

## Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

September 7, 2021

Meeting called to order **Murray** @ 7:00 p.m., Four(4) Board members present

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of August 3, 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve August 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approval of August 24, 2021 Special meeting minutes: **Motion to approve August 24, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes made by Stanley, second Sheldon. Motion carried.**

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

Approval to pay August 2021 bills: **Motion to approve August 2021 (Township bills \$1,904.06) made by Stanley, second by Sheldon (Fire Dept. bills \$857.54) made Murray, second by Stanley & (Township payroll \$3,602.88) made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

**Guest: Dean Hughes & Eric Alexander (Willow Tree Golf Course)**

**Dean Hughes** presented the township board with a list of signatures of his customers that are in favor of him putting a campground in on the golf course property. He advised he needs to get the process to get this campground up and going as he has waited long enough and has been told the wrong steps by the township. **Murray**(Acting Supervisor) stated that the township attorney as consulted along with MTA and both advised the township followed the correct steps. The next step is to have him come to the Planning Commission to request the zoning change for his property. **Dean Hughes** introduced his son-in-law, **Eric Alexander** who would be eventually taking over the business. **Eric Alexander** gave some background on himself and how he wants to do things correctly and wants to be a positive influence in the township. Discussion held on the next steps and that a Planning Commission meeting would be held as soon as possible to address the campground issue and then there would need to be another public hearing. **Dean Hughes** was very adamant that only one voice per household should be heard and felt that he was treated inappropriately at the last hearing and his feelings were hurt. **Murray**(Acting Supervisor) stated that it still might not go in favor of the campground and **Dean Hughes** stated that he understood but then he could proceed with court action. **Dean Hughes** inquired as to whether he had to pay an additional fee for the second public hearing and he was advised that he would need to pay the \$600.00 fee.

**Public Comment:** ( Present Bill Matiland, Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Brenda Murray, Ben Steinhoff, Mike McCullough, Dean Hughes, Eric Alexander, Suzanne Schaffer , & Jan Priess)

**David Sproul**(Township resident) inquired as to the Marijuana Ordinance Enforcement and how there needs to be stiff fines to those in violation. He stated it has gotten to be such a problem that he had to call the police for an incident. **Cubitt**(Clerk)stated she was in agreement but the issues then becomes how to collect the fines when they don't pay them as it could get costly going to small claims, as is the case with the fire service fee payments. **Priess**(township resident) stated it only costs \$25.00 to file in

Small Claims Court. **Sheldon**(Treasurer) stated there is more involved such as the time for going to court and additional fees for service, etc. **McCullough**(township resident) advised to add the fees to the property taxes. **Murray**(Acting Supervisor) stated that is against the law. **Maitland**(township resident) asked if the property could be reassessed to charge higher taxes. **Bonnie Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) stated any building to grow Marihuana is considered a commercial building. **Murray**(Acting Supervisor) stated that could be a tax assessor question. **Maitland**(township resident) then inquired about putting a LEIN on the property if fees are paid. Discussion ensued and more information was needed and would be gathered on that option.

Discussion also held on the 200 amperage amendment that would give the township the right to inspect the properties in suspect of violation of the Marihuana Ordinance. **Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) spoke with a DTE Representative, Robert Knight and was advised that 320 service can be hooked up underground and there is nothing stopping the people from tapping into that illegally later on.

Suzanne Schaeffer(We The County) stated she belongs to the group “We The County” and she shared a brochure of what they are trying to accomplish. The group is fighting for Constitutional Rights. The group meets at the Life Song church in Snover. She advised that solar coming into the county is one of her concerns.

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

There were a total of 6 calls .

We’ve some minor repairs that had to be taken care of on E1 . Primer pump motor solenoid, air brake leak, and brakes adjusted.

Also purchased LED headlights for the grass rig .

FEMA continues to award grants . We have not been selected yet but nor have we been kicked out of consideration.

The next upcoming PR event would be the Speaker Lone Oak Orchard Fall Festival. I intend on participating as usual if the event is able to proceed . I do not have a date yet but I will be in contact with the orchard this week to nail that down .

**Murray**(Acting Supervisor) state the letter sign out by the road needs to be removed by the firefighter than owns it. It has been suggested several times.

**Planning Report:**

**Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) talked again about his conversation with DTE Representative Mr. Knight and asked if the township board would be interested in having a DTE representative come to a meeting to answer questions. The consensus of the township board was that would be a good idea and contact would be made to make those arrangements.

**Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) advised he would contact the Planning Commission members to set up the next Planning Commission meeting to address Dean Hughes’s request. **Murray**(Acting Supervisor) stated that a cemetery ordinance was possibly

needed along with a change to the sign ordinance to allow the township to have an electronic sign.

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

**Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) requested a change to the Land Use Permit form to have a place to indicate the specific purpose for the permit in order to keep the Building Department informed as well as herself. **Cubitt**(Clerk) asked who has the original form and would make the change. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) advised that the Tax Assessor has the document and could make the change. **Motion to update the Land Use Permit form with the appropriate description check box made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

**Old Business: N/A**

**New Business:**

Supervisor Vacancy:

**Murray**(Acting Supervisor) advised that there was only one applicant for the Supervisor position and it was William Maitland of 600 Clayton Road Melvin, MI. 48454. **Murray**(Acting Supervisor) read William Matiland's letter of interest. William Maitland was invited to stand and speak to his interest in the position. **Motion to appoint William Maitland to the vacant Speaker Township Supervisor position until the next general election in 2022 made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Sheldon, Stanley, Cubitt. ABSTAIN: Murray (Due to family relationship). Motion carried**

Special Election November 2, 2021 Yale Public Schools:

**Cubitt**(Clerk) informed the township board that the Superintendent of Yale Schools is unable to attend the township meeting due to a conflict in his schedule. He asked that the bond information be shared with the residents and the township board. **Cubitt**(Clerk) advised that the information was on the back table for those interested. Only residents in the Yale School Public School District will be eligible to vote, which is approximately 91 residents. The polls will be located in St. Clair County but the Speaker Township Clerk will be responsible to be in the office the Saturday before the election and all day on election day to process AV ballots and to register people to vote.

Cubitt(Clerk) advised the township board that due to the special election that it was necessary to appoint a deputy clerk before October. Several township residents were contacted and the only interested party was Debra Kesteloot of 814 W Galbraith Line Rd Melvin, MI 48454 . She was sworn-in on 09/05/2021.

Miscellaneous:

**Murray**(Acting Supervisor) was approached by Greg **Cheolas**(township resident) asking for the Speaker Township Board's permission in letter form to respond out of state to ask questions of Liberty Power and their customers on the windmills. He would then update the township on his findings. **Motion to draft a letter giving Greg Cheolas permission to ask questions on the windmills on behalf of Speaker Township made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

**Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:00 p.m. made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

**Dawn M. Cubitt**

**Speaker Township Clerk**