



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 23, 2019

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all present.

- **Roll Call by Clerk Green:** Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Robert Warmbein. Members absent: Michelle Tackitt
- **Berrien County Sheriff's Dept. Rep:** No representative present. Report for the period of 11/1/2018-11/30/2018 indicated 15 complaints worked in Weesaw Twp., 2 tickets issued, and 0 arrests.
- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:** Sommers requested to add 3 items to the Agenda: 1) Allow Dale Stover (Fire Dept. grant writer) to speak; 2) Approve 2019-20 Road Plan; 3) Damaged sign on Mill Rd. Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to accept the Agenda as amended. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments/Hearing of Persons Present on Agenda Items:** No input from residents.
- **Dale Stover (Writing Grant for Fire Dept.):** Mr. Stover indicated that he is a professional grant writer, and has written a grant for our Fire Dept. in the past for respiratory equipment, which was not awarded. Recently he has written another grant, and is awaiting a response from FEMA, which is presently shutdown. He expects a response in about two weeks if the government opens. Mr. Stover indicated that the funds were to be awarded by Sept. 30, 2019. Fire Chief Nitz will provide a copy of the second grant application written to Clerk Green to keep on file. She was provided a copy of the first grant by Mr. Stover, which was written but not received.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer Report:** Krauss arrived and provided a brief verbal report. Not much has been happening due to the inclement weather. He has 3 ongoing complaints.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** A verbal/written report was provided by Fire Chief Ted Nitz: Report: He is working on the budget for next fiscal year. He has received 5 parking signs to place in the Fire Dept. parking area. A female picked up an application for a position on the Weesaw Township Fire Dept. Fire Dept. Calls Report: 1 structure fire, 1 vehicle accident, 1 medical, 1 lift assist w/Medic 1. Meetings/Training: 2 hour truck checks - 2 oil changes on tankers, Responder Awareness Training.
- **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to accept the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, 12/19/18. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Correspondence:**
 - **Steinkraus Forest Mgmt./Marcellus, MI:** A proposal was received from this firm for the marking and marketing of trees for harvest on the Weesaw Township property located on Wee-Chik Rd. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to table this item until there is a chance to look into it further. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Approve Accounts Payable Monthly Expenditures Report:** After having reviewed the payables earlier in the day, motion by King, supported by Sommers, to approve the Accounts Payable expenditures as follows: General Fund \$10,483.35; Fire Dept. \$5,592.73; Ambulance \$2,211.27; Sewer Fund \$4,226.81; for a total of all expenditures of \$22,514.16. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Tackitt was not present; however, she provided the bank balances to the board members.
- **B/Z Administrator Report:** Report provided.
- **Planning Commission Minutes:** November minutes (not approved) provided.
- **Parks/Recreation:** A verbal report was provided by Committee chair Sommers. A proposed trail was walked by Parks Committee members and other interested parties. They discovered some of the characteristics of this property, as follows: 3 water areas to cross over (bridges or such required), viewed the proposed parking lot, a concrete foundation left from years ago (containing debris and other misc. articles – it is felt this area should be cleaned up.) The issue will be brought back to the Township Board after the Parks Committee's further discussion and recommendation.
- **Cemetery Committee:** Brief discussion of proposed new cemetery lay-out during parks/recreation issue.
- **Road Committee:** 1/8/2019 Meeting minutes; and joint Weesaw Township/Road Dept. meeting of 1/17/19 minutes provided. Sommers provided a verbal overview of the gravel placed on the Larson Rd. project where 22a gravel was put down. He also provided an update of Elm Valley Rd. It is proposed that a number of trees on Elm Valley Rd. be removed on the North bank of the Galien River east of Pardee Road. The project is the responsibility of the Drains Commission and Road Dept. There is a plan to prime and double seal-coat Elm Valley Rd. this year. A new matching funds program has been implemented by the B.C. Road Dept.; that is, if the Township puts in \$47,000 for improvements, the Road Dept. will match those funds. Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to accept the Elm Valley Road plan, to prime and double sealcoat the road in the amount of \$94,000. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried. This will be accomplished over a two-year period, with the Road Dept. fronting the cost of the second year, which will be repaid by the Township through the new matching funds program.
- **Website Committee:** No report. A meeting has been planned.
- **Drains Committee:** No report.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Notice of GRSD Meeting re. waste removal price increase:** This meeting to be held at Lake Township Hall on 1/28/19. Warmbein and Sommers will attend.
- **Adopt Board of Review ("BOR) Resolutions & Publish Notice 3x:** The resolutions were provided to be adopted for the BOR meetings in March: Motion by Sommers, supported by Green, to adopt the following BOR Resolutions: "**Resolution 2019-01** "Accepting Letters of Protest from Township Residents..." ; **Resolution 2019-02** "A Resolution to Provide for Alternate Starting Dates for 3/19 BOR"; and **Resolution 2019-03** "A Resolution Updating State Req'd Poverty Level Income Stds. per Property Tax Poverty Exemption Guidelines for Tax Yr. 2019"; and in addition to approve publishing the ad for March BOR, 3 times, in the Berrien County Record. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Green, Warmbein, King), motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Atty. Sara Senica Update:** A written report was provided to the Board members. It was requested that Clerk Green request that Atty. Senica provide an original document to the Board indicating that the "Mystery Land" now is the property of Weesaw Township.
- **Roof Venting for Township Hall/Fire Dept.:** Sommers spoke with Chris Brooks (architect) to modify the plan presented previously. He will come out and make an amendment to the plan. Mr. Brooks has indicated the cost for this modification would be up to \$500 to review the plan for making the requested changes.
- **"Draft" Recycling Agreement:** The board members will read the Agreement over and let Jill Adams know if the verbiage is satisfactory at the next board meeting.
- **Bids for New Copier:** Discussed accepting bids for a copier to replace the old one, which has been declared at its "end of life". Replacement parts are not readily available. Green will provide the specs for the copier, and Sommers will look into receiving bids to replace the old copier from other vendors.
- **LCSA (Local Community Stabilization Authority) formerly known as METRO Right-of-Way Act:** The Township has been requested to set up an ACH payment account at our bank in order to receive future payments. Green has signed up and future payments will be paid directly to the bank.
- **Reappoint Various Members to Township Zoning Boards:** Motion by Sommers, supported by King, to reappoint the following members to the Planning Commission (3 yr. terms): Calvin Gnodtke beginning 12/2018 (exp. 12/2021), Roger Kugler beginning 12/2018 (exp. 12/2021); ZBA (3 year term); ZBA:

Mike Metz beginning 4/2018 (exp. 4/2021). Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried. Green will update list of members.

- **Public Comments:** Motion by King, supported by Sommers, to purchase 4 “Welcome to New Troy” signs from Dornbos for a purchase price of \$167.30 (48” wide x 40” tall) or a total cost of up to \$750 (this amount includes an extra sign in the event another one gets destroyed as has happened in the past). Posts are also included. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Warmbein, King, Green), motion carried.

Adjournment: Motion by Green, supported by King, to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk