

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 ZOOM MEETING & IN PERSON September 13, 2021

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Buckowing: Campbell: DeMaagd: Rairigh:	Present Present Present Present	Schaefer: Selleck: Willshire:	Present Present Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Randy Eaton, Catherine Getty, Amy Brown, Rob Ranes, Rachael Kruisenga, Mark Kolean, Andrew Beck, Pattie Rayl, Patty Campbell			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve printed agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Approve the consent agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: Andrew Beck from the Middleville Lion's Club gave his thanks to the Thornapple Township for their support and participation in the 4th of July Celebration and fireworks held in Middleville this summer. He also asked that the township board consider making a three-year commitment of support that would allow for more long-term planning such as music venues. He hopes that between the village of Middleville, the DDA and the township there could be a three-year cycle allowing for support from each entity. Beck asked the board to consider this idea but asked for no direct commitment at this time.

7. COUNTY REPORT: Getty said the ARPA deadline was due on Friday and that more and more information is becoming available about what kinds of purchases qualify under the APRA funding. The County Board approved rezoning request presented by Bay Pointe. The courthouse parking lot was repaved and painted recently as it had been scheduled for 2020 and had been delayed due to the pandemic. New adult probation software was purchased and implemented. Census information is being reviewed and it is possible that with the redistricting there will be 8 county commissioners on the board rather than 7. There has been a lot of growth in the Northwest region of Barry County. In the past, Barry County had 8 commissioners, then because of population changes it went to 7. Now it may change again.

8. RESERVED TIME:

A. Andrew Beck (Middleville Lion’s Club): See above public comment

B. Mark Kolean (Shoreline Technology Solutions): Mr. Kolean stated that a proposal had been included in the packet. He said Shoreline has worked with IVS in the past and suggested to the township that it might be a good fit. Kolean asked if the board had any questions for him. Rairigh asked him who were some of his other customers. Kolean said that he works with other townships and municipalities in Ottawa County, Allegan County as well as one customer in Muskegon County. Buckowing asked him if he works with larger companies. Kolean responded no, usually they are between five and fifty employees. Campbell said he would wait until later to ask his questions as they are more for the board rather than for Kolean.

9. CLERK’S REPORT: Within consent agenda

10. TREASURER’S REPORT: Within consent agenda

11. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Chief’s Run Report Summary – It has been another busy month. They are up 198 calls year to date as compared with last year. They are averaging 4.16 calls per day, and they had seventeen double hits this month with two occasions where there were three calls in the morning and then again in the afternoon. They gave up seven calls and had 37 turn overs from others. Buckowing asked the Chief if he thought this trend would continue? The Chief responded that they’ve noticed this trend from Mercy sending them more calls as well and they have been working on a plan to respond.

B. Summary – Chief Eaton requested the board approve the hiring of 6 new applicants to TTES. He is hoping for one medic, one EMT, two firefighters and two firefighter recruits. They would be for paid on call or part-time, but no full-time people at this time. Chief Eaton said he had filled three lieutenant positions. Medic 51 will get a front-end alignment tomorrow and thereafter on for further evaluation regarding the shaking. Chief Eaton gave a big thank you to the board for supporting their Turkey Dinner fundraiser. He also thanked the community of Thornapple Township for coming out and supporting them by buying a dinner and purchasing raffle tickets. The funds raised will be used for swift water rescue supplies, but they are reviewing their list of items and will make a final decision soon. Buckowing complimented the department on what a good job they did to make Heritage Days a success with the Turkey Dinner.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the hiring of six new TTES employees as either paid on call or part-time.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Phone System upgrade (Port Date moved to September 23, 2021) – Schaefer advised that AT&T has agreed to port over the phone numbers, and he has been in discussion with other IT providers to support the township with the process.

14. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Transition of Township IT Services from Aunalytics to Shoreline Technology – Schaefer explained to the board that he had requested proposals from Aunalytics who didn't respond. There was another company that also did not respond. Shoreline responded as well as one other provider. However, they were more expensive and wanted to bundle services that the township wouldn't need. Campbell asked if this was an expected change and wondered why this would be done now. Buckowing explained that during covid, the market for IT providers had changed and Aunalytics is more geared toward larger customers such as large corporations and hospitals. When a need arises, they service their bigger clients first. A different provider who serves smaller sized customers might provide better service as they are more used to dealing with smaller customers. Campbell stated that he was part of the phone transition committee and didn't recall anything about needing to change IT service providers as part of that transition. Schaefer explained that, for example, part of the phone transition was that a switch needed to be upgraded. Aunalytics had quoted a Meraki power over ethernet switch at a cost of around \$8,000.00 to install and configure it. Schaefer already had board approval for about \$5,000 to have IVS do the switch along with the rest of the phone transition. Schaefer then asked Aunalytics for more information about how they calculate their fees. Kolean also mentioned that the Meraki router even if used, would result in little to no difference in service as the internet service isn't fast enough to notice the difference. Selleck said that he has had a terrible experience with Aunalytics in regard to getting his email issues resolved. Rairigh also said she has issues with getting her township email to work. Rairigh asked Schaefer if this was his recommendation. Schaefer confirmed that it was.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh -Motion to approve transfer of the township's IT service from Aunalytics to Shoreline Technology Solutions.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes's and 0 no's.

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

B. Agenda Request – Oak Opening Workday Supplies (\$147.56). Schaefer explained that a workday to treat the growing sassafras trees had been scheduled but due to the heat, it had been canceled for the time being. Nonetheless in preparation for the day, Getty had purchased some supplies consisting of herbicide and gloves needed for the project. Getty said she had about 16 volunteers coming on Thursday, and the

high school football team planned on participating. Buckowing asked if any more supplies might be needed for the workday. Getty responded that Sarah Nelson said that this amount of herbicide should last a while, but they may need to buy some bottled water. Buckowing suggested that they amend the motion to NTE \$200 to allow for any other expenses that may come up. Willshire asked which GL # should be used. Buckowing suggested using some of the Shaw funds for this project. Willshire and Rairigh agreed. Schaefer asked Campbell if he would be willing to revise his motion to include the NTE \$200. Campbell agreed. Buckowing also agreed to the revision. Getty said that there has been a lot of growth since this Spring, and she has picked out a few areas to start working on along with direction from Sarah Nelson. The 16 volunteers will be starting on Thursday, the YMCA day of caring. The next workday is scheduled for October 10 with a rain date of October 17. Rairigh asked if there was poison ivy. Getty said all volunteers have been advised as to how to dress knowing the conditions. Schaefer said that they could “tackle” this with some help from the football team.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell - Motion to approve reimburse Catherine Getty for Oak Opening workday supplies in the amount of \$147.56 and any additional expenses NTE a grand total of \$200.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes’s and 0 no’s.

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

C. Agenda Request Annual Exemption for Health Insurance Resolution 12-2021 – Rairigh stated the Ad-Hoc Committee had several meetings looking at the current carrier as well as other carriers and have decided to stay with the existing health insurance plan realizing that an 8% employee premium payment will be needed to make the amount the township pays slightly less than what the township paid two years ago. The overall goal is that the employee portion would get to 20% contribution rate which is the national average. Also, for anyone not taking the insurance, the stipend would be decreased from \$4426.76 per year to \$4,200.00 per year. Campbell asked which option on the resolution would be the one selected. Selleck also wondered if they got to choose one of the three options on the resolution. Buckowing explained it would be option 3 for this year. Campbell asked if they could choose option two, 80/20%. Campbell understood that the board wanted to move toward the 20% but by taking baby steps toward that and so for the time being they would need to select option three. Rairigh agreed that yes, that was the plan and that she hoped to get to 20% by the time of the next term. Rairigh requested the board handle this in two separate motions, one for the Resolution and one for the percentage employees pay.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire - Motion to approve Resolution 12-2021 Annual Exemption for Health Insurance (option 3)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes’s and 0 no’s.

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

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing - Motion to accept Ad-Hoc Committee's recommendation for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to increase the employees' portion of the cost of the health insurance premium to 8% and to decrease the opt-out stipend to \$350.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes's and 0 no's.

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

D. Agenda Request Sewer Connection Fee Resolution 13-2021 and rescind Resolution 15-2020 – Selleck asked if both could be done in one motion and Schaefer explained it would need two separate motions. Selleck then made the first motion. DeMaagd asked if it would be worth reading the contents of the resolution for the public present. Ranes said he had read it. Schaefer then read the part of the resolution which said the hook-up fee would be \$11,000 for the remainder of 2021 and would then be increased to \$12,000 starting January 1, 2022. Schaefer then said he'd like to rescind the resolution that set the hook-up fee at \$25,000.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck - Motion to adopt Resolution 13-2021 Duncan Lake Sewer Connection Fee Chart.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes's and 0 no's.

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

MOTION STATED:	Selleck - Motion to rescind Resolution 15-2020 Duncan Lake Sewer Hook- up Fee Chart.
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MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes's and 0 no's.

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

E. ARPA Funds Status: audit completed – approved (\$514,551.00) –Schaefer said that he had included the ‘Notice of Approval’ in the board packet for informational purposes and feels the board should schedule a meeting to discuss how the funds could be spent. Selleck asked if Schaefer could provide some guidelines as to how they could spend the funds. Schaefer said he hoped more information would become available soon. Buckowing suggests that board members review the strategic plan when considering how to spend the ARPA funds. Buckowing thanked Schaefer for all the hard work he put into the application to make sure everything was done correctly and on time. Buckowing also thanked Schaefer for going out of his way to help guide another township on how to apply for their own funds.

F. Agenda Request for Committee Stipend for Elaine Denton – Schaefer explained that Elaine Denton had been asked to work on reviewing the General Ordinances of the township and he felt the township should pay her something for her efforts. There has been one committee meeting so far. Campbell asked why there needed to be a motion for this action. Rairigh explained that because Denton was not on the township board and only on the planning and zoning commission that a motion was necessary to approve her payment for committee work. Rairigh explained that Denton was pulled into this project because she is very meticulous. Willshire explained that this is a separate job for the township that has nothing to do with the planning and zoning. Buckowing explained that there is an existing resolution which states that when it comes to personnel and pay the officers don't have the authority to approve it. That needs to be reviewed and addressed, but currently a motion by the board is needed to approve the pay for Denton's work.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh - Motion to pay Elaine Denton a committee stipend of \$45 per meeting for her service on the General Ordinance Committee.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with a roll call vote of 7 yes's and 0 no's.

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

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) – Rairigh asked if the flags from the cemetery would be removed during the YMCA Day of Caring. Buckowing said yes, the project was accepted and there was at least one person.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) – Schaefer explained that the Concert Series was done. Heritage Days was a success as well. Patriot Day was also completed with the help of Buckowing. Buckowing thanked Katherine Schmidt for the great job she did.

D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer) – None

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) We've covered this

F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) None

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) Getty confirmed there are two people signed up to pull the flags in the cemetery. There are a couple of TAPRC projects that didn't get picked up, but there are volunteers who are returning a mountain of bottles and cans. There are two concept plans for Sheridan Park. Getty will email a survey with questions for input on the plans. The next step is that Williams and Works will review plans and they'll complete their report which will include the cost of the plan and grant or other funding options. Once the report is finalized, Getty will present information to the village, school, and township. There aren't currently any sports going right now on the fields for TAPRC, but there is still other planning and preparation going on.

H. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Schaefer) - None

I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) – Campbell said the traffic lights on Finkbeiner are almost ready. Chief Eaton said many people have commented that they thought it was a four-way stop. Thankfully they have not received any emergency calls for an accident there. Willshire said there is signage that it is not a four-way stop. Selleck said that once electricity is provided it will be a week of flashing before it is active. Buckowing asked Rayl, the Village of Middleville manager, if she had any updates. Rayl said that they are waiting for the other construction projects to be finished up before they turn it on to flashing. Once it flashes for a week then it will become active.

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) – Campbell said 108th St, Gackler, Finkbeiner, Whitneyville from Crane to Parmalee and Garbow have all been chip sealed.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – DeMaagd asked if anyone had paid the higher hook-up rates under the old resolution that was rescinded today. Campbell and Buckowing confirmed there had not. DeMaagd was glad because he was wondering if any refunds needed to be considered. Campbell said that Peace Church had not gotten back with Larry Schaid when he offered for them to go in at 50% of the cost. Campbell is not sure if this is a final answer or if there is going to be more discussion. Schaefer said Triple Point is redesigning the upgrade of the system based on some samples that had been provided to them. Rairigh asked why Larry Schaid was the only person talking with Peace Church. Campbell explained that the DLSA felt the timeline was fast approaching to get financing secured. He needed to know whether Peace Church was in and for how much. Rairigh asked if Campbell would be the contact person to talk to Peace Church. Campbell said the church was going to get back to them by the end of August, but it hadn't happened. Buckowing said she had concerns because the board has the final authority rather than the DLSA as an advisory committee to the township board. Rairigh agreed. Buckowing stated that it is important that the township board considers the professional advice received when making decisions going forward.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

A. Rob Raney – Feels that a lot has been learned about the hook up fees and was glad that the board decided to change the hook-up fee back to \$11,000 rather than setting it at \$12,000 right away. However, he feels that it would be beneficial for Peace Church and DLSA to work together on the expansion. Raney has some concerns about how things are being communicated. Also, Raney isn't confident that the costs are accurate as to the whole cost for the expansion/ upgrade. He knows it's important to get the system fixed and soon. 19 of the 23 were prepaid. He asked Buckowing to provide documentation to those 19 owners that they can have for their records in case there are changes in staff at the township. Also feels it is important to have better communication going forward about whether new people will be allowed on the system and what the costs are. He thanked everyone that has worked on resolving this issue and said there may be a house up soon across the street from him.

B. Deb Buckowing – Confirmed that the information Rob Raney said was correct. He had contacted Buckowing to confirm the correct information when he had been given other information from a person that is not on the board. Buckowing said it was really important that the person representing the board be a member of the board or have the blessing of the board to ensure correct communication. Buckowing said she had talked with Raney and Schaefer about how important it is that the board have everything worked out and final before communicating that information to those on the system so there isn't any misunderstandings about what is going to happen. Raney said it is important because there is a lot of money being collected in the quarterly billing and those with a special assessment. He feels it is very important to make sure more information is reviewed before making a decision.

C. Patty Rayl – Congratulations to all of us on the new growth in the area as shown in the 2020 census data. Rayl says with a lot of new people in town that they will be interested in the new amenities offered in the area. She is looking forward to working on those projects.

D. Rachael Kruisenga – Thanked the board for reviewing the hook-up fees and all their work on it.

17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Agreed with Rairigh that the Sheridan Park designs look great.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Looked over the Sheridan Park designs, and they look fabulous.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Explained about the difference between Hastings Flying Association and Thornapple Flying Academy to Buckowing and board.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – None.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – Thank you to the Thornapple Flying Academy for the fly over they did as part of the Patriot Day celebration. Buckowing said she has been involved for the last 5 years of Patriot Day and 17 years of Memorial Day celebrations and she very much appreciates the Fly overs that pilots have done. Buckowing also wanted to clarify that she appreciates all the work that DLSA has done. When she mentioned some issues of neglect, she wanted to clarify that it wasn't by the DLSA but rather many years ago in the township records. She wanted to apologize if there was any misunderstanding about that.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – None.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – None.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:29 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 10/11 /2021__