

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2021

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of October 5, 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve October 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

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

Approval to pay October 2021 bills: **Motion to approve October 2021 (Township bills \$690.57) made by Murray, second by Sheldon (Fire Dept. bills \$657.57) made Stanley, second by Murray & (Township payroll \$4,284.02) made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Guest: Joel Wyatt, County Commissioner

Wyatt(Commissioner) was asked to explain the redistricting of County Commissioners from 5 positions to 7 positions. **Wyatt**(Commissioner) advised that every 10 years the districts are re-evaluated due to the census reports. It was explained that there is a public redistricting board that consists of the County Prosecutor, County Clerk & County Treasurer. The public along with each member of the board can submit a plan for redistricting. There were 3 plans submitted and the County Prosecutor's plan was approved (SEE ATTACHED) to break the county into 7 districts. **Wyatt**(Commissioner) stated the cost of 2 additional commissioners would be approximately \$30,000.00 to \$35,000.00 along with mileage reimbursement. The county would also incur the cost of remodeling the Board Chambers to include 2 more seats. **Wyatt**(Commissioner) discussed the pros and cons of this redistricting. It would be beneficial to the commissioner who currently has 11 townships to cover as he will go down to 7 townships with the new plan. He is concerned there might be less movement on issues and more discussion with 2 additional people.

Maitland(Supervisor) inquired if there were other issues at the county level at this time.

Wyatt(Commissioner) advised that millage fund departments are going to be required to come to the full Board to give an overview of how the funding is benefiting the county residents. This will be a requirement going forward prior to the millage ballot language being approved. Discussion on the Medical Care Facility funding deficit and staff shortage. Grant funds applied for but will be held in escrow until an audit of the facility budget is complete.

Public Comment: (Present: Bonnie Sproul, Brenda Murray, Ben Steinhoff, Joel Wyatt & Dean Hughes)

N/A

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

There were a total of five runs in October.

We did get our turnout gear and pager back from Jose.

Doug Kennedy is no longer a member of the department and we have all of his gear and equipment back.

Mr. Fred Murray has decided to retire from the department. We have all of his gear and equipment back. We will be having a plaque made for him honoring his years of service. And intend to present that to him at the Christmas party.

We have a prospective firemen that I have already had his background check done which I have provided. I would like to have him out to the November fire meeting and offer him a position. He is already a member of Yale Brockway fire and comes highly recommended by them. His name is Josh Thompson. I will provide his application for your consideration.

As some of you know we have been denied the **FEMA** grant for air packs. Dawn and I had some conversation about pursuing alternate funding. I would like to have further discussion about this as air packs are a definite safety need for our department.

I have a pallet of canned water from Budweiser and **FEMA** coming on Thursday morning. This will save the department some money. This was made available through a program offered by FEMA/ Budweiser that I applied for about six months ago.

The department has continued to respond to an increased amount of medical calls and I could not be more pleased with the department's performance. I can tell you all of my EMS colleagues have nothing but praise for our little department. I just wanted to share this with the board as these calls are out of some of these guys comfort zone but they never fail to show up and perform.

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) advised a Planning Commission will be held on November 7, 2021 to discuss the addition of campgrounds to the Multi-family residential zone. As **Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) was talking he was interrupted by **Dean Hughes**(Willow Tree Golf Course) stating that he already applied for a special land use before and he needs to know what is going to happen next and he was being told things. **Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) stated he didn't know who he is hearing things from but there is a process that needs to be followed. **Maitland**(Supervisor) advised both parties that there would be no argument over this issue and it could be talked about after the meeting. Maitland asked if there were any other items on the Planning Commission agenda. **Steinhoff**(Planning

Commission) stated there would be discussion on adding “scrolling test” to the sign ordinance to allow electronic signs. **Maitland**(Supervisor) asked if the attorney was providing the documents necessary for this change. **Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) stated he asked the attorney and he still has not gotten back with him but he will be at the meeting next week. **Maitland**(Supervisor) stated he need to make contact with **Brian Garner** this week and he would follow up on the signage issue as well.

Zoning Report: **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) reviewed her monthly report (SEE ATTACHED REPORT)

Old Business:

Adopt Resolution 2021-9 Speaker Township Cemetery Rules:

Maitland(Supervisor) read the Speaker Township Cemetery Rules Resolution 2021-9 to adopt cemetery rules for Speaker Township. Discussion held on the list of rules and **Cubitt**(Clerk) advised that Sexton Grant Burgess reviewed and approved the document presented in the resolution. **Motion to approve Resolution 2021-9 Speaker Township Cemetery Rules made by Murray, second by Stanley. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Sheldon, Stanley, Maitland, Cubitt, Murray. NAYS: 0 Motion carried.**

Cubitt(Clerk) stated that at the purchase of a cemetery plot the rules would be handed out to the buyer and that a metal sign listing the rules needs to be put at the cemetery as instructed by the Sexton. Discussion held on getting the sign ordered and put in the ground before the ground freezes. A few sample sign wording was reviewed. **Murray**(Trustee) thought this could wait until Spring, but **Maitland**(Supervisor) stated he thought if it was ordered relatively soon there would be time to get it in this year. **Stanley**(Trustee) stated the post could be put in now and the sign added when it comes in. **Cubitt**(Clerk) stated she will check with Sanilac businesses such as Lakeshore Graphics. Commissioner Wyatt stated there is a business in Croswell and a Woodruff who does signs as well.

New Business:

Approve Payment-Sanilac County Drain Commission Bill \$8, 911.60:

Maitland(Supervisor) presented the Sanilac County Drain Commission bill for drain improvements and there were a few areas that needed unexpected work. The estimate given last year was in the amount of \$6,832.31 and the bill was about \$2,000.00 higher. **Motion to pay the Sanilac County Drain Commission bill in the amount of \$8,911.60 made by Murray, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

Approve Payment-Taylor, Butterfield, Howell Churchill & Garner, P.C. Bill \$900.00:

Maitland(Supervisor) presented for payment the Taylor, Butterfiled, Howell, Churchill & Garner P.C. bill for legal services. The charges were reviewed and were from July thru September of 2021. Upon review all appeared to be in order. **Motion to pay Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner, P.C. bill in the amount of \$900.00 made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

Miscellaneous:

Maitland(Supervisor) asked **Murray**(Trustee) for an update on the Wind Project. Murray advised that the wind company is out in the field and signing up customers. There needs to be discussion on what roads and routes will need to be upgraded. Murray(Trustee) stated the company will be coming at the end of March expecting to pull permits. The fee schedule for permits, etc. need to be established prior to March. Discussion held on having the attorney review the fee schedule and the depreciation language prior to permits being pulled. Maitland(Supervisor) stated there needs to be collaboration with Fremont Township on these fees to be sure both townships are on the same page. Road Commission also needs to be brought in to discuss what needs to be done to the roads, etc. Discussion held on the fact that the wind company will pay for all repairs and upkeep of the roads during the process and needs to be paid up front.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:20 p.m. made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk