



**Weesaw Township
New Troy, MI 49119**



**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

The Regular Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Sommers at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all those who were present.

Roll Call by Clerk Green: All Members Present: Wanda Green, Art King, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt, Robert Warmbein

Berrien County Sheriff's Dept.: No deputies were present this month. The monthly report was not received for the past month's activity.

- **Set/Amend Agenda Items:**
Motion by Warmbein, supported by Green, to approve adding Commissioner Mac Elliott to the Agenda after Public Comments. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **Public Comments:** (Sommers reiterated the rules of the meeting as designated each Regular Board Meeting of the recent past – do not interrupt, 3 minutes only, raise hand to speak.) No public comments at that time.
- **Commissioner Mac Elliott:** Mr. Elliott is the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, and queried whether the board was receiving the weekly newsletter, which we are not receiving. He indicated that he is running for another term of office and would appreciate votes. He spoke about Broadband internet, and feels that it should be installed by next summer. He provided his background as an attorney and with the county as Commissioner and County Lawyer. He answered questions by board members and audience members regarding roads, and left the meeting at 7:42.
- **Robert Krauss, Code Enforcement Officer Report:** Krauss was present and provided a written report he had generated, to wit: Zoning Applications approved - 3; zoning applications pending - 3; and Code Enforcement update – he had recently met with the township's new attorney, who was very pleased with Krauss' documentation of the problems areas; Pending enforcement – 4 (dogs, 2 trash, damage to roof); discussion items = 5 items indicated.
- **Approve Monthly Expenditures:** Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to approve the accounts payables in the following amounts: General Fund \$25,706.30; Fire Dept. \$6,977.97; Ambulance \$0 (now paid quarterly); Sewer \$15,536.10; for a grand total of \$48,220.37. Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, Tackitt, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **Fire Dept. Report:** Fire Chief Nitz reported 4 calls last month – illegal grass fire, utility call, 2 mutual aid – a search & rescue.
 1. Motion by Tackitt, supported by Warmbein, to authorize hose and ladder testing for up to \$4,500. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Tackitt, King, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.
 2. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to approve front brake replacement for Truck 2262 in the amount of \$616.21. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers), motion carried. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to approve up to \$12,000 for pump rebuild repair. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green), motion carried.

3. Chief Nitz indicated that there was \$22,000 grant money still available. The FDC Fire Dept show is upcoming and there is a need for helmets, gear, and since the pricing is more economical at the FDC, he would like to have up to \$10,000 approved to spend at the trade show for personal protection equipment. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Tackitt, to approve up to \$10,000 at the trade show for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Roll call vote, all ayes (Warmbein, King, Sommers, Green, Tackitt), motion carried.
 4. Firefighter Scott Strefling/Galien Fire Dept. had indicated that their tanker was broken down, Chief Nitz indicated that is now repaired, but now they are experience problems with another of their trucks. Chief indicated that it may be necessary to provide help for them until their truck is repaired. He also provided information about the 4-hour animal clinic the fire department is sponsoring on Sunday, April 21. In addition, he indicated that all firefighters have CPR training.
- **Broadband Internet Update:** James Pelletier was in attendance and reported that he had no new information regarding Broadband. Sommers informed that we have been advised that there for 26 township parcels that are unfunded – 18 in Orchards on the Lake and 8 on Gardner Rd. MEC representative has advised that \$100/each parcel fee will cover the cost of adding these parcels. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to pay up to \$2600 for the twenty-six parcels that are not included with the balance of the properties, and are not funded at this point. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Tackitt, Green, Warmbein), motion carried. There were other questions about Broadband, and Mr. Pelletier indicated that he will put information together for the next meeting.
 - **At 8:40 p.m.,** motion by Sommers, supported by King to extend the meeting to 9:30 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
 - **Approve Previous Minutes:** Motion by Sommers, supported by Warmbein, to approve the Regular Board Minutes of Wednesday, March 20, 2024, and Special Board Meeting Minutes of 03/25/2024, 4/02/2024, and Special Board/Parks Committee Meeting of 4/09/2024. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
 - **Other Township Reports:**
 1. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Tackitt read her written report. Tackitt is attempting to cancel the credit/debit card machine with 5th/3rd Bank, as it is costing the township \$105/month, with very little or no use per month. She has written a letter to the bank, which Sommers needs to sign, indicating that the person who signed the contract did not have authority to sign contracts on behalf of the township. Motion by Warmbein, supported by King, to have Green edit the letter and forward it to the bank. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, Warmbein, Green, King), motion carried. It was specified that only Sommers (the Supervisor) is permitted to sign contracts on behalf of the township, without a special dispensation from the board members, should the Supervisor not be available. It was suggested that Sommers look into this breach of protocol.
 2. **Parks Committee Update:** Sommers indicated that there had been a recommendation to let a section of the park go to grass, no mowing, to approximately 1 foot tall. There were pro and con comments to this suggestion. Sommers tabled the matter.
 3. **Planning Commission:** Planning Commission Chair Mike Metz advised that there was a Master Plan Public Hearing on the upcoming Monday.
 4. **Cemetery Committee:** Sommers said that there is tidying-up of the cemetery S.E. corner, south drive and leaves to be picked up. He will ask KC Tree to trim up the brush from the fence. Sommers will get prices for doing this work.
 5. **Roads Report:** Nothing to add to Commissioner Mac Elliott's road comments earlier.
 6. **Website Committee:** They are bringing the minutes up to date which were recently provided to them by Clerk Green. Also, a Parks Page is available now.

7. **Drains Committee:** Drain Commissioner Christopher Quattrin will be at the township hall for a drains meeting on April 24, 2024, 10:00 a.m. He will be providing information re. another drain that needs work, and the township will bring up the New Troy Drains' issues that have been ongoing, along with other drain issues we are facing.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Road Millage Resolution 2024-09; and Language** – 1 mill, 2 years. The Road Millage Renewal, Resolution 2024-09 and language, was presented to the board and voted for adoption as follows: Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, to bring this 2-year renewal up for vote on the Tuesday, August 6, 2024, Primary Election ballot. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, King, Sommers, Warmbein, Green), motion carried.
2. **Ambulance Millage Resolution 2024-10; and Language** – .35 mill, 4 years. The Ambulance Millage Renewal, Resolution 2024-10 and language, was presented to the board and voted as follows: Motion by Green, supported by Tackitt, to adopt Resolution 2024-10 for a renewal of the .35 mill ambulance millage for 4 years, starting with the 2025 tax collection and ending in 2028. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Green Tackitt, King, Warmbein), motion carried.
3. **Notary Public:** Clerk-Assistant Erika Burcham requested that she be permitted to look into becoming a notary public, in order to provide this service to township residents in the future. Motion by Warmbein, supported by Sommers, that Clerk-Assistant Burcham look into becoming a Notary Public as a service to the township, roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, King, Warmbein, Tackitt, Green), motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Attorney Sara Senica provided legal information, which was given to the board members, regarding the Lori Wallace sewer issue. Ms. Wallace was not present. No action taken.

- **Public Comments:** Public comments were voiced by audience members.

Adjournment: Motion by King, supported by Warmbein, to adjourn at 9:27 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green
Clerk