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

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



TIME: 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING ZOOM MEETING & IN PERSON May 10, 2021

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

ROLL CALL:	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd: Rairigh:	Present Present Present Present	Schaefer: Selleck: Willshire:	Present Present Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Brad Lambert, Frank Fiala, Bryan Finkbeiner, Catherine Getty, Chief Randy Eaton, Amy Brown. Via Zoom: Patty Rayl and Thye Fischman and Rebecca Pierce			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve printed agenda as amended with the addition of		
	13c. Dust abatement budget amendment of GL# 101-449-930.100 to \$16,200.00 and		
	13d. Gravel roads budget amendment of GL# 101-449-930.300 to \$22,000.00.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire		
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved with 7 voice votes.		

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing		
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved with 7 voice votes.		

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

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County	Getty stated the county board had taken several actions including: approving a map			
Commissioner	change from conservation reserve to rural residential in Irving Township, Spectrum			
Catherine Getty:	Health Pennock is allowing some land next to the urgent care in Hastings to be used			
	as community garden, declared April as Child Abuse Prevention Month,			
	reappointed Jack Minor and Joyce Snow to the Barry Co. Planning Commission,			
	appointed Jessica Bontrager as a citizen-at-large to the animal shelter advisory			
	board, reappointed Anne Richards to the Barry Co. jury board, approved change of			
	software providers from Tyler Tech to Fidlar Tech for the upgrade of vital records			
	and land records, approved some staffing changes in the register of deeds and land			
	and information offices, authorized issuance of a bond for the Village of			

	Middleville's sewer system upgrade, approved the MERS health care agreements and approved the update to the hazard mitigation plan.
Board Response:	No questions offered. Schaefer thanked Getty for the information.

8. RESERVED TIME: Brad Lambert, Barry County Road Commission – Lambert presented a slide presentation to the board (included in the board packet) which outlined the current state of the roads in the township as compared with the rest of the state. He stated that 15% of the roads in Barry County are considered in poor condition which is the best in the state. The PASER rating for the county is 7.1 and in Thornapple township it is 6.14 which is slightly lower than the county average. This indicates that the roads are aging and need to have more maintenance work done to improve the PASER score. Lambert presented the spending trend by the township versus the cost of road maintenance showing the growing disparity. Also, Lambert showed spending by the township in previous decades where the spending was high and what that amount would be given an inflation rate of 3% vs 7%. Lambert pointed out that the cost of materials has risen significantly and therefore the cost of the repairs. He recommended several roadway projects based on what the board had already approved as a 4-year budget of \$100,000.00 per year. Lambert explained the cost of each project and gave the funds to be contributed by the road commission which come from their general revenue. He explained that the revenue comes from gas and weight taxes mostly. Frank Fiala another member of the Barry County Road Commission added that some funds also come from a 4.5 mill bond that was approved and allows them to work ahead of funding from the townships. He said it was important to get the right fix at the right time. Lambert also gave examples of other townships with 10-year plans of maintenance and have passed a millage to provide funding for it. Lambert explained that Thornapple Township is the fastest growing area in Barry County and the most populated township and he would like to see the PASER rating come up some, however, it could only be done successfully in partnership with the township board. He asked if the board had any questions and Buckowing asked if, based on the previously approved 4-year spending plan of \$100,000.00 per year, the township would receive an invoice from the Road Commission and if so when. Lambert explained that they would send an invoice and usually they send it in August or September, but they would be open to trying to accommodate the township if another time in the calendar worked better. Selleck asked about the projects listed and had they already been started? If so, how if it hasn't been paid for yet? Lambert explained that yes, some projects have already started but some are federally funded projects. DeMaagd asked if the road commission would still spend the funds even if the township voted against these projects? Lambert replied that the road commission would spend the funds on some projects, but he wouldn't be able to say where in the county it would be spent if the township did not want to partner with the road commission on those projects. He stated that the Cherry Valley project that has already begun is funded with federal dollars mainly with some gas and weight tax dollars. Buckowing asked if the board had already approved the 4 years of funding, does it need to approve these specific projects? Lambert said, yes, the board should approve the specific projects they are willing to partner with the road commission on funding. Rairigh asked about how the repairs on 108th were paid for? Lambert explained that roads which border on two counties are assigned as jurisdiction to each specific county road commission throughout the state. This makes the work more efficient. For example, when the road needs to be snow plowed, one county road commission does it rather than plowing one side of the road and then having to wait for another county road commission to come and plow the other half. That wouldn't be as efficient so there are no shared jurisdictions each county takes ownership of a segment. Campbell thanked Lambert for the road commission filling in potholes on Noffke Dr. However, he realizes that once we get some

more rain those may open back up. DeMaagd asked if the widening of the road on Cherry Valley near Finkbeiner is going to include a bike lane? Lambert indicated that it is not technically a bike lane but is the wider shoulder and is often used as such. DeMaagd asked about the section that is not widened and were there plans to fill that gap between where it widens. Lambert stated that he did not know of that specific area and what DeMaagd was referring to but was willing to look into it. He said that generally that doesn't happen that way and would not expect this project to turn out that way.

9. CLERK'S REPORT: Willshire stated that she had completed the cancellation of voter master cards of those who have not voted in the past five years and purged them. All continuing education offered at this time for elections has been completed. The Cemetery committee has met and is waiting on bids for the repair of some private roads within the cemetery. The Department of Conservation has scheduled a meeting to discuss options for dealing with the sassafras in the old section. The committee also recommends putting some money toward repair of old foundations and headstones. Dates are set for the general and health insurance ad-hoc committees. Willshire stated she has begun reviewing the general ordinances as well as updating the uniform chart of accounts.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT: None.

11. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Getty shared her report on the boardroom's monitor which was also included in the packet and stated that zoning permits are continuing to be issued. Also, she had just received her first request for a permit for a new house for the 2021 building season. Getty asked if the board had any questions about her report? No questions were offered.

12. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Replacement of fire hoses from capital improvements, NTE \$6,000.00 – Chief Eaton stated that this had been discussed at the April board meeting and that they would really like to go ahead and replace the fire hoses at this time. They had a tested out a 2-inch leader hose at a fire about a month ago and really liked how it worked. Eaton felt it was worth purchasing as currently they have a hose which they have to pry into the reel with a broom handle and then is difficult to unreel.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the replacement of fire hose (including the 2-inch		
	attack hose) expenditure not to exceed the cost of \$6,000.00.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire		
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	Selleck:
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B. Summary – Chief Eaton reviewed the monthly summary with the board saying that there were a 109 calls in the month of April. With the busiest day having 9 calls. There were 29 of 30 days that had calls and 8 days with 2 hits which is up from March. The year to date total was 389 calls and last year to date had 306 calls. Campbell asked Chief Eaton if this was true to the national average? Eaton replied that it was.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Personnel Committee recommendation regarding 'Overtime Policy' and 'Insurance Deductible Policy.' Schaefer stated that it is the third time this has been brought before the board. Willshire clarified it is the first time for the overtime policy and the third time for the insurance deductible. DeMaagd asked if the full-time employees have been consulted about the policy change. Chief Eaton said they didn't hesitate to say yes. Willshire also explained that it is hard enough to get the shifts filled and that with the comp time off then those extra shifts would need to get filled which is a challenge.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve the overtime policy and insurance deductible		
	policy.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh		
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by 7 voice votes.		

B. Lion's Club Contract and YMCA Contract – Schaefer included a chart in the board packet showing the budgeted amount of \$8,000 for various community promotions. Most of the funds have already been allocated with only \$1,050.00 left remaining. Schaefer said he is looking for recommendations to either increase the budget or split the remaining funds between the Lion's Club and the YMCA. Buckowing said she felt the board had cut too much from the budget because they were basing it on the previous year that had been cut due to Covid. Selleck agreed that the budget was cut too much, and he would like to see the board spend \$2,500.00 on the fireworks and \$1,050 to the YMCA because the fireworks brings a lot of people into the community and it's a nice celebration. Buckowing agreed about the fireworks but clarified that the YMCA was only asking for \$500.00. Schaefer asked if it made sense to amend the budget to \$10,000 from the \$8,000. Rairigh reminded the board that Green Gables had been in the consent agenda as well. Buckowing reminded the board that another project was Memorial Day not just being the parade but also the collective funds left over that come from the Village of Middleville and Lyon's Club and the township go toward helping a veteran's honor flight to Washington DC. Willshire asked if the budget could be amended to \$12,000 or \$14,000 since \$10,000 would only cover the Lyon's Club fireworks and the YMCA. Selleck agreed it would be better to budget more since this is only the second month of the new budget. Campbell reminded the board of the Barry County Fair. Buckowing thanked Campbell for reminding them as the booth at the fair is really an opportunity to network with the village and county board members. Getty added that along with the expense of the booth there is also the cost of the promotional materials that let you engage with residents. Schaefer asked if \$12,000 was more reasonable. Buckowing agreed that it was a better idea. Schaefer asked if there were any further questions. DeMaagd asked where the money would be coming from? Buckowing stated it would come from the general fund. DeMaagd asked if there was enough there? Buckowing said yes, it is physically there, and the fund is as healthy as it has ever been. DeMaagd thanked Buckowing for that assessment.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve a budget amendment of the community		
	promotions account to \$12,000.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire		
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.		

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

Fireworks - Buckowing then made the motion regarding the fireworks and Schaefer asked the board if there were any questions, comments or concerns. Rairigh reminded the board that during the last discussion about the fireworks it was said that the budget was cut due to Covid but that they had talked about going back to the same amount spent in 2019. Rairigh asked what that amount was. DeMaagd thought it was \$500.00. Rairigh said that was last year's amount, but she was asking about the year prior. Schaefer clarified that the Lyon's Club was asking for \$2,500 because they wouldn't be asking small businesses to contribute this year after such a difficult year. DeMaagd said he felt that \$1,500 would be more reasonable and still a step up from what they had done in the past. Buckowing agreed that it was, but again it was to make up for what they would normally have gotten from small businesses.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve an expenditure of \$2,500.00 to contract with the Lyon's Club for a July 4 th fireworks display.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck		
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 5 yes and 2 no votes.		

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd: Rairigh:	Yes Yes No No	Schaefer: Selleck: Willshire:	Yes Yes Yes
	Rairign:	No		

YMCA – Schaefer asked if anyone would like to make a motion to partner with the YMCA? Rairigh asked if this would also need to be a contract. Buckowing stated yes, they would have to send an invoice for contractual services. DeMaagd asked where the services would be provided? However, then decided that the discussion would be after the motion was made. Schaefer asked again if anyone would like to make a motion. No one responded. DeMaagd said he would like to hear from them before presenting a motion. Schaefer said that it had been included with last month's board packet but that he could invite them to next month's meeting as well.

C. Dust Abatement Budget Amendment – Buckowing requested to Schaefer that perhaps they could combine C and D and discuss them together? Schaefer agreed. Buckowing explained that the dust abatement and gravel roads was just missed when the budget was originally discussed.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to amend the dust abatement budget GL# 101-449-930.100 to			
	\$16,200.00			0
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire			
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.			
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ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	Rairigh:	Yes		
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MOTION STATED:	Buckowing -	Motion to amend the	gravel roads	budget GL# 101-449-930.300 to
	\$22,000.			_
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire			
MOTION STATUS:	Motion appro	ved by roll call. 7 yes	and 0 no vot	tes.
ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	Rairigh:	Yes		

D. Gravel Road Budget Amendment - See above.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the Barry County Road Commission's 4-year road			
	projects plan as presented for Thornapple Township roads.			
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

14. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Progressive AE Design and Construction Services for Duncan Lake Sewer expansion \$53,758.00 and \$4,200.00 for rate study. Buckowing asked if the rate study expenditure be voted on first. Selleck asked if the

funds were available. Buckowing confirmed the funds are there in the sewer fund account. Selleck asked if someone had said they needed an ordinance to establish a rate. Campbell stated that the hook-up rates were updated in the fall, but he did not recall needing an ordinance. Finkbeiner explained that there was a discussion about an ordinance, but clarified it would be something that could happen after the rate study was completed. Campbell said that a lot of people are fuzzy on how the original numbers got created and then the rates got stagnate for a while and then we said, we need to bump that up because it's not enough to cover the costs and that is how we got where we are. Campbell agreed with Selleck that at some point it would be wise to get the rates into an ordinance. Campbell said he would like to see that happen based on whatever comes out of the study. Selleck agreed with that plan. Buckowing asked if the sewer system is going to be expanded to include new entities. The Township is not allowed to pay for any of that. Buckowing asked if there are new entities or individuals will they bear any financial burden? Campbell explained that they will. There is about \$400,000.00 in the Duncan Lake Sewer Authority Fund to be used to expand the system in two pieces. There is \$110,000 in Those who are already on the system are intended to pay for that upgrade. efficiency to upgrade the facility. Then there is about another \$300,000 that is going to be used to expand the system from 150 to 180 REU's, That would be expected to be paid for by the additional users – new homes, the church or whoever - would be expecting to pay for that in time. They are trying to work on a way to come up with the funds up front to pay for Buckowing questioned with it that would be paid off over time. Larry Schaidt is trying to work out a plan. whom he would be working on that? Buckowing explained that the rules that govern government money are different from the rules that govern private borrowing so it's important to understand those rules ahead of time. Campbell said he is confident that Larry is not looking at the Township fronting it. Buckowing stated that we do have legal counsel available to help assist them through the process. Campbell said that Schaidt is swizzling something up and he is sure he will see something about that in the paper. Campbell said he thought Larry would be at the meeting but hasn't made it. Selleck added that looking at the facility there are things that are 30 years old and this is trying to bring it into this century, so it won't be adding a lot of construction, but a lot of mechanics and that makes how we're going to get the extra REU's out of it. Selleck asked Finkbeiner to clarify. Finkbeiner said just to let the board know, they are talking about raising the system to 180 REU's, but this is not to add more customers. It's just those blank lots that are on Noffke Drive that will allow us to handle the flow. Otherwise, the system is maxed out as far as Spring discharges. Peace Church was explored as an option in the beginning to see if it would help share the cost while expanding the system, but there are no plans to include them in the system now. Finkbeiner said he believes this is not in the interest of the Township or the residents on Duncan Lake. Rairigh asked if she understood correctly that the \$53,758.00 is paid for by the Duncan Lake Sewer Authority Fund. Schaefer and Buckowing said yes, through the GL account starting with 804. Campbell said they have reserves to cover that. Buckowing said they have about \$180,000.00, so enough to cover the cost of \$53,758.00.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve an expenditure of \$4200 from the Duncan Lake		
	Sanitary Sewer Fund to pay for Progressive AE to do a rate study.		
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire		
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by roll call. 7 yes and 0 no votes.		

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
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	Campbell:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	Rairigh:	Yes		
MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve an expenditure from the Duncan Lake Sewer Fund of			
	\$53,758 to pay	y Progressive AE for	engineering a	and administrative services on sewer
	updates and expansion design of the system only for those currently using the			
	system.	F11		, g
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck			
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		

B. Phone Committee Recommendations (IVS, Spectrum, ATT) – Schaefer explained that Denise has done a lot of work on this project. The IVS will cost \$150.00 per month, but the Township will have to buy their own phones. They would be limited to 3,000 minutes per month. Schaefer explained that if they go over and go to 4,500 minutes, it would be an extra \$75.00 per month. Rairigh asked how many minutes do we currently use. Schaefer said AT&T doesn't track that number. Schaefer said this is just for informational purposes and Campbell asked if there was a meeting this week. Schaefer answered yes on Thursday, May 13, and invited anyone to come. Buckowing asked if the committee was ready to make a motion on this. Schaefer said more information would be given them in the meeting and that they expected the price to change as there would have to be changes at the TTES building. Campbell felt it would revise some of what was in the packet. DeMaagd asked if it was hard-wire or internet-based? Campbell answered that it would be internet. Selleck asked if this would change the internet provider as well. Campbell said yes at the Township hall but not at the TTES building. Schaefer said that the current internet plan has 20 mbps, but the people he talked to said that an office our size should be getting at least 200 mbps. Selleck stated he went from AT&T to Spectrum and went from 10 to 100. The other items in the packet are just for informational purposes. Schaefer said he was going to talk to AT&T about breaking the contract because the Township hasn't been getting the speed they promised. Schaefer said the slow speeds could be because of Aunalytics rather than AT&T. Schaefer said they would be talking more about this at the next meeting.

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire)

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) Rairigh asked about recommending a budget amendment for the foundation repairs. Willshire said yes, the \$1400.00. She stated she hadn't drawn up a formal request on it. Rairigh asked if the board needed to vote on it? Willshire said it is the same as the previous year. Rairigh asked if it should be amended since it will be spent on foundation repair rather than mapping? Willshire explained that both those items are in the same GL account, so it isn't really necessary, but she would be happy to make that motion. Buckowing stated she would support that. Schaefer then requested a roll call. DeMaagd said he still has 5 different people looking at the paving situation, so he will have more on that later.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to approve spending \$1400.00 on headstone restoration rather		
	than mapping within the Cemetery budget.		
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		

- C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer)
- **D.** Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer)
- E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh)
- F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh)
- G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) Baseball and softball games started tonight. They are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays. Picture Day is on Saturday and in conjunction with that they are having a public input session for the Sheridan Road Park Project. A booth will be set up behind Page Elementary to see what people would like to see besides baseball and softball fields.
- **H.** Personnel Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Schaefer)
- I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell)
- J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Campbell said he felt we'd covered that and thanked the Barry County Road Commission for coming out.
- K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) Campbell said again that we'd covered that as well.
- **16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Thye Fischman wanted to give a brief legislative update. Rep Calley has been busy in Lansing. She recently co-sponsored a House Resolution granting to the House

TIME: 8:42 P.M.

Oversight Committee subpoena power as a result of some of the things that have happened with the executive branch and it's about transparency so that the public can understand what's been going on with closed door agreements. Election reforms are continuing. Rep Calley co-sponsored a bill that mainly would require county clerks to update the qualified voter file and going back and cleaning up that data. The city or township clerks would then review that cancellation and under the plan it would be performed weekly and four to five days before the election which would keep records clean and restore voter trust across the state. The Covid Recovery Plan continues on and Rep Calley believes this is laying the foundation for a brighter future, specifically helping struggling families and helping children who are behind in terms of education. This is House Bill 4420 and is coming up shortly for a vote. Rep Calley recently celebrated the Lofts in Middleville which was a great project in partnership with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. Finally, Rep Calley continues to host office hours in person on Fridays at the end of every month. The Thursday prior to the office hours you can schedule an appointment time for in person or a zoom meeting if you like. Feel free to reach out with any concerns.

Chief Eaton reminds the board that starting on the evening of May 20 and going to May 23, they will be holding the swift water rescue class. A few people from Cascade and Caledonia will be coming to fill the additional slots they have available.

17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) - None

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Thank you to Barry County Road Commission for coming to tonight's meeting.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Asked Getty about code enforcement of home business? Seems odd. Getty explained that this is an ongoing situation and does not pertain to working from home due to Covid.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Thank you to Barry County Road Commission.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – Thank you to Duncan Lake Sewer Authority.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) - None

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Thank you to Bryan, Brad and Frank for being here tonight.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by 7 voice votes.

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Ceny Brown

Approved 6/14/2021_