

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2021

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

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

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

Approval to pay April 2021 bills: **Motion to approve April 2021 (Township bills \$3,179.33) made by Murray, second by Nielsen, Fire Dept. bills \$2,500.79 made Murray, second by Stanley & Township payroll \$3,953.55) made by Sheldon, second by Nielsen. Motion carried.**

Guest: Dean Hughes & Lisa Hughes (Willow Tree Golf Course)

Hughes (Willow Tree Golf Course) presented information to the Board in order to find a better way in which to get his campground project approved. He stated he was denied by the Zoning Board of Appeals under the idea that a campground would cause noise pollution and there were several neighbors at the meeting that raised opposition. **Hughes**(Willow Tree Golf Course) sought legal counsel and was advised that the issue should have gone to the Planning Commission first because he was looking to get a special land use permit and not a variance. He, also, stated that he should not have had to pay the \$400.00 for the ZBA meeting. **Hughes**(Willow Tree Golf Course) provided a copy of information of his property taxes, which shows that he is not zoned residential but rather as commercial property. He went on to say that he did not have the proper information to present during the ZBA meeting such as the rules for the campground, etc. (Copies presented to the Board). He, also, stated that he runs equipment to maintain his golf course and the noise hasn't been an issue.

Discussion held and Nielsen(Supervisor) stated he would get with the Tax Assessor on the commercial/residential property issue and contact would be made with **Mr. Hughes** on the next steps in the process.

Public Comment: (Present Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Jan Priess, Dean Hughes, Lisa Hughes, Trevor Stone & Ben Steinhoff)

Commissioner Report: N/A

Fire Report: Stone(Fire Chief) (SEE ATTACHED REPORT)

There were 13 calls in April .

8 medical

4 fire

We are almost done setting up and implementing the new fire reporting software. I have included the original invoice for that as well .

Probationary fire fighter Bronze Wadsworth has successfully completed and passed the fire academy and is now FF1 and FF2 certified.

The fire department will be having an informational meeting with Sanilac Medical Services Director Leah Lentz later this month to explore MFR requirements. This is just informational at this point.

Radios and inconsistent paging continue to be an issue in our area . There is no clear cut solution that I'm aware of yet . Discussion held on the EDispatch system not related to Central Dispatch is back up and running and information is being received by the Fire Department. Radio issues being checked by county system technician and a repeater at the fire hall a possible fix.

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) Two hearings were held. One on the Medical Marijuana ordinance on April 15, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. changes which were approved and sent onto the County for review. The Wind Ordinance public hearing was held on April 22, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m. and no decision was made at the meeting. It was decided a special meeting would be held on 05/11/21 @ 7:00 p.m. to approve the Wind Ordinance changes.

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) gave additional info on the campground/golf course issue. He stated that the township attorney gave 2 options on how to proceed with the request. There was the variance approval via the ZBA and a zoning change. Discussion ensued between Steinhoff(Planning Commission) and Lisa Hughes(Willow Tree Golf Course) in reference to the zoning ordinance not providing campgrounds in commercial/residential areas within the township. The only area where campgrounds are mentioned in those areas are zoned AG business. The township attorney will be consulted and Nielsen(Supervisor) will do research on how to proceed.

Murray(Trustee) added that discussion will be held on the Master Plan at the special meeting. There is also one member of the commission that would like to resign and Murray(Trustee) spoke with Debra Kesteloot and she would be interested in being appointed to the Planning Commission. Discussion held on making contact with the current member and steps would be taken from there.

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

Sproul(Zoning Administrator) advised it was a quiet month. There was a notice of violation issued to the residence on Duquette Rd by the Sanilac County building department for not having the proper electrical installed. On Trainor Rd the paperwork as sent to construct 2-pole barns but the paperwork has not been returned nor has there been any phone contact.

Old Business:

Township Signage:

Nielsen(Supervisor) did not have time to review the information forwarded from **Cubitt**(Clerk) item tabled until June meeting.

Gravel Patching:

Tabled from April's meeting because the limestone fees and the contract were not provided by the Road Commission. **Stanley**(Trustee) made contact at the Road Commission and the clerical staff was not very cooperative and would not provide the necessary information. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) advised he would contact Rob Falls(Road Commission Supervisor) to get the needed information for the June meeting.

New Business:

2021 Agreement for Data Base Management/Printing Services:

Nielsen(Supervisor) presented the annual agreement with Sanilac County's Equalization Department for data base management and printing services. **Sheldon**(Treasurer) stated she would like to continue the relationship with the Equalization Department and utilizes their services. **Motion to approve the 2021 Agreement for Data Base Management/Printing Services with Sanilac County Equalization Department made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried**

Taylor, Butterfield,Howell,Churchill & Garner PC legal services invoice:

Nielsen(Supervisor) presented an invoice in the amount of \$1,987.50 for legal services provided since the first of the year involving zoning, marihuana and wind ordinance issues. **Motion to pay the invoice to Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner PC in the amount of \$1,987.50 made by Nielsen, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

Renewal IT Right Contract Services:

Cubitt(Clerk) presented the bill for the annual IT services contract with **IT Right**, which includes a \$305.00 increase. **Cubitt**(Clerk) stated she needs to contact the company to include the fire department computers, etc. in the maintenance contact. There was an issue earlier in the month and IT Right came out with a new computer and charged travel time and labor without letting the township know this equipment was not covered under the existing agreement. The invoice will be updated and brought back to the June meeting.

Online Credit Card Payments:

Sheldon(Treasurer) presented the option of offering online tax payments to Speaker Township residents. She has information from **ALLPAID** which is of no cost to the township but would require a 2.65% usage fee to the resident. There is no fee for cancelling the service. Discussion held on usage and if there are other fees that could be captured via the system. **Sheldon**(Treasurer) to research and bring more information to the June meeting.

Township Parking Lot Resurfacing:

Cubitt(Clerk) advised a quote from Blackstone for resurfacing the township parking lot was placed on the desk. Discussion held on the need for the resurfacing and that Blackstone had received the previous bid. Murray(Trustee) made a motion to award the bid to Blackstone but it failed due to discussion that

other bids should be procured before awarding the bid. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) will seek additional bids for the June meeting.

Thumb Electric & Fiber Francise Ordinance:

Nielsen(Supervisor) advised that Thumb Electric sent an ordinance for Fiber connection to be approved by the Speaker Township Board. They are investing \$75 million dollars in bringing fiber to their region. There is no clear direction as to whether this is just for Thumb Electric customers or for the whole area. **Nielsen**(Supervisor) advised the township will not move forward on this issue until further information is gathered.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:05 p.m. made by Nielsen, second by Murray. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk