

# TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Vacant, *Supervisor* / Debra K Buckowing, *Treasurer* / Cindy A. Willshire, *Clerk*  
 Curt Campbell, *Trustee* / Ross DeMaagd, *Trustee* / Kim Selleck, *Trustee* / Sandra Rairigh, *Trustee*



269-795-7202 - Fax 269-795-8812 - thornapple-twp.org  
 PO Box 459 - 200 E Main St. - Middleville, MI 49333

**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Held by teleconference (978) 990-5348**  
**December 14, 2020**

**1. INVOCATION**

**TIME: 7:00 P.M.**

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**3. ROLL CALL**

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Present Present Present	Rairigh: Selleck: Willshire:	Present Present Present
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Mike Bremer, Chief Eaton, Catherine Getty, Eric Schaefer, Amy Brown, Sherry Ronning, Joe Johnson, Luke Froncheck, Patricia Rayl			

**4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:**

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing– Motion to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of 9a. Board Meeting Dates and 14c. Barry county 911 dispatch appointment to oversight board.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Motion approved by roll call vote.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Selleck: Willshire:	Yes Yes Yes
------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing – Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Motion approved by roll call.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Selleck: Willshire:	Yes Yes Yes
------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------

**6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:**

- A. Sherry Ronning - On behalf of the village of Middleville, she would like to offer condolences on the loss of Dan Parker.
- B. Mike Bremer thanked everyone for allowing him to be a ‘fly on the wall’ at tonight’s meeting.

**7. COUNTY REPORT:**

<b>County Commissioner Elect Catherine Getty:</b>	She stated that everyone is still kind of shocked at the passing of Dan Parker and that it is with a solemn heart that she takes on this role. She has been observing the county commissioner meetings. Two meetings in December have been canceled and have shifted the COW and board meeting to online. The board meeting will be held on zoom tomorrow. They will be holding a public hearing on the annexation of the NTA Landscaping property into the village of Middleville at tomorrow’s board meeting. They will also be voting on whether to allow a millage for Middleville village’s wastewater treatment plant expansion. Also, they will be making several appointments to committees later in January with the new board coming on.
<b>Board Response:</b>	None.

**8. RESERVED TIME:** None.

**9. CLERK’S REPORT:**

- A. Township Board Meeting Dates for 2021 – Second Monday of every month at 7 pm.  
Willshire asked if anyone had a preference as to the day or time. Stated that they could be adjusted at this time if anyone was interested. DeMaagd stated that he was fine with 7 pm start time. Campbell and Rairigh also said 7 pm was fine. There was no dissenting comment made. Campbell asked about roll call voting and if it was necessary for all items. Bremer stated it is not an official rule, but we did have to have a vote which can be by voice. Only resolutions or money spent need to have roll call votes.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire – Motion to approve the Board Meeting Dates for 2021 - 2nd Monday of every month at 7 pm.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Motion approved by 6 voice votes.

**10. TREASURER’S REPORT:** None.

**11. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT:** None.

**12. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:**

- A. Summary- The EMS meeting minutes show that full time staff has discussed wages and benefits, but that will be discussed shortly. They also discussed that the first part of December was kind of busy and then they went all 72 hours without a call. They expect to end the year only slightly lower than last year at a thousand calls. A company called Hex Armor donated 30 pairs of safety glasses or googles to TTES as part of their Covid PPE. They are being handed out as staff works their shifts. TBC also dropped off a Christmas gift basket of snacks and goodies (like warming socks) to TTES. Chief Eaton wanted to thank them for their generosity and support. Chief Eaton stated that the State of Michigan will not be issuing credit for any more in person continuing education. They are requiring all training to be held online. Eaton has heard that Caledonia Fire Department uses “Target Solutions” and another EMS person who certified the ambulance recently mentioned “Fire Rescue One.” Eaton will be finding out more soon. Although now that the vaccine is available, he wonders if they will be allowed in person training once they have been vaccinated.

**13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- A. Broadband/internet Update – None.
- B. Ordinance update – None.
- C. Salary/Benefit Adjustments for 2021/2022 fiscal year – Bremer stated that the board can have the conversation tonight or defer it to the next budget meeting. Willshire stated it would probably be best to have at the budget meeting. She asked if everyone was in favor of that? Three members of the board voiced their agreement with no dissenting comment being heard.
- D. Township Supervisor transition – Willshire said she would like to appointment Eric Schaefer as Thornapple Township Supervisor starting January 1 to fill out the term for the four years. Campbell asked if that was a motion? Willshire affirmed it was. Campbell stated that he supported that motion. The board discussed the process for appointing someone to the Supervisor and the deadline involved otherwise it would require a special election. DeMaagd stated that he was interested in the position and wanted to discuss that. Selleck stated that he did not know Schaefer. Bremer gave a summary of information about Schaefer. Then the roll call was taken. Eric thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve even though it’s the worst way to have happened with Dan Parker’s passing away.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire - Motion to appoint Eric Schaefer as Thornapple Township Supervisor starting from January 1 until the next election in November of 2022.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Motion passed with a roll call vote of 4 yes and 2 no’s.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Yes Yes No	Rairigh: Selleck: Willshire:	Yes No Yes
------------------------	-------------------------------------	------------------	------------------------------------	------------------

**E.** Adoption of Resolution 17-2020 Tax Increment Revenue Sharing Agreement – Bremer explained that a similar resolution had been passed but that resolution would have taken place incrementally where this one would be effective immediately and thereby providing about \$10,000.00 - \$12,000.00 to Emergency Services for their budget.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing - Motion to approve Resolution 17-2020, Tax increment Revenue Sharing Agreement.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Resolution 17-2020 adopted by roll call.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd:	Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Selleck: Willshire:	Yes Yes Yes
------------------------	-------------------------------------	-------------------	------------------------------------	-------------------

**14. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.** Adoption of Resolution 18-2020 Land Acquisition Project Agreement with Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Willshire invited Bremer to give a summary. Bremer stated that this was necessary as part of the ongoing grant process for the trail heading north from Middleville. Buckowing asked when and where the money needed to be sent from the Township. Bremer stated that it did not need to be sent to the DNR or State. It would go directly to pay the residents for either the sale or easement rights of their property. Rairigh asked if Bremer would be negotiating on behalf of the township? Bremer stated he could not, but suggested Getty could do so as the Zoning Administrator and Eric Schaefer as the new Supervisor would be added to the paperwork on the grant application. Selleck asked who the landowners were and where the trail would be located. Bremer clarified that the property is the old railroad bed from Crane/ Finkbeiner to where the tunnel is and going north toward Caledonia. He named some of the landowners. Buckowing asked the board for permission to set up a separate account for the \$150,000.00 with assigned general ledger numbers for these funds for tracking through the entire process. The board gave its agreement by voice with no dissenting comments made.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing - Motion to approve Resolution 18-2020, Land Acquisition Agreement with Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Willshire

<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Resolution 18-2020 adopted by roll call.
-----------------------	--

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes

**B.** Approval of 2021 Holiday Schedule – Willshire asked if there were any questions or concerns about the schedule? Rairigh asked about December 23. Willshire answered that Christmas Eve falls on a Friday in 2021 so it is observed the day before since the office is not open on Fridays.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing-Approve 2021 Holiday Schedule for the township offices.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Willshire
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Motion approved with 6 yes voice votes with no dissenting voices heard.

**C.** Barry County 911 dispatch board appointee – Doug Peck (Hope Township Supervisor) was recommended to fill the one seat on the board which represents all the townships in Barry County. The term is four years. If the board has any concerns about his appointment to the board, then they have been requested to email Stephanie Lehman and let her know. If, however, the board supports his appointment then no further action is required.

**15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A.** Administration (\_\_\_\_\_, Buckowing, Willshire) Buckowing requests Eric Schaefer stop by the office before January 1, to meet the staff, pick up new hire paperwork, as well as get his door code. Eric thanked everyone and said he is looking forward to working with them.

**B.** Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) – Nothing for now but rates will be increased soon. Selleck asked what Shaw Cemetery was. Buckowing explained that it is an endowment fund from Julia Shaw for use on non-ordinary type expenses for the cemetery. Buckowing also stated that the village of Middleville had done some road work at the cemetery.

**C.** Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Bremer) – Noting new. Everyone has seen the news reports.

**D.** Emergency Services (DeMaagd, \_\_\_\_\_, Rairigh) – Nothing new except that there was discussion about the suggested changes to the compensation package that will be covered at the Budget meeting.

**E.** Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, DeMaagd) – Nothing new here.

**F. Parks and Recreation Representative (\_\_\_\_\_)** – Bremer stated that the minutes of the TAPRC board meeting we in the consent agenda and so perhaps Schaefer may decide to remove this item from the Committee section as it would really be a duplicate to the minutes.

**G. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, \_\_\_\_\_)** – None, as it is to be discussed at the Budget meeting.

**H. Property and Public Utilities (, DeMaagd, Campbell)** – Nothing new.

**I. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd)** – There are more potholes but otherwise nothing new.

**17. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Patricia Rayl from the village of Middleville gave her condolences on the passing of Dan Parker. She also wanted to congratulate Eric Schaefer on being appointed as the new Township Supervisor. Mike Bremer also congratulated Eric Schaefer.

**18. POLL OF MEMBERS:**

**Kim Selleck (Trustee)** – None.

**Sandy Rairigh (Trustee)** – If Schaefer is Supervisor, will he need to step down from the Board of Review? Bremer stated not yet as he will not start until January 1 and can then find someone to replace him. Rairigh also wanted to confirm that Bremer had been removed from the health insurance and Voya pension? Yes, he had.

**Ross DeMaagd (Trustee)** – None.

**Curt Campbell (Trustee)** – Welcome Eric Schaefer to the board and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Deb Buckowing (Treasurer)** – Also echoed what Campbell said.

**Cindy Willshire (Clerk)** – Also, agreed and welcomed Eric and wished all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Supervisor) –

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

**TIME: 7:54 P.M.**

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing– Move to adjourn
-----------------------	----------------------------

<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Motion approved by 6 voice votes.

---

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved \_\_\_\_/2020\_\_