

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2021

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of May 4, 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve May 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

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

Approval to pay May 2021 bills: **Motion to approve May 2021 (Township bills \$3,380.26) made by Murray, second by Nielsen, Fire Dept. bills \$367.32 made Stanley, second by Sheldon & Township payroll \$3,997.55) made by Nielsen, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Guest:

Public Comment: (Present Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Trevor Stone, Joel Wyatt, Gary Wolf, Brenda Murray & Jan Priess)

Jan Priess asked the Board to consider putting **Mr. Wayne Decker** on the Planning Commission in the spot that is vacant. Discussion held that Mr. Decker was on the Planning Commission in the past and does not wish to participate again. Murray(Trustee) advised that it is not a sure thing that there is a vacancy but he has talked with **Debbie Kesteloot** about taking that position. **Priess** stated the person appointed needs to know things and have some experience. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) stated that people learn by being involved and on committees.

Commissioner Report: **Commissioner Wyatt** gave update on the Broadband Committee and the decision to disband the committee for the time being due to the FCC initiative with various companies(TEC, Mercury, AEG, Air Advantage & Agri-Valley) to provide broadband internet to the Thumb area within the next few years. The funding is already there and the COVID relief funds will not be used toward this project as initially planned.

County still waiting to get guidelines on how to spend the COVID Relief Funds and has received \$3 million dollars so far.

Judge Ross reorganizing the court personnel for efficiency, and requesting raises without having the funding in the court budget. County Board advised he would have to follow county policy.

Fire Report: Stone(Fire Chief)

There were a total of three call in May consisting of.

1. Grass fire
2. Tanker assist to Lapeer County at Jim's Recycling
3. Medical assist .

At last months fire meeting we had Lea Lentz out to discuss MFR and the possibility of STFD establishing a rescue. I believe there is plenty of interest in moving forward . Classes would be held here and there would be very minimal cost involved as the county and Med control have funds available to assist . The firemen are going to vote on it at June's business meeting.

We just had our extrication equipment serviced and inspected by west shore fire . This is supposed to be done annually but the company that has done it in the past no longer services our make of equipment. West Shore just newly picked up service of Holmatro tools which is what Speaker Twp Fire and Elk Twp Fire use. So we were able to keep some mileage cost down by coordinating service date with Elk Township. All of our tools got a clean bill of health . The tech did state that our hydraulic hoses are showing some age but still have plenty of service life.

We have identified a need to purchase two hydrant adapters as we ran into an issue in BC with not having the right size . As of now I do not have a price . I have requested a quote but have not received it yet .

We have located a very good priced light tower for the rescue and are working on the details to purchase it out of our fund raising money . Stands 60", 70lbs. for \$1,100.00. **Fireman Jeff Withey** has volunteered to drive to Pennsylvania to pick up the item.

We are still in desperate need of purchasing some turn out gear . I would like to know when I can order some? **Sheldon**(Treasurer) brought up the dormant fire mileage fund that has \$31,405.46. Discussion held on utilizing these funds for the turn out gear. **Stone**(Fire Chief) stated the cost is approximately \$3,700.00 a set and he was thinking of 10 sets, but will do an inventory to see what is salvageable and what needs to be replaced. Could possibly make due with 5 sets of turn out gear for the time being.

And last but not least as some of you are aware Doug Kennedy has reapplied to the FD. He has fulfilled all his legal obligations and by all accounts appears to be on a good track. I would like to give him another opportunity mostly selfishly because I desperately need young healthy firefighters. I do however understand and share some skepticism. I would like a vote tonight to put him back on as a probationary ff. He would starting over at zero with all the same requirements as any other new hire..

Discussion held on the Doug Kennedy request to be put back on the Speaker Twp. Fire Department.
Motion made by Nielsen, second by Murray to allow Doug Kennedy back on the Speaker Township Fire Department with very strict guidelines to be followed. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Sheldon, Nielsen, Cubitt, Murray. NAYS: Stanley. Motion carried.

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) Absent. **Murray**(Trustee) at June 24, 2021 meeting will be discussing the Master Plan. Marihuana and Wind Ordinance at the County Planning Commission for review and then will come back to the Township for approval. No movement on the possible vacancy on the Planning Commission.

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

Sproul(Zoning Administrator) advised it was a very quiet month.

Old Business:

Gravel Patching:

Nielsen(Supervisor) present two (2) bids for consideration on the gravel patching:

Mid Michigan Pit: 1853 tons of gravel @ \$10.79/ton. Estimated Cost= \$20,000.00

Bechtel Pit: 1809 tons of gravel @ \$11.05/ton. Estimated Cost= \$20,000.00

Motion to approve the Township Agreement for Improvements on Local Roads with the services from Mid Michigan Pit made by Nielsen, second by Murray. Motion carried.

Renewal IT Right Contract Services:

Cubitt(Clerk) presented the updated bill for the annual IT services contract with **IT Right**, which includes all township computers along with the Speaker Township Fire Department computer at a cost of \$2, 880.00. **Motion to approve the annual renewal of the IT Right computer services contract made by Murray, second by Nielsen. Motion carried.**

Online Credit Card Payments:

Sheldon(Treasurer) explained and reviewed the 3 contracts necessary to implement **ALL PAID** debit/credit card payment service to township residents. There will be no additional fees, etc. should the township decided to discontinue use of the system. Just need to give the company a month's notice. **Motion to approve contract services with ALL PAID for implementing an online payment format of debit/credit cards to enhance customer service made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Township Parking Lot Resurfacing:

Nielsen(Supervisor) presented two bids for the pavement of the township parking lot(SEE ATTACHED):

Bennett Asphalt Paving, Inc. (Columbiaville, MI.) \$2,225.00

Blackstone Pavement Maintenance, LLC (Melvin, MI.) \$2, 950.00

Bids reviewed and it was discovered that Bennett Asphalt did not include to prepare and fill 1,900' of cracks. Discussion held on the merit of keeping the business local.

Motion to award the bid for the Township Parking Lot Resurfacing to Blackstone Pavement Maintenance, LLC. made by Murray, second by Nielsen. Stanley: ABSTAIN. Motion carried.

Thumb Electric & Fiber Francise Ordinance Speaker Township Resolution 2021-8:

Nielsen(Supervisor) advised that Thumb Electric sent an ordinance for Fiber connection to be approved by the Speaker Township Board. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) contacted the company and was advised that Thumb Electric Cooperative is one of 3 companies bringing broad band internet to the township. In Phase I they will start with their customers in Tuscola County and as the revenue comes in they will branch out to Huron County and then Sanilac County. Cost will be approximately \$90.00 per month. A physical run will be needed to the residence if above ground or a fiber connection underground.

Motion to approve adoption of the Thumb Electric Cooperative Electric & Fiber Franchise Ordinance under Speaker Township Resolution 2021-8 made by Stanley, second by Nielsen. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Sheldon, Stanley, Nielsen, Cubitt. ABSTAIN: Murray. Motion Carried

Township Signage:

Nielsen(Supervisor) asked about the options available with the township signage. Several prices and sign examples in regards to LED signs. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator cautioned the Board on making a decision to install a flashing LED sign as it is in violation of the Speaker Township Sign Ordinance.

Murray(Trustee) requested **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) to bring the matter to the Planning Commission at the June 24, 2021 meeting. Item tabled to a later date.

Website Design Update:

Nielsen(Supervisor) stated he emailed the website company and has not heard back from them.

Sheldon(Treasurer) and **Cubitt**(Clerk) advised info has been sent to update the site. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) will contact again to try to move forward with training and to get the company paid.

New Business:

Cemetery Ornaments:

Cubitt(Clerk) explained that a resident with a loved one buried in the Speaker Township Cemetery asked about putting a bench near the headstone. **Cubitt**(Clerk) asked **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) about the cemetery ordinance as she could not locate one in the book. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) said she didn't believe there was an ordinance. **Cubitt**(Clerk) stated she had an example of a cemetery ordinance from Kaatz Funeral Home and would provide for review. **Cubitt**(Clerk) advised she had spoken to **Ross McIvor** and he did not have a problem with the bench being there when he mowed the cemetery.

Postage Machine:

Sheldon(Treasurer) presented documentation on purchasing a postage machine for the township office. The cost would be \$30.00 a month with an 8% percent discount, which would allocate to 3 months of savings. This machine would seal and stamp the mail. There is a requirement of a minimum 1-year contract. **Murray**(Trustee) concerned that the Melvin Post would not get credit for the mailings as the post office has been in jeopardy of closing in the past for low volume. **Sheldon**(Treasurer) stated she didn't think this would hurt the post office as the Melvin zip code would be programmed in the machine and would still be taken there for distribution. **Motion to approve the purchase of a postage meter from Quadient in the amount of \$29.99 per month made by Nielsen, second by Cubitt. Motion carried.**

Hall Rentals:

Brenda Murray(Hall Rentals) stated that she has an event that was booked last year for June 19, 2021 and she didn't think it was a very large crowd. She wanted to know if this event could proceed. Discussion held that the current rules as of June 1, 2021 say that non-residential in door gatherings can be at 50% capacity. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) stated that a sign would need to be put up to reflect the occupancy of 41 people for the event. Starting July 1, 2021 the hall can resume full capacity per the COVID rules. **Motion to approve the Speaker Township Hall rentals to resume to 50% capacity starting June 1, 2021 and to resume to full 100% capacity starting July 1, 2021 made by Nielsen, Stanley. Motion carried.**

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:35 p.m. made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk