

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 December 12, 2022

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 Bill Richardson, Commissioner Jon Smelker, Amy Brown, Jennifer Heinzman, Dave Becker, Jacob Welch, Richard Sypniewski, Larry Schaidt, Ingrid Konow, John & Brenda Coles, Bob Koster, Jason Preslar, Casandra Vugteveen, Chad Klutman, Emily Haaksma, Kay Genter, Greg Chandler.			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

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

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

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

6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

County Commissioner:	Jom Smelker gave an update on activity at the county level.
Board Response:	Schaefer thanked Smelker for coming to the board meeting and for the update.

8. RESERVED TIME: Jennifer Heinzman played a Placer AI video which gave examples of how the software can be used and the type of reports that can be generated. Heinzman then explained there are two interns working through a Mi STEM grant and will generate reports upon request.

9. PUBLIC HEARING:

The regular board meeting was closed at 7:16 PM and the public hearing was opened at 7:16 PM.

1. Richard Sypniewski 6865 N. Noffke Dr. – Sypniewski asked if there was a guarantee of how long the road would last.
2. Ingrid Konow 7334 & 7335 N. Noffke Dr. – Konow had several questions and concerns about the road. Stated she was not in favor of it.
3. Dave Becker 7420 N. Noffke Dr. – He stated he is concerned about the speed of drivers.
4. Larry Schaidt 6803 N. Noffke Dr. – He stated that he would personally buy the road, fix it and restrict access if that were what it would take to get the road fixed.
5. John Coles 6710 N. Noffke Dr. – He asked if the property taxes would increase once the road was fixed.
6. Brenda Coles 6710 N. Noffke Dr. – She asked about chip sealing and was concerned about the amount of gravel that comes down the hill and ends up at the end of her driveway.
7. Emily Haaksma 6580 N. Noffke Dr. – She asked how the special assessment would impact the sale of a home.
8. Kay Genter 7487 N. Noffke Dr. – Genter asked if the homeowner association would have any liability if there was a special assessment and something happened on the road. Welch answered no.
9. Bob Koster 6323 N. Noffke Dr. – Koster said he would like to see the petitions and had questions about how the signatures were counted.
10. Jacob Welch – Barry County Road Commission – Welch explained that special assessments do occur on public roads and that it is preferable to some of the alternative ways of paying for road improvements.
11. Curt Campbell – Thornapple Township Trustee and resident on N. Noffke Dr. – Campbell said that the MTA attorney helped prepare the petition to ensure it was done properly.

The public hearing was closed at 8:11 PM and the regular board meeting was opened at 8:11 PM.

10. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

Chief's Run Report Summary – Chief recommends continuing the second ambulance for another 90-day trial.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 15-2022 “Noffke Drive Determination Special Assessment District”

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to adopt Resolution 15-2022, “Noffke Drive Determination Special Assessment District.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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B. Resolution 16-2022 “Resolution of Elected Official Limitations”

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to adopt Resolution 16-2022, “Resolution on Elected Official Limitations.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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C. Placer AI – Software program subscription that allows reports to be generated according to a specific inquiry.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion for Thornapple Township to share 25% of the yearly cost of \$10,000 (equal to \$2,500) for the purchase of a 1-year subscription of Placer AI, along with the Middleville DDA 50% and possibly the Village of Middleville at 25% of the cost.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 4 ayes and 3 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: No Rairigh: No	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: No Willshire: Yes
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D. Purchase of Pumper/Tanker – Chief Richardson recommends the purchase of a new pumper/tanker from Independence Township.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to enter into a purchase agreement with Independence Township for the purchase of a new Sutphen Pumper Tanker at a cost of \$745,000.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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E. Cemetery Columbarium – An installation to be placed in the cemetery that would hold cremains.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to purchase a 48-niche columbarium from Nelson Granite at a cost of \$25,000 to be placed at Mt. Hope cemetery.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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F. Sexton Fees – The township received notice from the cemetery sexton that some fees would be increasing.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adopt cemetery sexton services rate increases (burial from \$525 to \$600 and foundation cost from .37 cents to .44 cents per square inch.)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	DeMaagd
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

G. EMS Cost Recovery Fee Schedule – Buckowing asked if the lift assist decrease in price. Klutman thinks they increased the price.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adopt the attached EMS Cost Recovery Fee Schedule.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

H. Hire one paid on call firefighter/EMT – Chief stated he had a person approach them that would like to serve on the department and his father formerly served on the department and he currently has friends on staff.

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to authorize the hiring of one new paid-on-call firefighter/EMT.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

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

I. Medical Management Contract – A new provider of ambulance billing.

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd – Motion to accept a contract with Medical Management for emergency services billing.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

J. Request to place ambulance order – Chief recommends placing an order for a new ambulance that would be ready in about three years.

MOTION STATED:	DeMaagd – Motion to authorize the ordering of a new ambulance with a delivery date in 2025, with a 10% deposit next fiscal year (approximate total cost of \$350,000.)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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K. Purchase Stryker Cot

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to purchase a new Stryker power cot at a cost of \$20,600.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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L. Request to continue 90-day trial of 2nd ambulance with staff

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to extend for another 90-days a trial for a second staffed ambulance (to accommodate second calls and transfers) with 12-hour shift coverage, with one day per week having a 24-hour shift.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Buckowing
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Buckowing: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Rairigh: Yes	Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes Willshire: Yes
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M. Budget Amendments

MOTION STATED:	Willshire – Motion to adopt budget amendments as related to the 2022 tax collection.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

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

N. 2023 Holiday Schedule

MOTION STATED:	Buckowing – Motion to accept the 2023 Holiday Schedule as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Willshire
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 no’s.

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Administration (Schaefer, Buckowing, Willshire) None.
- B. Cemetery (Willshire, DeMaagd, Rairigh) None.
- C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) The Christmas caroling on the river went well and people enjoyed the evening.
- D. Elections (Willshire, Buckowing, Schaefer) None.
- E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) Already covered.
- F. Finance (Buckowing, Willshire, Rairigh) Would like to review the spending and budget and come up with a plan.
- G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer) Stated there are some open positions that need to be filled.
- H. Personnel – Compensation (Willshire, Campbell, Schaefer) None.
- I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) None.
- J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Nothing further.
- K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) None.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

- 1. John Cole thanked the board for their patience tonight in hearing everyone out.

2. Larry Schaidt stated that the Barry County Road Commission has a good design for N. Noffke Dr. and that it will be able to handle the traffic. He also said that he is very familiar with cost overruns and thinks anything done faster is better.

3. Jason Preslar said thank you to the board for approving the purchase of the new pumper/tanker and that he had put a lot of time and thought into it as had others. As a resident, he had voted to pass the bond and would like to see the second bond opened to purchase other equipment the fire department needs.

15. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Wished everyone Happy Holidays!

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Wished all a Merry Christmas!

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Agreed and offered residents the brochure from the Barry County Road Commission.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Agreed and wished all a Merry Christmas. Reminded all that 1.2 million was spent tonight. However, the Placer AI program was a one year try and appreciated the thoughts of those who voted “No” on it.

Deb Buckowing (Treasurer) – Nothing further except to wish all a Merry Christmas.

Cindy Willshire (Clerk) – Agreed and wished all Happy Holidays!

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Also agreed and wished all a safe and Happy Holidays.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 9:19 P.M.

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



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 1/9/2023