

TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

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



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PO Box 459 - 200 E Main St. - Middleville, MI 49333

REGULAR MEETING Held by teleconference (978) 990-5348 February 8, 2021

1. INVOCATION
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL

TIME: 7:06 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Buckowing: Present Campbell: Present DeMaagd: Present Rairigh: Present	Schaefer: Present Selleck: Present Willshire: Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Catherine Getty, Amy Brown, Chief Randy Eaton, Mike Cramer, Patricia Rayl, Jean Gallup	

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd– Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended with addition of 13 d. Resolution 3-2021 Poverty Exemption Guidelines.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by 7 voice votes – All ayes.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell– Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	DeMaagd
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by 7 voice votes – All ayes.

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

Commissioner Catherine Getty:	Getty stated that the board has been meeting via zoom. They have been busy making appointments to committees and there are many candidates. This means working through interviews which is somewhat of a lengthy process. This also involves union negotiations as well.
Board Response:	

8. RESERVED TIME: Mike Cramer, Village of Middleville regarding Police Services. At the village they are looking into a review of their 20 plus year contract with the village police. Something of note that came from our Sargent, was that it could be beneficial to allow the township to join into the contract. Would the township be interested in a shared services agreement? Would be interested in discussing the possibility of amending our

agreement to add a deputy and add coverage to the township. If anyone is interested in joining the discussion, we could set up a meeting time to discuss. Schaefer asked Cramer if he had any ideas as to the cost? Cramer said it might be \$45,000.00 to add a deputy and then more for another cruiser. It's really a discussion at this point though.

9. CLERK'S REPORT: Included in the Consent Agenda.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT: Included in the Consent Agenda.

11. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: 2020 Annual Activities Report – There's a summary of the zoning amendment. Last year they established some standards for special events venues in greenhouses and in barns. They did an extensive update to the Township Master Plan. It was a major accomplishment for the Planning Commission. There is also a summary of the zoning activities over the last year. Zoning Permits were slightly down from last year. We issued 91 permits this year in 2020 and 95 in 2019. There were 15 new dwellings and in 2020 and in 2019 there were 20. There was a transfer of special use and renewed 3 site plans. 3 private roads with 1 still pending review. The most common request last year involved land divisions. First administrative appeal last year and the ZBA upheld the administrator decision. The applicant amended their project and were issued a zoning permit. There is also a summary of the code enforcement activity and were able to bring residents into compliance by talking with them rather than having those issues end up in court. PCI provides year-end information which gives building permit information for the county. Rairigh and Schaefer thanked Getty for her work on the Annual Planning and Zoning Report.

12. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

- A. Cummins generator 3-year service plan – Quote # 119829 for \$1,710.75 – In 2016 they had a battery explode inside the generator and it cost a few thousand dollars to get it back up and running so the maintenance plan is worth the investment.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing– Motion to approve 3-year service plan for the generator for \$1,710.75.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes votes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	Rairigh:	Yes		

- B. Personnel: Chief Eaton asks the board to approve the hiring of Julian Buchan. He has been working at LIFE ambulance for a couple of years. He is available to pick up a few shifts.

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd– Motion to approve hiring of Julian Buchan.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by voice vote. All ayes.

C. Critical Care Transport Stipend – We have an opportunity to transport someone from a smaller hospital to a larger hospital who is in critical condition such as requires a ventilator or other medications. If they have a critical care paramedic who can transport the patient TTES has the opportunity to make \$300.00. Joe Johnson meets the requirements of a critical care paramedic and lives in town and is available to come in by call-in if he isn't on a shift. Eaton requests that for each call Johnson be paid \$30.00 stipend for responding to the on-call response. When already on shift he would not receive the extra stipend.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing– Motion to approve critical care transport stipend of \$30 for the qualified TCEF personnel performing the on-call transport.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes	Schaefer: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Selleck: Yes
	DeMaagd: Yes	Willshire: Yes
	Rairigh: Yes	

D. Summary: (Included in the Consent Agenda) In the summary Eaton would like to touch on a few items of review in 2020. We started off January and February they were 10% ahead of the year before. Then Covid-19 started and in 6 of the 10 next months, there was a decrease of 41%. Covid changed a lot in the EMS world. The number of EMT or paramedics allowed on site was limited. One person would go inside and while the other was there to bring any additional equipment needed. The amount of PPE has increased from gloves, to gowns, googles, face shields, and all kinds of wipes and hand sanitizers and decontamination for the ambulance. They did acquire a UV light in June and it was used to decontaminate the ambulances as well as wiping down surfaces. It's also used in the station. Early on, TTES partnered with Eaton Barry County Health Department to possibly transport Covid patients between hospitals. While the Bravo was originally set aside for that purpose, it never really panned out. Thanked the township hall for their help getting supplies early on. After the fall of 2019 firefighter training school, they were able to graduate 4 guys in July of 2020 after a delayed Barry County Fire School graduation. TTES overall gave just over 1,000 hours of trainings. Covid did cost them 3 months of training in the Spring and then 14 weeks or so in the Fall where they couldn't get together for training. 2020, made several purchases. 2 new CPR devices, 2 new heart monitors, trailer for UTV, and a new ambulance has been approved. 300 burn permits issued with a 6-week shut done by the state fire marshal in the Spring. Turn overs had to give up 48 calls. This year only turned over 35. Last year took 168 calls, this year they took 169, 83 were from Mercy in Hastings. 2018 had 965 calls, last year in 2019 1,067, and in 2020 1,026 calls.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution 2-2021 Health Insurance Plan Renewal – Rairigh stated that during the November Board meeting she had asked if the renewal had occurred. Buckowing stated that the renewal did happen, this is the resolution piece that has to happen and that it’s just a formality.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing– Motion to approve the Resolution 2-2021 with the exemption.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes	Schaefer: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Selleck: Yes
	DeMaagd: Yes	Willshire: Yes
	Rairigh: Yes	

14. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Appointment of Craig Stolsonburg to Board of Review

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing– Motion to approve the appointment by Schaefer of Craig Stolsonburg to the Board of Review.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by voice vote. All ayes.

- B. Addition of a sliding service window with fold down shelves for \$766.00. Rairigh asked if it’s to the right of the door into the office area? Schaefer explained it is opposite Denise’s area. Rairigh asked if it’s to the right? Yes. Buckowing stated this will help out with Planning and Zoning as well. Covid has changed how we do business and this will allow people to meet guests at the window rather than have them brought into the office area. Getty stated it would help her and that a couple of different options had been looked at. This would make interactions much more comfortable. Getty asked if the 2nd quote had been included? Schaefer stated that a 2nd quote had been received but it was over \$3,000.00.

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd– Motion to approve the addition of a sliding service window with fold down shelves for \$766.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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C. Boardroom Projector to Monitor upgrade \$785.68.

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd– Motion to approve the purchase of a boardroom monitor upgrade for \$785.68.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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D. Resolution 3-2021 for Poverty Exemption Guidelines

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd– Motion to approve Resolution 3-2021 Poverty Exemption Guidelines.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire) None.

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) None.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) Email from village of Middleville, they have chosen a new DDA director. It will first need to be approved by the village council. Once approved the announcement will be

made. Also, the riverbank music series is going to be finalized this week as well as a schedule of events for the summer time.

D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Selleck) None.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) None.

F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) Buckowing noticed that in the EMS minutes, it was mentioned that there are new fees for Accumed. Buckowing asked Eaton if she should send them on or if Klutman would be doing that? Eaton stated Buckowing could do that.

G. Parks and Recreation Report (Schaefer) Meeting last week with 2 new board appointments. Tom DeVries will be replacing Amanda Fisk on the board. Finalized the 5-year rec plan and uploaded it to the DNR trust fund grant website. Preparing for the 2021 baseball softball season with Covid protocols for a start in April. Preseason training for coaches will be done online via video links. Also, as way of an update on the trail project DNR grant, they are at a stage where they’ve done due diligence report and ordered a 40-year title search. They are proceeding through the steps of the trust fund grant and hope to be negotiating with property owners soon.

H. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Selleck) Willshire sent an email about an addition to the handbook regarding recognition of years of service by EMS personnel. Willshire asked if there were any issues with its addition? DeMaagd stated he liked the idea but wondered if it needed to be in the handbook. Buckowing stated that it does need to be listed in the handbook showing the policy in order to make it a legal expenditure and not just for one specific person.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing– Motion to accept the addition to the personnel handbook in regard to an Emergency Services recognition item.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by voice vote. All ayes.

I. Property and Public Utilities (Schaefer, DeMaagd, Campbell) None.

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Campbell stated that historically there has been a January meeting at the Road Commission which the committee attends and where they go through the road review for the township and shares some high-level detail. This time it was by zoom. DeMaagd stated they usually get a written report and it would be a good resource to review. DeMaagd said it is an urgent situation and that the township needs to do everything it can to address the need. Getty agreed, and said it would be worthwhile to have the entire board attend the zoom meeting to go over the information. It’s better to maintain the roads rather than rebuild the roads. Yankee Springs has a 4-year plan and budgets for maintenance and has done so for several years so they know how much they can spend on

roads. Getty encouraged the board to set up a zoom meeting to go over the information with the Road Commission.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – Feasibility Study – Request to reactivate GL# 804-000-800.400 and amend the amount of budget to have \$7,000. Campbell asked if the GL# is expressly for feasibility studies. Schaefer stated it is listed as for engineering and that the feasibility study would fit nicely there. Buckowing asked if \$10,000.00 would be better because of other expenses.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer– Motion to approve the reactivation of general ledger code 804-000-800.400 and budget \$10,000.00 to put Feasibility Study expenditures there.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes	Schaefer: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Selleck: Yes
	DeMaagd: Yes	Willshire: Yes
	Rairigh: Yes	

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.

18. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Thank TTES for how much they do and in such a professional manner.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Concerns about meeting by zoom.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Appreciate optimism and willingness to tackle it.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Short term rentals in the community. A township resident approached Campbell and Getty regarding this issue. He recommends that the township consider a policy regarding short term rentals in the community. Campbell heard a story about an incident on Campau Lake where the renters damaged the property and a neighbor’s property during a party. Tonight, is just to bring it to the board’s attention and see where it goes from there.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – 2020 taxes are due Monday, March 1 at 5 pm. 30% left to collect in the next 3 weeks.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – None.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Experiment with a zoom budget meeting on Wednesday. Confident it is going to go alright.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:17 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer– Move to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by 7 voice votes. All ayes.

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved_____/2021__