

# 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

June 13, 2022

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

TIME: 4:10 P.M.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Buckowing: Present Campbell: Present DeMaagd: Present Rairigh: Present	Schaefer: Present Selleck: Present Willshire: Present
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Dana Yarger, Chad Klutman, Chief Randy Eaton, Commissioner Catherine Getty, Amy Brown, Greg Chandler	

### 4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire – Motion to approve the printed agenda as presented.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

### 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Buckowing – Motion to approve consent agenda as presented.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Willshire
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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### 6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

### 7. COUNTY REPORT:

<b>County Commissioner Catherine Getty:</b>	The Commissioners are being presented with various Annual Reports. Also, there is discussion about the old Friend of the Court building and who may want to use it in the future. The property does qualify for tax credits however, the developer was denied a permit due to the proximity to other manufacturers. There is interest in using it for low -income housing. Getty appreciates the possibility of more housing as she recognizes the need for it and feels it is a quality project. However, it is still being negotiated and Barry County may decide to hold onto the property. The commissioners will begin work on the County's budget soon.
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<b>Board Response:</b>	Schaefer asked Getty how old the building was. Getty responded that she didn't know the age, but people agree they don't want to see it torn down. Rairigh asked if there has been any progress on a millage request for the jail. Getty said there has not been.
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**8. RESERVED TIME:** None.

**9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:** Chief Eaton reviewed the Monthly Emergency Services Report and there were 112 calls for the month. There was an average of 3.61 calls per day, each day had at least 1 call and there were 8 days with double hits. The year-to-date total is up 81 calls from last year. Engine 56 had a flat tire while returning from a call and they had four new tires put on the next day. They plan to have new tires put on the tanker soon. One of the full-time TTES people resigned and they are working on finding another full-time person to hire in right away. The position has been posted online, but in the meantime, there will be more part-time people filling in and getting overtime. Chief Eaton continues to review the costs of purchasing a second truck.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: ARPA STATUS:** Audit completed and approved (\$514,551.00)

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A.** Potential tuition reimbursement program - Chief Eaton proposed to the board that they set aside funds from the general fund to pay the cost of paramedic classes for current employees who are EMTs. The cost is approximately 10,000.00 per student. The scholarship could be tied to the expectation to work a certain number of shifts per year. The employee would have to go through an application process and be approved first. If the employee were to leave after a certain amount of time, then a percentage of the scholarship would need to be paid back. Eaton suggested budgeting the money now so that it would be available once the first application is approved. Willshire agreed it was a good idea that should be investigated further. Buckowing also agreed, but said there should also be a minimum grade expected to be earned. DeMaagd felt it would be helpful to calculate the breakeven point and how much it would cost per shift. Selleck said he wanted to be sure that all personnel would have the opportunity for advancement at whatever level. Buckowing asked about the five people sent to fire school and if they had passed the course. Eaton said he didn't know yet, but that all had been doing well the last he had checked with the instructor. The written test would be soon, and the field test would be after that. Buckowing asked whether Irving Township had decided to contract with TTES for services. Eaton said they had, and it was ongoing. Buckowing asked Eaton to follow up regarding payment as it has not been received yet.

**B.** Update on EMS Chief Negotiations – Schaefer stated that negotiations are still ongoing and asked the board to consider allowing the EMS committee to have the ability to negotiate up to \$90,000.00 as a top salary rather than each time having to come back to the board for approval on the amount of salary that could be offered. Campbell asked if the board should consider giving the committee authority up to the advertised amount. Schaefer stated that it was the amount that had been advertised.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire – Motion to allow the Emergency Services Committee to enter negotiations up to the amount of \$90,000.00 to fill the Fire Chief position with the final decision to hire going to the township board.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Selleck
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 7 ayes and 0 no's.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Buckowing:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Willshire:	Yes
	Rairigh:	Yes		

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire) Nothing new.**

**B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) Nothing new.**

**C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) The Summer music Series is in full swing, and the Middleville Lions and Rotary Clubs are serving beverages.**

**D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer) Willshire stated she is receiving AV ballot applications and will begin mailing out ballots on June 23.**

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

**F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) Nothing new.**

**G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) Baseball games scheduled for tonight with the hope the weather cooperates. Getty said they have decided to do a canoe race for Heritage Days rather than a 5K – 10 K run. Getty explained the canoes will compete in heats of 40 at a time with three different categories of winners: fastest, oldest age, and youngest age.**

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

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

**J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Selleck asked if the Moe Road dust abatement was taking place. Rairigh said they had just graded this morning, but the first application was back in May.**

**K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) The upgrade is progressing well. The outbuilding is complete, and they are waiting on the blowers and other components to arrive.**

**16. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Dana Yarger asked the board to work carefully to fill the needs in the Emergency Services Department as they work through the process of hiring a new fire chief. She stated that Thornapple Township is the largest ambulance service in the county, and therefore fills a major role in the community. Yarger asked the board to repair issues within the department and to use caution as to not lose further personnel.

**17. POLL OF MEMBERS:**

**Kim Selleck (Trustee)** – Stated he is glad summer is finally arriving.

**Sandy Rairigh (Trustee)** – Asked about the sign-up sheet for the Barry County Expo. Schaefer confirmed he had emailed it out.

**Ross DeMaagd (Trustee)** – none

**Curt Campbell (Trustee)** – none

**Deb Buckowing (Treasurer)** – none

**Cindy Willshire (Clerk)** – none

**Eric Schaefer (Supervisor)** – none

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

**TIME: 4:51 P.M.**

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Willshire – Motion to adjourn.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Buckowing
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no's.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 7/11 /2022