

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



REGULAR MEETING ZOOM MEETING & IN PERSON October 11, 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:	Patty Rayl, Chief Randy Eaton, and Amy Brown			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve printed agenda as amended with 13d. containing an additional snow plowing quote and 13e. to rename Resolution listed from 2021-14 to Resolution 14-2021.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: Patty Rayl, manager from the village of Middleville, came to notify the board of the article in the Sun & News regarding the trail bridges being found in poor to severe condition after inspection. The cost to repair or replace the bridge is very expensive. They were hoping to re-deck them and get another 20 years use. However, they feel it is more cost effective to replace the bridges and it would last another 50 to 70 years. The cost would be \$800,000.00

7. COUNTY REPORT:

County Commissioner Catherine Getty:	County board meeting – A motion was passed by a 5-1 vote with 1 absent to tie funding in the budget for the Barry portion of the Barry Eaton Health Department to the absence of a mask mandate. Getty explained she was the one “No” vote because she believes the whole of the budget should not be tied to one specific policy. Getty acknowledges this is a very polarizing issue for the community.
---	--

	<p>Getty said she has seen a lot of social media bullying happening. Getty reported that during a health department meeting there was an attempted citizen's arrest made.</p> <p>ARPA Update – the county has received its first round of funding of 6 million dollars. 19 applications for those funds have been received so far for a total request of 15 million dollars of funding. Jennifer Heinzman chairs the ARPA funding committee. They have just started to review the applications. If the board has questions about what the township can fund, she would be a good point of contact to help understand the requirements of the projects.</p> <p>Census and Redistricting – Getty presented the current and proposed districting map based on the census results. If approved, the final districting map would create 8 districts rather than 7. The changes would impact the precincts within Thornapple Township.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>DeMaagd asked what was the result of the motion which passed. Getty clarified that a resolution would be drafted and presented during a closed session of tomorrow's county board meeting. DeMaagd asked what it means to tie the budget to the mandate. Getty replied that the resolution would follow similar to what the state had passed with its budget. The health department would lose funding if a mask mandate were in place.</p> <p>On another topic, DeMaagd asked Getty what the letter P on the code enforcement report signified. Getty said she would ask Brad and get back with DeMaagd.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME: None

9. CLERK'S REPORT: In consent agenda

10. TREASURER'S REPORT: In consent agenda

11. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Chief's Run Report – Reviewed run report included in consent agenda. There is a 40.2% increase in calls as compared with September of 2020. They are up 30.89% in the YTD total for 2021 versus 2020.

B. Summary – Chief Eaton stated they have seen a big increase in suicidal calls, threats of violence and drug overdoses which may be due in part to stressors related to the pandemic. Second, ISO came in for an audit last week. It was the first audit that the chief has been a part of as it has been a few years since they came to TTES. It went well overall. The auditor gave some ideas on how to track trainings

differently which would make the audit process move more quickly. Schaefer asked Chief Eaton about the training that was held this past Saturday. Eaton explained that a Rescue Task Force training session had been held at the TTES building. Law enforcement, EMS, and the fire department train for combined response to various emergency situations. There will be another training in December and then likely an onsite ‘live’ training later on.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. ARPA funds status: Received \$257,275.50 so far. See ARPA fact sheet and ARPA FAQ – Schaefer explained that an informational booklet had been included in the agenda packet as a resource to review which could help understand what projects could be funded. Schaefer repeated that Getty had offered Jennifer Heinzman’s name as a contact to go to if there were questions regarding what projects could be funded with ARPA monies.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2022/2023 budget meeting 10/14/2021 @ 7:30 am – Schaefer asked the board members to please add to their calendars. Selleck stated he would not be able to attend as he had a prior commitment.

B. Agenda Request – Fire Safe Cabinet – Schaefer explained that Denise Piering had gotten multiple quotes and Amazon came in lowest. He suggested they purchase the fire safe filing cabinet for a price not to exceed \$2900. DeMaagd asked if it included shipping and Schaefer replied that it did. Buckowing reminded the board that it had approved this expenditure in 2018, but the staff had rearranged items and they were able to put off buying one at that time. Campbell wondered who specifies this requirement and wondered if this had come from the MTA or state or something. Buckowing replied that it was a township requirement to ensure the records are not at risk of being lost due to fire. Rairigh asked if the records had been digitized. Buckowing stated they had not been. The records stored in the files are the only record.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire - Motion to approve purchase of Fire Safe Cabinet NTE \$2900.00
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 – Supervisor Non-Statutory pay – Rairigh spoke on behalf of the Finance Committee and asked the board to consider an increase to Schaefer’s non-statutory duty pay. She explained that this was coming from the Finance Committee rather than the Personnel Committee because Schaefer was part of the Personnel Committee, and it didn’t seem appropriate. The Finance Committee believes the possible pay increase is more than offset by the savings Schaefer has brought to the township by having

the knowledge and skills to address the rising costs that the previous IT service provider was charging. DeMaagd said he really likes Schaefer and appreciates all the work and effort he has put into the process. However, DeMaagd feels it is wrong to tie his compensation to savings on the invoices. He believes it is part of the job to cut costs. DeMaagd feels that in the private sector an outstanding performance is rewarded with a \$50 gift card or a cake. DeMaagd said he is seeing reckless spending by the federal government and has concerns about this increase. Buckowing said that this pay increase has nothing to do with what the federal government is doing or the federal monies coming in. Buckowing stated that in larger townships they have both a general manager and a supervisor, but we don't have that here. She stated that in 2016 the board was almost convinced to spend a lot more money to upgrade the phone system, but Schaefer was able to navigate the change over without spending a ton of money. Buckowing believes the township is getting a good deal and that they are being good stewards of the funds. Schaefer's work was accurate and prompt saving the township a lot. Buckowing stated that compensation should be tied to performance rather than taking extra services for free. She stated that was the whole purpose of the transition which occurred when the salaries were split between statutory and non-statutory duties. This incentivizes doing more, above, and beyond, just the statutory duties. DeMaagd said he feels the township should use the money to hire another full-time paramedic. Rairigh stated that one of their goals was to get medical insurance costs down and they were working towards that and have made progress already. Campbell agreed with Rairigh.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire - Motion to approve Supervisor non-statutory pay to \$12,340/year
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved with roll call vote of 5 yes's, 1 no and 1 abstain.

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

D. Agenda Request – Snow Plowing – Schaefer presented the board with three quotes from NTA, BR Construction and Lawn Boys and said he thought NTA was the best price. Schaefer said he would ask NTA about moving snow further, so a parking space isn't lost. Schaefer explained that a snow event is considered when it snows at least 1.5 inches or more.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire - Motion to approve snow plowing service with NTA for a cost of \$140 per snow event.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
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. Agenda Request – Resolution # 14-2021 – Buckowing explained to the board that this resolution is needed to revise Resolution 4-1988 when a few parcels were removed from the assessment rolls as it was understood that utilities would not be needed at the property. The owner had two properties and only one had hook up at the time. Over the years, the property changed, and the parcel needs to be added back to the assessment rolls. Campbell asked about the price. Buckowing explained it was the price of the hook-up starting in January, plus the STEP components and the Stub charge. Schaefer confirmed that Getty had contacted GVL and Lyons to get more information about the fees. Campbell and Schaefer and the board confirmed that these prices are subject to change as the cost of parts and labor can and do change. Campbell also asked if there are any other parcels that need to be addressed. Buckowing confirmed that this was the last one. There had been other issues, but they had all been addressed previously. Campbell asked if the Traum issue had been addressed. Buckowing stated that he had been contacted already by the Finance Committee and are currently waiting a reply.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell - Motion to approve Resolution 14-2021 – Revise Resolution 4-1988 to add parcel 0814-080-001-00 back to the assessment roll at \$12,800.00.
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		

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire) None

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) – DeMaagd said the road work is scheduled for approximately October 18. They do not do crack sealing as they have been too busy.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) BooFest, Christmas on the River, Art committee, Wifi on Main St; and Riverbank Music for next season all in the works.

D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer) None

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) Nothing further

F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) Nothing further

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) They have a meeting coming up regarding the plans for Sheridan Park that will be located next to the cemetery and will feature ball fields, pavilions, and walking paths.

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

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

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Buckowing notified the board members that the first payment budgeted for roads had been made. Selleck asked if the resident who came and shared at public comment about the road had his concerns addressed. Campbell said yes and no. The road work was a multistep process and believes the situation has improved since the complaint. However, he has not reached out to the resident and doesn't know if his complaint is resolved. Campbell feels 108th street is worse than before. There are four speed bumps now that weren't there before. However, there is more uniformity than before, and it has been painted so realizes the project is complete.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – Campbell said that Peace Church had offered a counter (based on REU counts) to the DLSA's original offer. At the October 4 meeting, DLSA voted to not accept Peace Church's counteroffer. Along the way, Progressive Engineering did more research which showed a fair amount of ammonia which indicates the lagoon needs more air before dealing with the BOD's, which is what they really need to treat. 180 REU capacity would cost about \$600,000 to 1 million. But the quote for 160 REU's hasn't been received yet. Campbell stated that he thought getting 3 phase power out to the lagoons will likely pay for itself in 3 years but is part of the price being almost double. Campbell said there are a number of parcels that are already platted or that could become platted in the future which would mean more joining the system in the future. That would be a total of 150 to 160 accounts on the system. However, even if they go to a 180 REU system, they will still only need two lagoons because they would be making the two operate more efficiently. Also, with better aeration they would be able to discharge three times a year as opposed to two times a year and also use their own chemicals injected from the bottom rather than alum on the surface. Selleck stated that the equipment is 30 years old, and it is time to update. Campbell stated the township quickly needs to figure out how to pay for this system. He reminded the board that the township owns this system. Campbell admitted he didn't have those answers as far as the process to set up the loan. Buckowing said it appears DLSA is getting closer to a cost figure and once they have that number, they will be able to take the next step. Campbell figures it may be close to one million dollars. Buckowing said she thought it was closer to \$350,000. Campbell explained that there are two pieces to this project. \$250,000 to \$300,000 to improve system they have today and add on 10 more for capacity of users. Campbell admits he doesn't want to pay for the part that is the expansion since he is on the system and has already paid his dues. However, Campbell feels there isn't likely much savings from dropping capacity from 180 REU's to 160 REU's but will know more once

Progressive's report comes back. Selleck said that municipal bonds are cheap right now. Buckowing stated that they will be talking with the bonding agent and bonding attorney soon and most likely will be working under PA 99. Campbell said he would be willing to sit in on the meetings but wasn't sure he could be of much assistance as finance is not his area of expertise.

L. Oak Opening (Getty, Schaefer, Selleck) – Sassafras treatment was scheduled for October 10, but was delayed due to the rain. The herbicide would not work as well so it is rescheduled for this coming Sunday, October 17.

15. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Patty Rayl, manager from the Village of Middleville, stated that the village council was revising the contract they have with the county sheriff's office because it is really old, from 1999. It is in need of revision and it's in a malleable state. So Rayl asked the board how happy they are with the service they are getting from the deputy sheriff. Buckowing replied that from her view, it's kind of hard to know because they haven't received information about what service the township is or isn't receiving. Schaefer also said that he had asked how many calls are being responded to inside the village and outside the village in the rest of the township, but that he hadn't received an answer to that question. Furthermore, Buckowing stated she had not received any information explaining what the possible cost to the township could be, nor any kind of proposal. Also, reading about what council members said about the township in the paper regarding this issue was not appreciated. Schaefer stated he didn't receive any information about how much milk we were getting or how much the milk cost. Rayl said she thought that it had been shared with Schaefer but would get the information to him. Buckowing stated that, regardless, it was stunning and felt it was very unneighborly to see the comments in the paper. Rayl said she thought they had gotten the information and felt very shut down so that is why those comments were made. Buckowing said, even if they had gotten the information, she still felt it wasn't necessary to make those comments.

16. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – No comment.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Nothing.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – I'm good.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – I said enough.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – I'm good.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – I'm good.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – I'm good.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:36 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 11/8/2021