

Speaker Township Board Meeting Minutes

June 7, 2022

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

Pledge of Allegiance said

Approval of May 3, 2022 meeting agenda: **Motion to approve May 3, 2022 Meeting Agenda with changes(moving Public Comment to #5 and Guest to #6 and Planning Report to #7 made by Maitland, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

Approval of May 2022 Treasurer's report: **Sheldon**(Treasurer) reviewed report advising the township finances are pretty good. Discussion on the settling with the County for winter taxes and additional \$2,460.00 collected for Administrative fee. **Motion to approve April May Treasurer's Report made by Stanley, second by Murray. Motion carried.**

Approval of May 2022 bills: **Motion to approve May 2022 bills (Township bills \$3,592.59) made by Sheldon, second by Stanley (Fire Dept. bills \$1,269.16) made Stanley, second by Sheldon & (Township payroll \$4,783.75) made by Murray, second by Maitland. Motion carried.**

Public Comment: (Present: Ben Steinhoff , Bonnie Sproul, David Sproul, Gerald Pathic, Caroline Pathic, Andrew Schuster, Rella Hoffman, Monique Hoffman, Brenda Murray, Steve McCurley, Rhonda McCurley Joe O'Mara, Joey Wyatt, Margaret Schreiner & Jan Priess)

Joe O'Mara(State Representative Candidate) requested time to discuss qualifications etc., for being a State Representative. He is a Conservative Republican and believes in Right to Life. He is all about family and has an Accounting Background. If selected plans to focus on Education, Budgeting, Infra-Structure Improvements, Good Governance & Strong Public Safety. He stated he will always be accessible to his constituents.

Joel Wyatt(County Commissioner) advised he was running for Road Commissioner and John Moody former Jail Lt. for the Sanilac County Sheriff's Office was running for the County Commissioner position and he was a good candidate with a conservative view point on purchasing. He went on to update on the issues before the County Commissioners. Explained the broadband project awarded to Mercury, AEG & Thumb Electric to bring Internet up to speed in rural communities. AEG will have fiber pushed to most homes within a year. There is a disagreement with the Road Commission on using the right away to bury fiber. Union negotiation are going well. ARPA funds (7.3 million): approved \$80,000 for water improvement system at the jail caused by inmates messing with the system. Parks & Recreation receiving some funding and they found a grant for matching funds for their project which benefits the community. There is a \$1.2 million dollar project to replace the dismal animal shelter. The City of Sandusky has given the county some land across the street from the current building. Still working on the architectural design as it has to be MDAR compliant and will break ground next year and ARPA funds are being used for the project. The Health department is asking for funds for a new building as well. County Commissioners are taking time to be sure the funds are being spent in the best way possible and have until 2024 to spend down.

Guest: Attorney Brian Garner (Legal Proceedings for 7970 Jordan Rd.) Speaker Township has a property not in compliance with the zoning ordinance in regards to medical marijuana. **Garner**(Attorney) advised

the property owner has been sent several letters addressing the violations and the Zoning Administrator and a Township Trustee has had several conversations with him as well. Discussion held on the two options: 1. Ticketing as a civil infraction, but the Magistrate has no power to enforce the zoning ordinance. The District Court judge will not make a judgement. 2. Go to Circuit Court with all the evidence, etc. and request an injunction to stop activity until the owner is compliant with the township ordinance. There is more cost involved as the township attorney would have to go to court on behalf of the township. Could take 6 months to a year for a ruling as Judge Wrathell would have to recuse himself from the case as he was the township attorney. A visiting judge would be assigned. Would not be a jury trial but a judgement by the judge. **Garner**(Attorney) advised with Affidavit, pictures, etc. an ordinance violation is easy to prove and the defendant's word is an admission. During discovery there could be a site visit with law enforcement to take pictures, etc. Question was asked if the defendant could be required to pay the court fees and **Garner**(Attorney) advised there was that potential.

Priess(Public) produced a LARA map and asked why the Sanilac county area shows now licensed marihuana facilities. **Garner**(Attorney) explained the township opted out of Recreational marihuana and medical marihuana didn't opt in. The caregiver marijuana is not licensed thru LARA and that is why they do not show on the map. The only way the township can regulate the caregivers is thru zoning ordinances.

Discussion held on how to move forward with legal proceedings. **Garner**(Attorney) requesting the board make a motion to give him direction. **Motion to Authorize Attorney Brian Garner to file a Circuit Court Injunction on behalf of Speaker Township on the property owner of 7970 Arendt Rd made by Sheldon, second by Murray. Motion Carried.** **Garner**(Attorney) requested **Sproul**(Zoning Administrator) to supply him with the file on this address.

Planning Report:

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) advised a workshop meeting was held on May 26, 2022 to review the Master Plan. Discussion was held on how to address the issues with the commercial zone and it was check with the attorney to see about adding verbiage for the residential home owners in the commercial zone. **Garner**(Attorney) advised he hadn't had a chance to review the email from the Planning Chairman, but the township could do that which would require notice in paper, public hearing etc.

Carolyn/Gerald Pathic(Public) asked questions and explained what has been going on in regards to the zoning issues with the commercial area where 19 residential homes are located. **Garner**(Attorney) advised that the Township did do things correctly and are not responsible for what the County does or doesn't have. They were notified according to **Steinhoff**(Planning Chairman). Discussion held on changing the zone from Commercial to Residential. **Steinhoff**(Planning Chairman) stated that he didn't think that was wise as there are some commercial/industrial properties and they may wish to sell their properties for that use. **McCurley**(Public) stated that he agreed with **Steinhoff**(Planning Chairman) as a property owner may wish to sell their property to a commercial/industrial business. **Garner**(Attorney) addressed the concerns and directed the Planning Chairman on the steps that will need to be taken to make the changes to the commercial zone.

Steinhoff(Planning Commission) advised that the site plan, etc. **Dambacher**(Planning Commission member) advised that nothing could be done or approved until the approved permits are presented.

The next regular scheduled meeting has not been set until there is a need to address any pending or new issues.

Fire Report: Stone(Fire Chief)

There were a total of seven (7) in May .

The two new firefighters have passed Firefighter 1 & Firefighter 2 classes.

MFR training is completed. Need to get with Med Control and the State to start paperwork for licensing the service, etc. **Cubitt**(Clerk) stated would need copies of everything to give to insurance company. Inquired on fees and if going to go outside Speaker Township (i.e. Fremont for MFR services) **Stone**(Fire Chief) advised these issues would need to be discussed.

Presented an application/background for new hire **Brian Zwiernik** who resides in Yale, MI. **Motion to hire Brian Zwiernik as a Probationary Firefighter made by Murray, second by Stanley. Motion carried. He will start Fire School in the Fall.**

2nd Annual Garage Sale will be held June 16, 17, & 18, 2022.

Brown City Days June 9, 10, & 11, 2022. Will be participating in the parade

Bologna Festival will be in the middle of July. Will be participating in the parade and extrication exercises. Fall Festival TBA.

No grant updates. No awards at this point.

Stone(Fire Chief) advised the Board that he is going to be moving out of the township and will be about 7 miles from the township. He would like to stay on the department either as the Fire Chief or as a fireman. Discussion held and **Stone**(Fire Chief) will stay as the fire chief for now and will be monitored to see if there are any issues with him being farther away.

Zoning Report: Sproul(Zoning Administrator) (SEE ATTACHED REPORT) read her report.

Old Business:

Township Signage:

Cubitt(Clerk) presented the answers to the questions relating to Internet requirements for the remote access sign versus the PC software version from last month's meeting. No internet is required and the remote would be a tablet type device and the recommendation from Arrow Signs is that the PC based system is more user friendly and manageable. **Motion to Purchase a 34X83 PC Controlled Sign from Arrow Signs Flags N More in the amount of \$14,300.00 made by Murray, second by Maitland. Motion carried.**

Schreiner(Public) lives directly across the road from the township hall concerned about the new sign shining into her home. She stated she has planted trees for privacy and wanted to know what direction

the sign was going to be pointed. She was advised that it was going to face north/south and shouldn't be an issue. She asked if the sign was flashing and was advised the sign was streaming and not flashing.

Schreiner(Public) asked if the township has a noise ordinance. Sproul(Zoning Administrator) upon review advising there really isn't one. Steinhoff(Planning Chairman) advising he did find a section that talks about decibels and would provide a copy. **Schreiner**(Public) concerned about the shooting guns at all hours and the loud music next door to her. Cubitt(Clerk) stated the noise ordinance was brought up few years ago and counsel had cautioned about adopting one due to farmers needing to work in the late hours. **Murray**(Trustee) stated the shooting issue was addressed and the township was told by law enforcement there is nothing that can be done. **Maitland**(Supervisor) advised that her concerns would be taken to the Planning Commission.

New Desks/File Cabinets for Treasurer & Clerk's Office:

Sheldon(Supervisor) advised that upon ordering the new furniture it was discovered that the shipping costs would be over \$1,000.00 and the company was in Canada. The company was not very willing to help reduce these costs. The purchase will be tabled for now and she will seek bids from more local companies.

Township Audit:

Cubitt(Clerk) advised that the audit was conducted on June 2, 2022 with minimal questions from King & King CPAs. A phone call was received on today's date to pick up the audit material provided.

Cubitt(Clerk) advised she would be respond to Imlay City on 06/08/2022 to retrieve the material. A formal audit review will be provided to the Board in a few weeks.

Schreiner(Public) inquired as to whom she contacts for Windmill information. She has concerns about her business(South Sanilac Veterinary) access being blocked for long periods of time at M-90/M-19.

Maitland(Supervisor) advised that Liberty has not provided map info yet as to where the windmills are going and the travel routes. Contact information will be provided prior to the start of the project and that will be accessible to the Public.

Motion to adjourn meeting @ 8:45 p.m. made by Stanley, second by Sheldon. Motion carried.

Dawn M. Cubitt

Speaker Township Clerk

Zoning Report

June 7, 2022

5/4/22 Rec'd report that 8814 Parker Rd. is getting increased amperage installed. Per Eric @ Sanilac Co. Bldg. Dept. no permits have been pulled for that address. If contacted for permits they will refer property owner directly to us.

5/17/22 Tom Murray and I met with "Mark and Mayser" from 7970 Jordan Rd marijuana grow operation.

5/31/22 Frank Hazel (?) on Jeddo Rd., inquiring about property at NE intersection of M-19 and Fisher Road; could he put up a pole barn first then house later?

6/2/22 Sam Asmir from Mowerson Rd. re: civil issue. Explained that the Township could not help him and to contact an attorney.

6/4/22 Spoke with "Mark" re: 7970 Jordan Rd., encouraged him to attend this meeting to speak directly with the Board and our attorney regarding his operation.

6/6/22 Scott Sweeney re: property on Jordan Rd., wants to put "moveable bldg." measuring over 200 sq ft. on property. Does he need LUP?

Bonnie Sproul, Zoning Adm.