

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 February 14, 2022

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Buckowing: Present Campbell: Present DeMaagd: Present Rairigh: Present	Schaefer: Present Selleck: Present Willshire: Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Randy Eaton, Amy Brown, Andrew Beck, Rob Dykstra, Grace, Smies, Isaac VanSolkema, and Dana Yarger.	

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to approve the printed agenda as amended with the addition on 13 Unfinished Business c. Peace Church - LOU
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to 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: None.

7. COUNTY REPORT: Schaefer stated that Getty was attending the school board meeting and that there was not a lot of new information for the board from the county commission at this time.

8. RESERVED TIME: Andrew Beck (Middleville Lions Club) – Mr. Beck stated that he really appreciates the township board's support of the fireworks display in July. However, he is requesting the board consider making a 3-year commitment with the Lion's Club for \$2,500.00 each year for the fireworks. This would allow for better planning. Buckowing asked if the Village of Middleville had been asked the same question. Mr. Beck stated he was going to be asking them next. He said the DDA had already made the same commitment. Buckowing said she felt this was a good idea for budgeting rather than being reactionary.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to approve a contract with the Middleville Lion’s Club for the 4 th of July Fireworks Display at a cost of \$2,500.00 per year for 3 years (2022, 23, and 24).
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	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		

9. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Schaefer introduced the Planning and Zoning Report that each board member had received on the table. He reminded members that Ms. Getty was attending the school board meeting and presenting information from TAPRC. DeMaagd asked if in the past it had included addresses. Buckowing commented that 9 permits already just for January is a lot of activity.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the Zoning Administrator Report.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

10. CLERK’S REPORT:

11. TREASURER’S REPORT: Revision of Investment Policy Resolution 05-2022 – Buckowing explained that this resolution was necessary to update the names of the banking institutions being used. It lists Commercial Credit Union rather than Commercial Bank as well as the other banks that were previously approved in 2021. Buckowing is just asking for an update to the one passed in 2021.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to approve Resolution 5-2022 Thornapple Township Investment and Depository Designation
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	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		

12. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

- A. Chief's Run Report Summary** – Chief Eaton reviewed the Run Report for January. It showed an increase of 60 calls over last year at this time so another busy month.
- B. Summary** – Chief Eaton continues to review the recent Supreme Court ruling regarding covid vaccinations and preparing for the March 15 deadline. Chief Eaton introduced a draft of a letter that he would like to send to the surrounding townships that receive and give mutual aid. He showed the increasing number of 'turn over from' calls. There is a 99% increase from 2020 to 2021. Many of the calls are for transportation that do get billed, however, more and more calls are for a small billable fee or no billable fee. Rairigh stated that it is not appropriate for TTES which receives funding from Thornapple Township residents' taxes to subsidize the cost of ambulance services for other townships. Schaefer said he would send it out to the neighboring townships. Chief Eaton said the second ambulance services that took place for eight weeks included twenty-one transports over seventeen days (two days a week.) Eaton feels it is worth it financially to continue doing it. Rairigh mentioned that it may be worth it to expand it to five days. Willshire asked if they have staffing for it. Eaton said not likely, but he would like to continue the two days a week with the second ambulance as that would be doable. The 3rd set of SCBA's were sent out for pressure testing and then there will be one more after that.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. ARPA Funds Status:** Audit completed – Approved (\$ 514,551.00)
- B. Additional Deposit of unallocated funds:** \$ 1,035.51
- C. LOU – Letter of Understanding to Peace Church:** Schaefer pointed out the draft of the LOU that board members had received at their places at the table and asked members if they had any questions about it. Schaefer said it is not legally bidding, but more just outlining certain points for understanding. He explained it would be subject to Peace Church's approval and authorizing the township supervisor and legal counsel to make non-substantive changes. Rairigh stated that a Peace Church representative had talked about their concern over only receiving one bid on the work for the system upgrade. Campbell stated that several builders had looked at the information on the Builders Exchange, but that no one had responded. The only bid received was from Oetman Excavating. Selleck stated that costs continue to rise the longer they wait and that they feel they need to continue to move forward through the process. Schaefer, Selleck and Rairigh all said they had hoped to get more bids but unfortunately, they hadn't. Campbell commented that he was glad to see that the additional details about when funds from the church escrow would be released regarding the timing of payments due from Peace Church was added to the letter of understanding.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to approve the letter of understanding presented at tonight's meeting subject to: (A) Peace Church's approval of the same and (B) authorizing the Township Supervisor and legal counsel to make non-substantive changes as reasonably necessary; it being the Township's understanding that any final
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	agreement with the Church must be presented to the Township Board for approval.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	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		

14. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 01-2022 Supervisor’s Salary – DeMaagd asked if the insurance was part of the compensation packet. Campbell said no. Willshire confirmed it is not part of this resolution and that it is on the agenda later to be discussed. Campbell asked about the non-statutory increase. Willshire said this is separate. Campbell asked what percentage of an increase this amount is. Buckowing said it is 5.9%.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve Resolution 1-2022 Supervisor’s statutory salary of \$34,586.00 for FY 2022/23.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 5 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstained.

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

B. Resolution 02-2022 Treasurer’s Salary

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to approve Resolution 2-2022 Treasurer’s statutory salary of \$42,150.00 for FY 2022/23.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 5 yes votes, 1 no vote, and 1 abstained.

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

C. Resolution 03-2022 Clerk's Salary

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve Resolution 3-2022 Clerk's statutory salary of \$33,672.00 for FY 2022/23.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 6 yes votes, 0 no votes and 1 abstained.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Abstain
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D. Resolution 04-2022 Duncan Lake Sewer Bond – Campbell asked how and when the details get filled in. Rairigh said they are mostly dates and will get filled in after those are decided.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to approve Resolution 4-2022 Authorization of Issuance of General Obligation Limited Tax Bond Series 2022 (Sanitary Sewer System – Capital Improvements)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes votes 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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E. DLSA Bid Recommendation for Sewer Upgrade – Schaefer said they only received one bid for the sewer upgrade.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to accept the recommendation from the DLSA for Oetman Excavating to operate as general contractor for the Duncan Lake Sewer Upgrade in the amount of \$509,265.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 7 yes votes 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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F. Estimate of Costs with Progressive AE – Rate Increase of \$10,500.00 for Progressive AE for additional engineering work on the sewer upgrade project. Campbell asked if that was new since the last meeting. Selleck asked if this was in part because of the additional aerators. Campbell asked if this was in addition to the last addition. Schaefer said yes, this is after the last increase. Campbell asked if this was due in part to Peace Church coming on. Schaefer said yes it was. Schaefer said he would talk to Dan and the attorney about these extra expenses. Rairigh wondered if Peace got additional charges from Progressive as well. Campbell said their work on that side is a separate issue. Buckowing said it is hard to say no when we are to this step in the process.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to accept the rate increase of \$10,500.00 for Progressive AE for the Duncan Lake sewer upgrade.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	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		

G. EMS Light Pole Replacement – Schaefer explained that some years ago a light pole at TTES was damaged. Eaton explained that a light at the upper-level parking area was damaged and so someone had moved a light from the lower parking area to the upper parking area which would be less noticeable. Schaefer admitted that it would have been better to file a claim years ago when this originally happened. Village Manager Patty Rayl submitted a request for the replacement cost not to exceed \$4,310.00.

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to approve the purchase of a streetlight fixture, pole, and cost of installation by the Village of Middleville DPW NTE \$4,310.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call. 6 yes votes and 1 no votes.

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

H. Emergency Services – Insurance discussion – Chief Eaton stated that Royal had gone on a call and couldn't be here but wanted the board to know that he feels that when he was hired on it was promised that part of his compensation was 100% health insurance coverage, but over the years they are being asked to pay more and more into the coverage. Chief Eaton suggested that not all the departments had to have the same employee contribution amounts. He said it would be possible to have one department at one level and another department at another level. DeMaagd said he had lots of questions for the board to consider. He asked if they could change the type of health insurance plan mid-year. He asked if the amount an employee pays for coverage could change mid-year. Campbell said that he thinks you can change the amount an employee pays at any time. DeMaagd suggested the township cover the entire cost of the insurance plan. Buckowing stated that everyone on insurance was asked before the renewal date if they would want a lesser plan with full coverage, and they decided they wanted to keep the plan they had and pay part of the cost. Rairigh asked if they had talked about paying the TTES staff more to adjust for the increased cost of insurance. Buckowing said that was discussed and was part of the reason for the \$3 per hour raise they just received. DeMaagd felt that raise was a separate issue. He feels the board should give full coverage. Buckowing said she'd hate to see the board lower the coverage they get because people were already asked and said they wanted to keep the plan they had. Buckowing said it takes a lot of time to go over all the information that the committee went through when looking at the different plan options. She also said the time for input was when the committee had worked on this and brought their recommendations to the board before the renewal rather than afterward. Buckowing asked DeMaagd what he wanted the board to do at this time. DeMaagd said he wanted to cover the cost of the premium for TTES. Campbell asked if the increase of \$3 per hour was tied to the increase in the employee contribution of the insurance premium. DeMaagd said it didn't get tied to the health insurance. Rairigh said that the raise was across the board to everyone at TTES. Schaefer said the employee contribution was likely where it was five years ago at Life EMS. Schaefer said in the private sector, insurance premium costs go up every year. Buckowing said that for the record she is not against covering the whole cost of insurance for TTES staff. Selleck asked if there was a menu of options and if the township plan was part of an umbrella or a stand-alone entity. Rairigh said that township did look at that option, but it wasn't cost effective. Selleck said in the private business world he doesn't know anyone who covers the full cost; however, he is not against covering the full cost for TTES employees. He asked about whether spouses must be covered by their own employers. Willshire said no, the township doesn't do that. DeMaagd asked what the impact would be on the budget to pay the full premium. DeMaagd said he'd like to see the board make a motion on this tonight if possible. DeMaagd estimated the cost at \$1600 or more per year. Schaefer tabled the discussion until more information could be gathered regarding the impact to the budget. Also, it was noted that the budget was completed, and it would now require a budget amendment.

15. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire) Nothing new
- B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) Nothing new.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) – Schaefer said the plans for the Riverbank Music Series is complete and speakers have been installed on the post so that people will be able to hear the music better.

D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer) – Willshire said there are no plans for a March or May election. DeMaagd asked if they were going to work on a mileage for Emergency Services. Buckowing said they would need to look at the assessor's report and see what rate would bring in what amounts first, after which they could work on the ballot language. Willshire said the deadline is in April.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) – This was covered.

F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) – This was also covered.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) Schaefer said that Commissioner Getty was at the school board meeting tonight to present the parks plan to them.

H. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Schaefer) – Nothing new.

I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) – Nothing new.

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) – Nothing new.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – This was already covered.

16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: None.

17. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Nothing

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – There is an ordinance meeting on Tuesday. Also, would like to re-visit the possibility of making the election of the township board non-partisan.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Nothing

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Nothing

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – Nothing

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – Nothing

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Wish all a happy Valentine's Day.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:28 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Motion approved by voice vote. All ayes.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 3/14/2022