

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 November 8, 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 Absent
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Randy Eaton, Commissioner Catherine Getty, Amy Brown, Patty Rayl, Greg Chandler (arrived at 8 pm)			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell - Motion to approve the printed agenda as amended with 11 A. added Request to purchase door opener motor for TTES and 13 C. revised.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing - Motion to approve the consent agenda as amended with 10/25/21 meeting minutes pulled out for discussion, and the revenue and expenditure report updated to include all departments not just sewer.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck - Motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 11, 2021, with the phrase 'a closed session of' stricken from the County Commissioner's Report.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

<p>County Commissioner Catherine Getty:</p>	<p>Getty stated that the Barry County Budget for 2022 of \$ 19,269,628 was adopted. They released the county’s legal opinion regarding the Health Department’s mask mandate, termination of the Health Officer, oath of office and withholding of county funding. The attorney advised that the county does not have legal standing for these actions. The County Board also received the ARPA committee’s recommendation for the first round of funding of \$6 million. The committee of the whole will discuss the recommendations received prior to any final decisions. Also, a visit to the Branch County jail ribbon cutting ceremony was made by several commissioners. They will consider what information may help as they prepare plans to update the Barry County jail and in requesting a millage for such a project.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>Campbell asked Getty how much the jail cost. Getty stated that the Branch County jail had more beds. But some were ‘rented out’ to house inmates from other counties which impacts the overall costs to Branch County. However, Branch County did hire a private firm to help them explain the risk factors of the current situation and the need for a new jail to voters when they went for a millage to pay for the facility.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME: None.

9. CLERK’S REPORT: See consent agenda

10. TREASURER’S REPORT: See consent agenda

11. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Request for expenditures –

1. Chief Eaton explained to the board that the garage door had been malfunctioning and it was discovered that the door opener gear was bad and couldn’t be replaced. The first door was retrofitted a while ago. This request is for the second door to replace the motor as the part is no longer available. The third door has started to act up, but Zylstra was able to adjust that one and it is now working. Chief requests the second door opener motor be replaced at a cost of \$1280.00. Rairigh asked if that included the warranty. Eaton said yes. Campbell asked if it was a “Lift Master.” Eaton said that it was. DeMaagd asked if he could see the worn-out gear from the second door to see if it was possible to manufacturer a replacement for the third door for when it is needed.

<p>MOTION STATED:</p>	<p>DeMaagd-Motion to approve the purchase of a replacement door opener motor for a cost of \$1,280.00.</p>
<p>MOTION SUPPORTED:</p>	<p>Campbell</p>
<p>MOTION STATUS:</p>	<p>Approved by roll call. 6 yes votes, 0 no’s and 1 absent.</p>

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

2. Chief Eaton requested approval of purchase six Motorola pagers with chargers, warranties, and programming for a cost not to exceed \$3,500.00 as discussed during the Emergency Services Committee meeting on November 3.

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd-Motion to approve the purchase of six Motorola pagers not to exceed \$3,500.00
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 6 yes votes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

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

3. Chief Eaton announced that he has reviewed options for swift water rescue equipment. He announced to the board that a resident gave a very generous donation earmarked for this equipment and was very appreciative to them because these funds along with funds received through the turkey dinner held during Heritage Days and some other donations given in memorial, would be enough to make a purchase of dry suits and other starting gear needed for swift water rescue. Chief Eaton asked to board to approve a purchase in the amount of \$4,569. Buckowing suggested that the funds raised were closer to \$6,000. DeMaagd asked Eaton if there was other equipment on his want list that he could use all the funds up at once. Buckowing suggested making an initial purchase and then waiting to see what other needs might come up after the initial purchase was made. Chief Eaton said that he would review his list and see about getting closer to the \$5,000 mark with some for use in the future. Eaton again thanked the anonymous donor for their contribution.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh-Motion to approve the purchase of swift water rescue dry suits and accompanying equipment not to exceed \$5,000.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 6 yes votes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

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

B. Summary - Chief Eaton reviewed the call summary log included in the board packet. He specifically discussed the continued increase in calls received. He stated there is a 33.6% increase over last year at this time. DeMaagd asked Eaton with the increase in calls, how staff is handling keeping up with the administration side of things. Eaton said they have been able to keep up with paperwork at this time. Klutman had come in on his day off to get caught up. DeMaagd asked if the board should take action soon to get help. Eaton said not just yet. Getty asked Eaton why there is a such a big increase over last year. Eaton said he wasn't sure, but he thinks people are a little more nervous about their health. However, fires have also increased. Partly because the fire department become the first responder when the ambulances are already out on a call. Eaton believes residents across the county, as well as the state, are calling on responders more as they are nervous about their health partly due to the media coverage and their concerns over covid.

12. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. ARPA Funds – Jennifer Heinzman will be attending the next Budget Meeting to answer any questions the board has about what projects they are able to spend their ARPA funds on. Also, a reminder that there is still plenty of time to decide before having to spend those funds.

13. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Appointment of Residents – Schaefer explained that it is time to appoint residents to various boards again.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing-Motion to approve the appointment of Marty Wenger as a Board of Review alternate.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing -Motion to approve the appointment of Diane Vanderwerp as a ZBA alternate.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing-Motion to approve the appointment of Liz Hansson to the Planning Commission.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

B. Barry County Home Show (\$200.00) – Schaefer said that the City of Hastings, the Village of Middleville, and Thornapple Township would share a booth for a cost of \$200 each if the board decided to do that. Getty asked if it would be staffed by volunteers just like for the Barry County Fair. Schaefer said yes although he figured he would do most of the weekend hours if needed. Schaefer feels this would be a good opportunity to meet residents.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to host one-third of a booth at the Barry County Home Show for a cost of \$200.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 6 yes, 0 no’s and 1 absent.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Absent
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C. Resolution 15-2021 Partial Termination of a Farmland Development Rights Agreement with a Pre-Existing Structure – Getty recommends the board postpone the vote on the resolution to allow for further preparation. Schaefer asked the board if they were in agreement to putting it on the December board meeting. All were in agreement with that.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to postpone the vote on Resolution 15-2021 until the December Board Meeting.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no’s, and 1 absent.

D. Budget Amendment 101-445-808.000 (Professional Service, Drains) From \$1500 to \$2500

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the budget amendment to GL# 101-445-808.000 Professional Services, Drain from \$1,500 to \$2,500.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 6 yes, 0 no’s and 1 absent.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Absent
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E. 2022 Holiday Schedule – Schaefer asked the board to look at the schedule included in the board packet for days the offices would be closed for the holidays. Board members did not have any questions, comments, or concerns.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the 2022 Holiday Schedule.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no’s and 1 absent.

F. Planning Commission Recommended Ordinance Amendments – Getty explained that the need arose after a review of the ordinances when a special permit application had recently been received. The Planning Commission felt that it didn’t fit to allow two family dwellings in the less densely populated agricultural zone if it wasn’t allowed in the more densely populated agricultural – residential zone. This would push these types of dwellings to the joint planning as a possible annexation into the village. DeMaagd asked what the issue is if the health department says that a well and septic field are accessible on the property to supply a two-family dwelling then why not allow it. Why does it have to be limited to only if there is public water. These amendments give consistency and clarity to the issue of where two-family dwellings are allowed. Getty further clarified that mother-in-law suites and secondary structures are still permissible within both of those zones. DeMaagd stated he is a proponent of property owner rights. DeMaagd stated that duplexes on Kalamazoo Avenue where the density isn’t high doesn’t seem to be invasive. DeMaagd feels property owners should have the ability to do what they want. Selleck said he could understand agricultural property having duplex or multi-family homes on the property and that it seems reasonable to him. Getty stated that this isn’t further restriction but rather an issue of consistency within the zoning ordinances that are already in place.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to approve the Planning Commission’s recommended ordinance amendments regarding two-family residential buildings.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 4 yes, 2 no’s and 1 absent.

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

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) – DeMaagd stated that the recently renovated roads in the cemetery are complete and look great.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) – Schaefer said Christmas planning is underway and there will be a parade on Saturday, December 11. Schaefer and his wife will be emceeding the festivities.

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

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) – Covered already.

F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) – None.

G. Parks and Recreation Report (Getty) – Getty said TAPRC board with the Village of Middleville had melded the two Sheridan Park designs into one final plan. Williams and Works will be finalizing that design and then starting on an implementation plan. Funding will be the biggest issue though there are many grants available for which they hope to apply. They will likely take a phased approach and see development of the park over time. TAPRC has found a new home at the middle school for the Charity Shed and it will be moving soon. The dental office has changed ownership and now is a good time to make the transition. Although baseball and softball season has ended, there is still much work that is taking place. For example, the equipment shed on Crane Road is in disrepair and they are replacing it with a pre-built shed that will sit on a skid. That way it can be used for a couple of years at the Crane Road location until they move activities to the new Sheridan Park once that is built and ready for use.

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

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

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) – None.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – Selleck asked if they are still waiting on Progressive to come back. Schaefer confirmed they are. Campbell asked if Consumers Energy had come back with a price on the 3-phase power yet. Schaefer said yes and it is about what they had expected it to be, which is about \$140,000.

L. Oak Opening (Getty, Schaefer, Selleck) – No activity until the Spring.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Hopes that next time the rotation on the poll of members could be changed.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Pointed out the copy of the email she had received from Jake Jelsema, former trustee, and had given to each board member. The email stated there may be new options for sewer funding next year.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – No comment.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Asked Getty about the memo included in her County Commissioner report showing \$100,000,000 in funding. Getty confirmed this referenced a state-wide amount, not county wide.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – No comment.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – Absent.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – No comment.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:28 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 12/13 2021