and author, Jeff Ostrander, will do a book presentation. There is a link to library on Township website. The library is considering a bookmobile in the future fir outreach to people who cant get to the library, for example it might go to the townships once per week.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to approve the library report.

Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

OUTSIDE SECURITY CAMERAS

Drews reported that there is a security camera covering the ballot drop box as required by law, and one covering the Township mailbox and that his son installed the cameras at no cost to the Township. Drews reported that the Board is looking for a drop box to be installed inside the Hall entrance for materials dropped at the Hall by residents.

TREASURER EMERGENCY COMPUTER REPAIR

VanGessel reported that the Treasurer computer would not start and needed emergency repair. Drews had it worked on and non-Towship personal information installed by the previous Treasurer is being removed. A new battery has been installed.

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PAVILLION AND OTHER APRA FUNDS UPDATE

Pavillion construction will begin within the next two weeks.

Robson and Drews met with Rusty Reynolds of Optic Edge in Big Rapids and obtained a quote for a 10 mm, 2' x 6' digital sign at a cost of \$18,730 installed.

Robson moved, supported by Sprague to obtain a more detailed bid from Reynolds. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE

Nadeau reported that the public hearing on the solar ordinance was held at 5:00 PM this date. He detailed the changes that were made to the ordinance and reported that Jamie Gorby, Planning Commission Secretary, will send the ordinance to the Montcalm County Planning Commission and, once received back, will be presented to the Township Board for approval.

VanGessel moved, supported by Sprague, to approve the Planning Commission update. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTRICAL CONTRACT

Drews reported having contacted at least six places for bids for electrical wiring of the pavillion, receiving only one bid, from Paul Krantz of Arrow Electric in the amount of \$5,996.00.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson to accept the Arrow Electric bid.

Roll call: Robson – Yes; VanGessel – Yes; Drews – Yes; Sprague – Yes; Nadeau – Yes. Motion carried.

PARKING LOT COATING

Drews presented bids for the coating of the Hall parking lot.

Nadeau moved, supported by Sprague to award the bid to B & E Coating Services. 05/08/23

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

Nadeau will contact Tyler Replogle to learn when painting of the Hall interior will be started and to coordinate color choices.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Drews reported on road needs, funds, and bids.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson, to rotomill and pave Youngman Road from Willard Road to Briggs Road at a cost of \$78, 863.00.

Roll Call: Sprague – Yes; Van Gessel – Yes; Robson – Yes; Nadeau – Yes; Drews – Yes. Motion carried.

A free presentation will be offered at MCC on Planning Commission topics. Nadeau will inform other Planning Commission members.

Brennan Bunker and crew did an excellent job with storm damage cleanup at Farnsworth Park.

Drews is looking into whether an air raid siren would benefit Pine Township residents.

Robson moved, supported by VanGessel, to approve the report. Motion carried.

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CLERK'S REPORT

Sprague reported having paid the quarterly Federal and Michigan withholding taxes today.

The election public test and Election Committee meeting to appoint election workers will be held on tuesday April 11, 2023 at 11:00 AM.

Sprague will email to the Board the blank budget sheets for the upcoming fiscal year,

Drews moved, supported by Robson to schedule the budget workshop for Monday, May 8, 2023 at 5:00 PM.

Sprague received an email from theLiquor Commission that the Langston Bar has changed ownership to J & C Entertainment LLC and and that the liquor license will transfer to the new owners.

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson to accept the report.

Motion carried.

MONTHLY BILLS

Robson moved, supported by Drews, to pay checks 3110-3149 for monthly bills in the amount of

Twenty thousand, eight hundred sixty and 09/100 (\$20,860.09). Check 3109 was used to correct an incorrect deposit into the tax account.

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (limited to 3 minutes per person)

Amy Thomas, Montcalm County 911 Director, reported on the reason for the May 2, 2023 911 election surcharge election.

Mike Rotter, Pine Township – questioned the purpose for electronic sign

Leslie Rydahl – Pine Township – Asked whether there will be be a joint meeting between the Board and PC on solar ordinance approval. She showed a picture broken solar panels caused by wind damage in Shiawassee county taken 3/24/23.

Shelly Grube – gratitude to Planning Commission for solar ordinance work, gave contamination examples

Barb Kaaikala, Pine Township, believes that money for digital sign would be better spent on other projects

ADJOURNMENT

Nadeau moved, supported by Robson to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 PM.

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Marla Sprague

Marla Sprague, Clerk