

## Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of January 4 , 2022 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve January 4, 2022 Meeting Minutes made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approval of January 2022 Treasurer's report: **Motion to approve January 2022 Treasurer's Report made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

**Sheldon**(Treasurer) advised the ARPA fund account has not been set up yet and is still reflected in the Township General Fund account.

### **Guest: Commissioner Joel Wyatt**

Commissioner Wyatt advised that he was the District 5 Commissioner and soon to be District7 Commissioner. With the addition of two commissioner positions the BOC chambers were going to need some remodeling.

A policy change has been instituted to require millage funds to come before the Board of Commissioners for a review before the ballot language is approved. The Medical Care Facility millage is up this year and the facility was hit hard by COVID and there are some financial issues as a result, which requires a financial audit. Wyatt(Commissioner) advised that the Sanilac County Medical Care Facility is mainly for Sanilac County residents.

Wyatt(Commissioner) advised he had sent an email to the township clerk with information on the release of the restrictions on the ARPA funding criteria. This is good news for the townships.

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

### **Fire Report: Stone**(Fire Chief)

There were no fire runs in January to report.

We have applied for some smaller regional equipment grants and all are still pending. These consist of a grant for grain bin rescue equipment and other rescue/ extrication equipment. We of course are still in for the annual FEMA grant as well. **Stone**(Fire Chief) advised he reviewed the Recruitment Retention Grant and it is not geared for smaller departments.

Preparations for the upcoming MFR class are moving forward. On 2/17/22 I will be meeting with an inspector from the state to obtain approval for a satellite training location at our fire hall. I do not anticipate any issues with approval. We will then be able to coordinate and class schedule and get started shortly thereafter. **Maitland**(Supervisor) asked if the township hall was needed for the training. **Stone**(Fire Chief) stated he wanted to try to hold the class in the firehall if possible.

As requested I have performed a wage survey of the neighboring departments' wages. Brown City pays firefighters \$14 an hour. The Chief is paid \$3000 a year plus the \$14 an hour. Yale/Brockway firefighters are paid \$16 an hour. I have been unable to obtain Chief wages from them. Elk pays firefighters \$20 a call and \$10 per call on Medicals. Elks Chief has no specific wage besides the \$20 a call but is occasionally offered a bonus when applicable? I'm not clear how that works. Croswell pays firefighters \$15 an hour and the Chief makes \$ 10,000 a year. Marlette pays firefighters \$14 an hour and the Chief makes \$14,000 a year and is required to be in office 8 hours a week from my understanding. I believe Marlette and Croswell Chiefs both handle billing duties. I hope this helps shed some light on local pay trends.

This past Saturday we held our annual Christmas /end of year party. There was a very nice turnout. Awards were presented to Fred Murray on his retirement for many years of service. To Don Priess for Officer of the Year. Brian Kennedy and Jeff Withey received Co-Firefighters of the Year.

**Stanley**(Trustee) asked about the pump for Engine and **Stone**(Fire Chief) advised he hasn't located one yet but has reached out to Frontline.

**Murray**(Trustee) asked how many people were going to be available for the MRF training. **Stone**(Fire Chief) advised that **Murray**(Trustee) already knew what people they had. There is no roster put together so **Stone**(Fire Chief) had not real idea. Yale Brockway were going to send a few and Barb Withey from Peck was interested in the training. Discussion on the Natural Registry testing.

#### **Planning Report:**

**Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) advised that he and **Murray**(Trustee) went to the January 18, 2022 Sanilac County Planning meeting and there were only two people present so they could not have a meeting. **Steinhoff**(Planning Commission) advised that **Cubitt**(Clerk) gave him a letter that the next Sanilac County Planning meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2022@ 4:30 p.m. **Wyatt**(Commissioner) stated that by law if 30 days have passed since the County received the documentation and no action was taken the township board could approve the amendments.

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

Notice was received from the Health Department that a possible sewer water drainage problem was investigated at the old Crook's store and it was discovered to be surface water. There were not lines hooked up to the house or the business.

7970 Jordan Road received violations from the Building Inspector for not pulling permits and for not having an inspection. There is a Show Cause hearing on 02/11/2022.

**Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) inquired about expired land use permits and does she charge the people again if they want to renew. She was notified by Shelly Baumeister that 3 individuals purchased land permits and they expire after a year. There is no expiration date on the current forms. **Murray**(Trustee) stated the price of lumber maybe the cause of not using the permit. **Sheldon**(Treasurer) suggested

sending a letter to the permit holder and reissue the permit for no cost this time. The form will need to be rewritten to include an expiration date.

**Old Business:**

**Murray**(Trustee) stated he contacted the electrician to fix the parking lot light and the sensor light on the firehall. Electrician advised the township has been added to the waiting list for service.

**Maitland**(Supervisor) inquired about by the light by township sign that is out. **Murray**(Trustee) stated it should be left there for now as the electricity will be needed for the new township sign.

Campground Zoning Ordinance Amendment Ordinance No. 2022-1:

Maitland(Supervisor) read the Campground Zoning Ordinance No. 2022-1 Amendment. **Motion to approve the Speaker Township Campground Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2022-1 made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

Sign Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2022-2:

Maitland(Supervisor) read the Sign Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 2022-2. **Motion to approve the Speaker Township Sign Zoning Amendment No. 2022-2 made by Sheldon, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

Variance Form:

**Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) provided a sample variance form from another entity.

**Maitland**(Supervisor) advised that it looked detailed and could be made to feed the needs of the township. **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) instructed to revamp the form and bring back for township review and approval.

**New Business:**

Approve Payment of Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner P.C. bill \$1,174.50:

Discussion on the items listed on the bill. **Murray**(Trustee) advised that any charges related to the Wind ordinance, etc. could be billed to the windmill company. **Motion to approve the payment of the Taylor, Butterfield, Howell, Churchill & Garner, P.C. bill in the amount of \$1,174.50 made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approve Speaker Township Fire Department Payroll 2021 (\$12,094.00):

**Cubitt**(Clerk)) presented the annual Speaker Township Fire Department Payroll for 2021 to be paid out on March 1, 2022 for approval. **Motion to approve payment on March 1, 2022 of the Speaker Township Fire Department Payroll in the amount of \$12, 094.00 made by Sheldon, second by Stanley. Motion to carried.**

Zoning Administrator Citation purchase:

**Sproul** (Zoning Administrator) presented a sample of a generic citation that is approved by the State and can be utilized for marihuana violations as well. There is a minimum order requirement of \$50.00. There are 25 citations in a packet at a cost of \$25.00. She would need to order 2 packages at a cost of \$50.00. **Motion to approve the order of Citations at a cost of \$50.00 by the Speaker Township Zoning Administrator made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approve King & King CPA bill (Tax Preparation) \$625.00:

Cubitt(Clerk) advised that King & King prepared W-2's and Speaker Township Tax documents as they do every year and the bill is in the amount of \$625.00. Cubitt(Clerk) advised all documents and forms have been mailed. **Motion to Approve the King & King CPA Bill for 2021 Tax Preparation in the amount of \$625.00 made by Murray, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

Fees for Windmill permits, etc.:

**Maitland**(Supervisor) presented a Windmill fee schedule for discussion. **Maitland**(Supervisor) that an informational meeting was held with Fremont Township and there was discussion on the fees to be charged and both townships want to be uniform in the fee charges. Also, the hiring of an engineer was discussed. Townley Engineering is who both townships are looking to hire. Discussion ensued with **Murray**(Trustee) wanting to pass the fee schedule as presented due to permits could be pulled by the windmill company as early as March 1, 2022. **Wyatt**(Commissioner) cautioned the Board on passing the fee schedule without it having been on the printed agenda. **Maitland**(Supervisor) tabled the discussion until there could be more discussion with Fremont Township. **Cubitt**(Clerk) suggested that a special meeting could be held once the fee schedule was worked out and the decision on hiring the engineer could be made as well. **Wyatt**(Commissioner) also mentioned that his has been brought to his attention by other townships that there have been issues with elected officials pushing the windmill initiatives for their own personal game. Have to be careful of the public perception. **Murray**(Trustee) stated that he just wants the windmills in the township for the betterment of the township and whether he makes anything on them. He has abstained from voting on the issue.

Special Land Use Permit Fee for Willow Tree Gold Course:

**Maitland**(Supervisor) advised that the special land use permit fees was \$400.00 when Dean Hughes started the process for his campground. The fee was increased to \$600.00 in 2021 and the thought is that Dean Hughes should be grandfathered in at the old rate. **Motion to allow Willow Tree Golf Course/Dean Hughes to pay \$400.00 for a Special Land Use Permit made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

**Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:25 p.m. made by Maitland, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

**Dawn M. Cubitt**

**Speaker Township Clerk**