

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

January 4, 2022

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of December 7 , 2021 meeting minutes: **Motion to approve December 7, 2021 Meeting Minutes with corrections made on spelling of Fran Gerds last name made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

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

Sheldon (Treasurer) advised the Board that ARPA funds were received in the amount of \$64,790.00 and were deposited into the General Operating Fund. Requesting a motion to open a new account at Tri-County Bank as their interest rates are higher. The additional funds will be received in a year. The township will get to keep the interest earned on the funds if unable to come up with allowance expense of the money. **Sheldon** (Treasurer) advised the audit will be June 2, 2022. **Cubitt** (Clerk) would like to try to set up a conference call with **King & King CPA** to discuss the use of the ARPA funding. **Motion to approve the Speaker Township Treasurer, Tracy Sheldon to open a new account for the deposit of the ARPA Funds at Tri-County Bank made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Sheldon (Treasurer) requested to closed the Millage account and transfer the remaining funds into the Fire General Operating account. This account is dormant and earns dormant fees each year. **Stanley** (Trustee) stated those funds are supposed to be used for equipment. Discussion held on using the funds to put towards the purchase of the SCBA bottles for the fire department, which would qualify as equipment. **Cubitt** (Clerk) reminded the Board that a previous treasurer had stopped depositing the tax revenue in the Millage account and there was a Board motion passed to allow the same. **Motion to allow the Speaker Township Treasurer, Tracy Sheldon to close the Millage Fund Account and transfer it into the Fire General Operating Fund made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approval to pay December 2021 bills: **Motion to approve December 2021 (Township bills \$626.31) made by Murray, second by Stanley (Fire Dept. bills \$1,541.82) made Stanley, second by Maitland & (Township payroll \$5,380.05) made by Murray, second by Maitland. Motion carried.**

Guest:

Public Comment: (Present: , Brenda Murray, Ben Steinhoff, Debra Kesteloot, Jan Priess, Fran Gerds, Mike McCullough, Eric Alexander & Dean Hughes)

Jan Priess(citizen) asked if **Drain Commissioner Doug Sweet** was going to be at the meeting to address the cost of the drain assessments. **Maitland (Supervisor)** advised that he had contacted **Drain Commissioner Doug Sweet** after last month's meeting. It was learned that there was a request from a citizen to clean out the Cole Drain and a citizen had attempted to clean out the Sloat Drain which caused EGLE to get involved and had to be cleaned out to meet their requirements. **Priess**(citizen) asked about finding out who requested the drain clean out. **Maitland** (Supervisor) stated it was public record and she could ask the Drain Commissioner for that information. **Maitland** (Supervisor) explained that the

township pays 25% of the drain costs and the other 75% is assessed to the tax payer based on the amount of property owed that accesses the drain pro-rated over 7 years for the Cole Drain and 10 years for the Sloat Drain. The only recourse for the tax payer is to file a protest and there would be a hearing. **Priess**(citizen) advised that St. Clair County does not do it that way and the county pays a portion. **Maitland** (Supervisor) stated that he was given pretty firm answers from the Drain Commissioner and she could make contact with him with further questions. **Fran Gerds**(citizen) advised she had talked to local farmers and was told that there was something wrong that her cost is so much for owning only 64 acres. **Maitland** (Supervisor) stated that she certainly had cause for a review, but the township could not do anything about it.

Mike McCullough(citizen) requested someone to look at the ditches on Mowerson Road south of Wellman Line Road as it floods every year across the road from the swamp area. Murray (Trustee) stated that the west side is Maple Valley Township and the east side is Speaker Township. **McCullough**(citizen) stated he just wants someone to check on it to see if something can be done. **Maitland** (Supervisor) stated he would contact the Road Commission.

Fire Report: Stone (Fire Chief) Absent: Report submitted. Maitland (Supervisor) read report. (SEE ATTACHED)

There were 6 calls in December

We finished 2021 with a total of 72 calls for service.

We have some maintenance issue that need addressed. The on-board air compressor for the air brakes on Engine 1 has failed. I am looking for replacement options.

Also, the grass rig needs to have the hose replaced on the skid unit. There are several areas on the hose that have cuts and abrasions and are starting to leak. The pump on the grass rig also needs to be rebuilt.

Neither of the grass rig issues are super expensive. Less than \$600 all total.

I've submitted the bill for our portion of system maintenance on Brown City's air bottle system. We split the cost as a system of our own is approximately \$45,000 and frankly we're just not busy enough to justify the expense in my opinion.

Looking forward to the new year my focus is on continuing to guide us through COVID as safely as possible. Implementation of MFR service if possible. Recruitment and retention are a high priority as well. We will also continue to focus on training so we can perform at a high level.

As always myself and the department really appreciate all the support the township provides us and the great working relationships we have.

As always, any questions feel free to reach out to me at any time.

Trevor

Planning Report:

Steinhoff (Planning Commission) advised that the ordinance amendments were sent to the county for their review at the January 18, 2022 Planning meeting. The County Planning Commission requests a representative attend the meeting. **Steinhoff** (Planning Chair) and **Murray** (Trustee) will attend and

other Planning Commission members will be asked if they would like to attend as well. Reviewed the steps of once approved at the County the ordinance amendments come back to the Planning Commission for any changes, etc. The Township Board then approves and publication needs to take place in the paper within 15 days than 7 days from publication they are adopted. **Maitland** (Supervisor) inquired as to whether the County Planning Commission ever has questions, etc. on the ordinances. **Murray** (Trustee) stated they did on the Wind Ordinance and Marihuana Ordinances and it was stated that the Speaker Township Ordinances were the best they had seen overall.

Zoning Report: Sproul (Zoning Administrator) absent (SEE ATTACHED REPORT) **Maitland** (Supervisor) read the report submitted.

Discussion held on **Sproul** (Zoning Administrator) request for advice on whether to charge a fee for the Affidavit that needs to be filled out stating they are not going to use more than 200 amps. Consensus was that there should not be a fee for requiring this affidavit.

Discussion also held on **Sproul** (Zoning Administrator) request to review the hourly rate for the Firefighter. Consensus was raising hourly rates for employees will be discussed prior to setting annual salary/fee schedule at the annual meeting.

Old Business:

New Business:

Resolution 2022-1 Annual Meeting Date:

Maitland (Supervisor) read Resolution 2022-1 to set the Speaker Township Annual Meeting Date as March 22, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. **Motion to Approve Annual Meeting Date Resolution 2022-1 made Stanley, second by Murray. Roll Call Vote: AYES: Sheldon, Stanley, Maitland, Cubitt & Murray. NAYS: 0. Motion carried.**

Resolution 2022-2 Annual Mileage Rate 2022 per IRS:

Maitland (Supervisor) read Resolution 2022-2 to set the Annual Mileage Rate per the IRS @ .58.5 cents per mile in 2022. **Motion to Approve Annual Mileage Rate Resolution 2022-2 @ .58.5 cents made by Stanley, second by Murray: Roll Call Vote: AYES: Sheldon, Stanley, Maitland, Cubitt & Murray, NAYS: 0. Motion carried**

Approve Township Meeting Dates for 2022: (SEE ATTACHED)

Motion to approve the presented Township meeting dates for the 1st Tuesday of the Month @ 7:00 p.m., with exceptions of the scheduled Primary & General Elections in August & November. The township meeting will then be held Wednesday following the election. **Motion to Approve the 2022 Township Meeting dates made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approve Election Source Annual Election Equipment Maintenance bill (\$615.00):

Cubitt (Clerk) advised that a state grant had funded the new election equipment about 6 years ago and the agreement was that the townships would pay maintenance each year at the end of the grant cycle. Cubitt (Clerk) stated that the equipment was serviced in October of 2021. **Motion to approve payment of the Election Source Annual Maintenance in the amount of \$615.00 made by Sheldon, second by Stanley. Motion carried.**

Approve Wilkinson Solutions Brining Contract:

Maitland (Supervisor) received a contract from Wilkinson Solutions for the annual brining contract addressed to former Supervisor Nielsen. The letter enclosed stated the company was billing differently and **Maitland** (Supervisor) had **Cubitt** (Clerk) make contact to get clarification on the cost etc. **Cubitt** (Clerk) advised the company is billing differently this year to avoid the credits on accounts. In order to secure the pricing of \$.165 per applied gallon for 2022, the township needs to sign the contract and submit a check for \$1,000.00 as a deposit. The brining applications will be charged to the Road Commission and the Road Commission will in turn bill the township for the services. **Motion to approve The Wilkinson Solutions 2022 Brining Contract made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.**

Miscellaneous:

Cubitt (Clerk) advised the Board that the Tax Assessor contract comes up for renewal in March.

Steinhoff (Planning Chair) advised that an electrician needs to be contacted to fix the parking lot light. **Stanley** (Trustee) advised there is a light sensor in need of repair in front of the fire hall as well. **Olds Electric** service has done work on the generators. **Maitland** (Supervisor) to see about the repairs.

Maitland (Supervisor) advised that Liberty Representatives need separate bank accounts set up for bond money and to pay their bills etc. **Sheldon** (Treasurer) concerned that there is a lot of cost involved in deposit slips, checks, etc. and how many accounts would be required. Maitland (Supervisor) stated there is a meeting on January 12th in Minden City and he will collect further information as to they handled these issues.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:30 p.m. made by Sheldon, second by Stanley. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk