

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

August 3, 2021

Meeting called to order **Nielsen** @ 7:00 p.m., Four(4) Board members present, **Wolf**(Deputy Treasurer)sitting in for Sheldon(Treasurer). **Sheldon**(Treasurer) joined meeting via zoom @ 7:20 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of July 6, 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve July 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approval of July 2021 Treasurer's report: **Motion to approve July 2021 Treasurer's Report made by Nielsen, second by Murray . Motion carried.**

Approval to pay July 2021 bills: **Motion to approve July 2021 (Township bills \$2,779.18) made by Murray, second by Stanley (Fire Dept. bills \$3,759.91) made Stanley, second by Murray & (Township payroll \$4,024.50) made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Guest: MTA zoom presentation: Neil Sheridan & Catherine Mulhaupt

Sheridan(MTA) requested to speak with Board in regards to the ARPA funding and the decision the Board made to decline the funds. Discussion held that the timeline is being extended and MTA has asked the State to allow townships to change their filing in order to get the funding. MTA explained more about the fact that the township should take the money and invest it and try to show that they have no received a 4.1% revenue increase in the next year or two and then the options for use of the funding are wide open. The Township would have until 2024 to spend the money. Should the money have to be sent back then the Township keeps the interest. There is a possibility that the parameters will change over the next few years. Both subjects strongly encouraged the Board to reconsideration their position and concluded the zoom connection.

Discussion held on how to proceed as additional information was given during the presentation that was not available at the time the funding was declined. **Andrew Beeler**(State Representative) was in attendance for the meeting and was asked his opinion. He stated "Take the money". **Motion to reconsider the previous ARPA decision and to have the Speaker Township Clerk pursue the steps necessary to procure the ARPA funds with the help of Michigan Townships Association made by Nielsen, second by Stanley. Motion carried.** **Nielsen**(Supervisor) to email **Neil Sheridan**(MTA) to advise of the decision and to get further instructions.

State Representative Andrew Beeler:

Rep. Beeler advised the house is in recess until the middle of August so he is attending local meetings to give an overview on what is happening at the state level.

Budget is 80% complete (All budgets funded to prevent a state government shut down).

Revenue sharing will see a 2% increase.

School aid amounts to \$17 billion dollars.

Roads & Other infrastructure will receive \$7 billion dollars.

Rural Broad Band will receive \$150 million dollars.

Election Reform: 75 bills circulating

Unlock Michigan Petition: repels 1945 Power Act

Beeler: Introduced a Veteran employment bill to allow veterans in Michigan to carry over training for a Teacher's certificate.

Currently working on a City Income Tax filing change.

Nielsen(Supervisor) inquired about the illegal Marihuana grow operations and what the State is doing to enforce the law. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) advised he contacted multiple states of the government and no one was able to help him. **Rep. Beeler** stated that the State's position is that the townships are to do what they want. There is no talk about the State getting involved. He does have it noted to take back to Lansing to from other meetings he has attended as well.

Steinhoff(Planning Chairman) inquired as to why Marihuana is illegal at the Federal level and federal enforcement is not taking place. He thought the Federal laws and State laws should mirror each other. **Rep. Beeler** stated the Federal law could be enforced on federal land but the State should have the power to pass their laws separate from the Federal government.

McCullough(Public) asked **Rep. Beeler** to look into the poor re-surfacing project that was done on M-90 between M-19 and M-53. The project was completed last summer and it is full of cracks already. It will be a huge pot hole problem very soon.

Public Comment: (Present Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Brenda Murray, Ben Steinhoff, Mike McCullough, Dean Hughes, Lisa Hughes, Suzanne Schaffer, Mary Schultz, Representative Andrew Beeler & Jan Priess)

Mary Schultz stated she was at the meeting to learn more about the restrictions on amperage for residents. She heard that all residents were going to be restricted to 200 amps and her husband has a welding shop and requires more. She also was upset to think that the township was going to come on her property and inspect it. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) explained that after the ordinance was adopted at tonight's meeting residents would be to get a permit to apply for an increased amperage with citing the reason. If it is for Marihuana grows then the Township has the right to inspect, etc. This ordinance is not to hinder farmers or other businesses with proper permits from doing business. It was explained that Detroit Edison requires a county permit before it will install service. **Bonnie Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) stated that she believes this ordinance will really help keep the marihuana grows from coming into the township. Also, **Mike Richman**(Sanilac County Electrical Inspector) is requesting a copy of the ordinance.

Fire Report: Stone(Fire Chief) Absent due to work conflict(SEE ATTACHED REPORT)

There were a total of 6 calls in July.

The department conducted our annual hose testing and it went very well. We only had two sections of hose fail . One section of 1 1/2" x 50' and one section of 2 1/2" x 50' both of which we had new in stock in our inventory so no additional replacement cost incurred.

There have been no new Fema grants awarded since 6/11/21 and the site was last updated on 7/19/21. I am checking daily .

There should be bills slowing coming in for the various turnout gear that was ordered if you have not already received it.

We are currently installing the used light tower that was purchased with fundraiser money on the rescue. There is a small bill for steel material from Yale steel which is provided .

Also in with FD paperwork is a w9 form from Praxair. This company has acquired South Park Welding and will be who is servicing our SCBA bottles for inspection and hydrostatic certifications . The W9 gives us tax exempt status .

After conversation with Bonnie we have come to the mutual decision to postpone the garage sale. This is being done in response to the negative trend of the Covid virus Delta variant that is becoming predominant and headed our way . I don't feel we can ensure public safety and feel it would be irresponsible to hold an event on Twp property. If and when virus trends improve we will reschedule.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please reach out .

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) advised **Ken Dambacher**(Planning Commission) talked with **Attorney Brian Garner** about the golf course wishing to pursue the campground. It was recommended to have the property changed from multi-family to AG business. Planning Commission will have to find another area for the multi-family district. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) asked **Dean/Lisa Hughes** (Willow Tree Golf Course) if they had any questions or comments. Lisa Hughes(Willow Tree Golf Course) stated she didn't feel like their proposal is forward. They keep hearing the same thing about zoning and checking with the attorney. **Nielsen** (Supervisor) asked **Steinhoff**(Planning Chair) to advise of the next steps for the campground request. **Steinhoff**(Planning Chair) stated they would have to fill out an application for rezoning of the property and come to the Planning Commission. This would require another public hearing and notification of all the neighbors within a certain distance of the proposed campground. **Dean Hughes**(Willow Tree Golf Course) interjected once again that his attorney told him he was directed incorrectly to the Zoning Board of Appeals and he did not need a Variance but a Special Land Use permit. **Bonnie Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) stated she does not have a Re-Zoning Application. Nielsen(Supervisor) once could be obtained from the township attorney and then given to the **Hughes** as soon as possible.

Zoning Report: **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) (SEE ATTACHED REPORT)

Sproul(Zoning Administrator) advised potential for a few property splits in the future.

Old Business:

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Wind Energy Overlay District 2021-01:

Nielsen(Supervisor) read the Township of Speaker Zoning Ordinance Amendment Windy Energy Overlay District. **Motion to approve the Speaker Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment Wind Energy Overlay District 2021-01 made by Nielsen, second by Stanley. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Stanley, Nielsen, Cubitt. Abstain: Murray. Motion carried.**

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Caregiver Cultivation and High Amperage 2021-02:

Nielsen(Supervisor) read the Township of Speaker Zoning Ordinance Amendment Caregiver Cultivation and High Amperage. Discussion with Public continued that this ordinance is the only way the Township can try to regulate the Marihuana grow operations that are operating illegally in the township. **Motion to approve the Speaker Township Zoning Ordinance Amendment Caregiver Cultivation and High Amperage 2021-02 made by Murray, second by Nielsen. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Stanley, Nielsen, Murray, Cubitt. Motion carried.**

New Business:

Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner, P. C. Invoice (\$3,237.00):

Cubitt(Clerk) presented an invoice from the attorney for the work on the ordinance amendments from April 2021 thru July 2021 for payment in the amount of \$3,237.00. **Motion made by Murray, second by Stanley to approve and pay the Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner, P.C. Invoice in the amount of \$3,237.00. Motion carried.**

Website Doman Registration:

Cubitt(Clerk) advised that Sheldon(Treasurer) has been actively working with the Schumaker group in adding information to the township website. The next step is to send a letter to request a .gov domain name, which will be of no cost. Cubitt(Clerk) presented the letter for Nielsen(Supervisor) signature. Next month the board will be shown the website page for review.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 9:05 p.m. made by Nielsen, second by Murray. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk