

THORNAPPLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

Regular Meeting, Monday, July 8, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bremer at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall, followed by the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag by those present.
2. Present: Mike Bremer, Deb Buckowing, Curt Campbell, Ross DeMaagd, Jake Jelsema, Sandy Rairigh, and Cindy Willshire. Also present: Ann Cross, Tim Eavey, Walter Eavey, Chief Randy Eaton, Catherine Getty, Sherri Hall, Eric Schaefer, Stephanie Skidmore, Susan Vlietstra, and Ian Watson.
3. **MOTION** by Campbell, support by Rairigh to approve the Printed Agenda as Amended with the removal of Reserved Time and the movement of 16e. Resolution 10-2019 to name the new section of the Mt. Hope Cemetery to 8. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
4. **MOTION** by Campbell, support by Willshire to approve the Consent Agenda as Printed. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

First Public Comment

5. Susan Vlietstra, 6827 Duncan Lake Shores, Caledonia, stated that certain sections of Near Lane are deteriorating and offered her assistance in potential meetings to develop a solution to fix the road. In addition, Vlietstra stated that she is the Treasurer of the Republican Party that serves the Third Congressional District.

County Report

6. Commissioner Parker was unable to attend the meeting but informed Supervisor Bremer that the County is working with the City of Battle Creek on developing a possible park on Metcalf Lake. In addition, Parker expressed his support for the Paul Henry Trail expansion.

Resolution 10-2019 to name the new section of the Mt. Hope Cemetery

Skidmore read Resolution 10-2019: RESOLUTION TO NAME THE NEWEST SECTION OF THE MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY:

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Member Willshire and supported by Member Buckowing:

WHEREAS: Walter R. Eavey has served his township for 32 years as a Thornapple Township Trustee, and

WHEREAS: Walt has embraced and executed the duties of membership on the Thornapple Township Cemetery Committee in an exemplary and professional manner, and continues to advocate for the cemeteries and deceased veterans of our community, and

WHEREAS: Walt has put his community's concerns and needs in front of his own personal desires for fame and fortune, and

WHEREAS: The Township Board of Thornapple unanimously agrees that the newest section of the Thornapple Township Mount Hope Cemetery should be named to reflect Walt's dedication to the betterment of our community and its cemeteries,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY HIGHLY RESOLVED:

That the newest section of the Thornapple Township Mount Hope Cemetery shall, from hence forth, be known as:

The Walter R. Eavey Section of the Thornapple Township

Mount Hope Cemetery.

Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **RESOLUTION CARRIED.**

Discussion/Payment of Current Bills

7. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Willshire to pay current bills totaling \$81,174.03. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Public Hearing

8. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Land Acquisition/Easement Grant Application:

Bremer recessed the Board Meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Bremer opened the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

Bremer stated that this public hearing was published in the Sun & News and Bremer provided a brief overview of the Grant Application process and proposed land acquisition/easement process. Tim Eavey inquired as to what acquisition was in reference to and Vlietstra inquired whether this trail extension would be extended to the trail in Caledonia. Bremer stated that it would be connected to the trail in Caledonia with the last mile of property being owned by Barry County.

Bremer closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

Bremer opened the Board Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Clerk's Report

9. Approval for ambulance write-offs: Willshire stated that \$859.72 of ambulance fees are no longer collectable due to the patients are deceased. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Campbell to write off \$859.72 as uncollectable fees for our ambulance service. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Treasurer's Report

10. Report contained within Consent Agenda.

Emergency Services Report

11. Motion to approve the expenditure of \$1,250 for the purchase of five (5) pagers from Yankee Springs. Eaton stated that new pagers are \$500.00 each and he is working through the process on how to reprogram the pagers. Jelsema inquired which general ledger number this expense will be taken from. It was determined it would be taken from the office supplies general ledger number. **MOTION** by DeMaagd, support by Rairigh to approve the expenditure of \$1,250 for the purchase of five (5) pagers, batteries and chargers from Yankee Springs. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
12. Motion to approve the hiring of Tom Daniels and Jeremiah Eberly to the paid-on-call staff of TTES. **MOTION** by Rairigh, support by Willshire to approve the hiring of Tom Daniels and Jeremiah Eberly to the paid-on-call staff of TTES's fire service. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

Planning and Zoning Report

13. None.

Unfinished Business

14. Sgt. Michael Gower Day Proclamation: Buckowing provided an overview of the schedule of events for the July 13, 2019 Key Ceremony. **MOTION** by Buckowing, support by Jelsema to proclaim Saturday, July 13, 2019, as "Sgt. Michael Gower Day" and welcomes Sgt. Gower and his family to our community as they receive the keys to their new home. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
15. Riverside Integrated Service: Bremer stated that the Finance Committee looked at the Riverside Integrated Service invoice for monitoring of the Township Hall and based upon feedback from the Board members, the invoice will not be paid, and no action will be taken. Willshire stated that she contacted the insurance company and there are no discounts received for employing a monitoring service for the Township Hall building. Bremer stated that the company does not call 911 if an alarm is triggered and only a designated Township official is contacted. Rairigh inquired why the company does not initially contact the 24-hour staff at the TTES building. Jelsema asked whether the majority of the records have been digitized. Willshire stated that a portion of the records have been digitized and stored off site electronically by Secant.
16. Fuel Card Services Agreement: Buckowing stated that this Agreement was reviewed at budget time and additional questions were sent to the WEX contact, however, answers were never received. Buckowing reached out to the WEX contact and it appears that there is a 45-day net payment term and the Township would save 6% on unleaded fuel and 10% on diesel fuel purchased at Speedway locations. However, if a different gas station company is utilized, the Township would only save 1.25%. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Rairigh to become a member of the WEX fuel card program. Buckowing also stated that controls on fuel card usage can be set on-line. Campbell asked for confirmation that this program would only be utilized by TTES vehicles. Eaton confirmed that this program would only be used by TTES vehicles. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

New Business

17. Resolution 07-2019 to adjust Planning Commission Member Compensation: Bremer stated that the Township Board needed to approve the previously approved changes via a Resolution and not through a Motion. **MOTION** by DeMaagd, support by Campbell to approve Resolution 07-2019 to adjust the Planning Commission Member Compensation and fee schedule. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
18. Recommendation of the Administrative Committee and Chief Eaton to transition from Ann Arbor Credit to Merchants and Medical Credit as the collection agency of our ambulance enterprise: Eaton stated that he met with a representative from Merchants and Medical Credit and it appears that Ann Arbor Credit may be interested in moving out of the collections business. In addition, Accumed has been utilizing Merchants and Medical Credit and it appears that its rates are lower, and its returns are higher than the Township's current company. Jelsema indicated other ambulance companies bundles up bad debt and sells it off to a collection agency. Jelsema indicated it would be worth a conversation to determine the legalities of whether the Township could engage in this practice also. Eaton stated that the Merchants and Medical Credit's representative indicated that they have a legal division within the company that pursues legal action if a customer refuses to pay their bill. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Buckowing to change collection agencies from Ann Arbor Credit to Merchants and Medical Credit. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.
19. Resolution 08-2019 (Duncan Lake Weed Control Project) Declaration of Intent to Make Public Improvements; Tentative Designation of Special Assessment District; Notice of Public Hearing. Bremer stated that this resolution is necessary to begin the process to designate a special assessment district. **MOTION** by Campbell, support by Rairigh to adopt Resolution 08-2019: Duncan Lake Weed Control Special Assessment District. Rairigh inquired who would pay the assessment on the public boat launch access. Buckowing stated that the State of Michigan is responsible for that portion. Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
20. Resolution 09-2019 to Proceed with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Land Acquisition/Easement Grant Application. Bremer discussed the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Land Acquisition Grant Application for \$375,000.00 and the Township's financial obligation of \$125,000.00 (25%) of a total \$500,000.00 project cost, during the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 Fiscal Years. Bremer stated that this trail extension is in the Township's five-year master plan. DeMaagd inquired whether it was possible to reduce the Township's portion if another donor was identified. Bremer stated that the land acquisition portion is the least expensive portion of this project and that development costs will exceed the land acquisition costs. Bremer discussed at a high level the proposed parcels that will be utilized for the trail extension. Bremer stated that this is seen as a high priority project for the Department of Natural Resources and the Township should be notified by December 2019 whether this grant is approved. **MOTION** by Jelsema, support by Buckowing to approve Resolution 09-2019: Resolution to Commit to the Application of a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund 2019 Grant Application with the addition of the words "and 2020-2021 fiscal years". Roll call vote: Bremer, yes; Willshire, yes; Buckowing, yes; Jelsema, yes; DeMaagd, yes; Campbell, yes; Rairigh, yes. **MOTION CARRIED.**
21. PFAS testing for Duncan Lake: Bremer stated that a resident inquired whether PFAS testing has been performed on Duncan Lake. Jelsema stated that PFAS testing is normally conducted after finding foam on the water's surface and Jelsema provided a brief overview of the PFAS testing process. Jelsema suggested reviewing what the testing entails before agreeing to test the lake. Campbell stated that as a resident of Duncan Lake that he has never seen PFAS foam on the lake

and suggested referring this matter to the Duncan Lake Association to discuss and determine whether testing needs to take place.

22. United Way Day of Caring: Bremer stated that the United Way Day of Caring will be held September 12th and 14th. Please let him know if there are any projects that the Township can ask for the volunteers to support on those days.

Committee Reports

23. Administration: The committee stated that Macy Defouw has accepted the position of office coordinator and will start on July 15, 2019.
24. Cemetery: Willshire stated that a cemetery committee meeting is needed to discuss signage/bench in Walter R. Eavey's honor for the new section at the Mt. Hope Cemetery.
25. Elections: None.
26. Emergency Services: None.
27. Finance: None.
28. Parks and Recreation Representative: Bremer reported that the next TAPRC meeting is Thursday, July 11th and reminded the board to utilize the Charity Shed in front of the Marketplace for returnables. In addition, TAPRC will be looking at putting together a job advertisement for a new TAPRC director to replace Catherine Getty. Getty has stated that she will stay in the position until a suitable replacement is hired and trained.
29. Personnel – Compensation: None.
30. Property, Public Utilities: Campbell stated that he will reach out to the StoreFront, Inc. to determine when the construction of an ADA compliant front entryway will begin.
31. Roads and Highways: None.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Eaton stated that TTES will be participating in the Sgt. Michael Gower Key Ceremony on July 13, 2019. Eaton has reached out to the Wayland and Caledonia fire departments to see if they could bring their ladder trunks to the ceremony. Eaton also informed the board that TTES received a turtle tube from the 5th District to aid in grain/silo rescues.

POLL OF MEMBERS:

Jake Jelsema, Trustee: None.

Sandra Rairigh, Trustee: Rairigh stated that she has received positive feedback as to the 4th of July Fireworks held at the Thornapple Kellogg Soccer Fields.

Curt Campbell, Trustee: Campbell discussed that a previously installed drain solution on Noffke Drive sustained heavy damage during a substantial rainfall on July 4th. The Barry County Drain Commissioner has been notified of the issue.

Ross DeMaagd, Trustee: DeMaagd stated that the Dawn Patrol's pancake breakfast and airplane rides will be held on Saturday, July 13, 2019.

Deb Buckowing, Treasurer: None.

Cindy Willshire, Clerk: None.

Mike Bremer, Supervisor: None.

MOTION by Jelsema, support by Campbell to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION APPROVED** with 7 yes voice votes.

Adjournment of meeting by Supervisor Bremer at 8:48 p.m.

Stephanie L. Skidmore, Recording Secretary

Approved _____