

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

July 6, 2021

Meeting called to order **Nielsen** @ 7:00 p.m., Five(5) Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of June 1, 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve June 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

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

Approval to pay June 2021 bills: **Motion to approve June 2021 (Township bills \$3,678.01) made by Murray, second by Nielsen, (Fire Dept. bills \$3,643.87) made Stanley, second by Murray & (Township payroll \$4,643.87) made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Guest: N/A

Public Comment: (Present Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Gary Wolf, Brenda Murray, Ben Steinhoff, Burke Thomas & Jan Priess)

Gary Wolf advised the Board of issues that he has had on his property related to a neighbor. The situation started when he called Animal Control in reference to the neighbor's dog running loose and chasing deer. The neighbor is trespassing at night on his property. He has damaged a vehicle and outbuildings. There are security cameras around the property but the man is smart and wears dark clothing and a mask. The Sheriff's Office has been out at least 5 times to his residence and said there is nothing they can do unless a clear photo of his face is captured. At this point, it is his word against the neighbor's word. **Gary Wolf** stated the subject is very good at picking locks and has the ability to get into key locks.

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

Murray(Trustee) stated the decision was made to attempt to start the MFR program.

The spotlight was picked up out of state and 4 or 5 personnel were measured for uniforms.

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) advised meeting held on June 24, 2021 and the Master Plan was reviewed as it needs to be reviewed/updated every 5 years. The consensus of the board was to leave it alone at this time.

Mrs. Hughes(Willow Tree Golf Course) attended the meeting to say they are still going ahead with their plans to open the campground. The adopted rules and will make sure they are followed. Questioned on how to proceed. **Steinhoff** (Planning Commission) stated per the attorney the land should be re-zoned AG business and have another hearing.

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) stated Bernie Davies was willing to come off the Planning Commission to stay on the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Debbie Kesteloot** could then be placed on the Planning Commission to assist with the secretary duties. **Murray**(Trustee) to contact **Debbie Kesteloot** to see if she was still interested in the position. **Jerry Rumenapp** would also like to be taken off the Planning Commission. There will be a need to appoint someone in his place.

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

Sproul(Zoning Administrator) advised things are picking up.

Nielsen(Supervisor) inquired about the Copeland pond. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) advised distance was measured and within range. Mr. Copeland is following all the rules.

Sproul(Zoning Administrator) advised Treasurer that some land use permits will be coming in at the old rate due to the fact they were in the works prior to the fee increase.

Old Business:

Wind & Marihuana Ordinance:

Sanilac County Planning Commission approved the changes. Nielsen(Supervisor) tabled items until next meeting as there are some steps to be taken prior to the Speaker Township Board approving the ordinances.

Murray(Trustee) advised he was contacted by Liberty Power two to three weeks ago in reference to a July 15, 2021 meeting to be held at the Melvin Fire Hall for the public to ask questions, etc. This would be a similar meeting like the one held at Fremont Township in June. Discussion held on the fact the meeting should be held at the Speaker Township Firehall. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) concerned that advertising for this event is not adequate. Burke Thomas(Atwell/Liberty Power) advised he would take those concerns back to Liberty Power. Discussion on sending info to all listed on the tax roll.

New Business:

Foreclosure Property:

Cubitt(Clerk) explained that correspondence was received by Sanilac County Treasurer in reference to 159 E Mortimer Line Rd, which is on the tax foreclosure list. The Township has an option to purchase the property prior to it going to a public auction. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) advised the Township has no interest in the property.

Deputy Clerk Vacancy:

Cubitt(Clerk) advised that Deputy Clerk Amanda Pado submitted her resignation. She took a full time position and will not be available to assist the Township. Cubitt(Clerk) advised she will be looking for a replacement before the next election year.

MTA Principles of Governance:

Cubitt(Clerk) received correspondence from Michigan Township Association with the request to review and adopt the Principles of Governance document. **Nielsen(Supervisor)** read the document and all Board members signed to adopt the same.

Miscellaneous:

Sheldon(Treasurer) updated the Township Board with the information that the credit card system was implemented and seems to be working well so far. Also, the postage machine has been delivered and is in use currently for the 2021 Summer Taxes.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:22 p.m. made by Murray, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk