

# TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Eric Schaefer, *Supervisor* / Laura Bouchard, *Treasurer* / Cindy Ordway, *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 12, 2023

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Present Present Absent Present	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Present Present Present
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Chief Bill Richardson, Phil Gensterblum, Craig Stolsonburg, Pat Jamison, and Amy Brown.			

### 4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Ordway – Motion to approve the Printed Agenda as presented.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

### 5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell – Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the condition that the list of those attending from the May 8, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes be reviewed and corrected regarding the resident named John.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Selleck
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Yes Yes Absent Yes	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Yes Yes Yes
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**6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:** Pat Jamison from Yankee Springs Township– Spoke about his concerns regarding the Blue Zones in the Barry County Master Plan. He stated that it does not include support for dairy products which is not good for Middleville. They recommend a plant-based diet with only three eggs per day. He encouraged board members to review page 195 of the Barry County Master Plan. He said out of the 44 action points, nine of them involve Blue Zones and that all the action points have public funding. He said the plan calls for “Complete Streets” in Middleville but asked how that will be funded. He said he is going around asking each of the townships in Barry County to investigate Blue Zones as there is a lot of agriculture in the area which doesn't seem to be supported by Blue Zones.

**7. COUNTY REPORT:**

<b>County Commissioner John Smelker:</b>	None.
<b>Board Response:</b>	Supervisor Schaefer explained that John had apologized and said he would not be able to attend tonight’s meeting due to a personal matter. He also said if there are any questions, board members were welcome to reach out to him by phone or email.

**8. RESERVED TIME:** Craig Stolsonburg – The Village of Middleville Manager explained that the tornado siren is located at the old fire barn. The Village of Middleville had purchased the fire barn from the township but has since sold it to a private individual. The village is requesting the township consider potentially having it moved to the TTES building. The village is willing to pay the cost of \$5,000 to have it removed and reinstalled there. The current siren is likely to last until 2035. There is a maintenance agreement for about \$450 per year to change out the batteries and inspect it. Schaefer said it would come up for a vote later in the meeting.

**9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:** Chief Richardson said the number of calls and transfers has been stable. The last three fires have had good response times. They had crews on scene within 10 minutes from the time the alarm went off at Bradford White with 18 members showing up. NFPA looks at a standard called, “1720 for Rural Fire Departments.” They want at least 10 firefighters on scene within 12 minutes. The last three fires the department has had 15 firefighters respond in less than that amount of time, so that is good. The fire at Bradford White caused an estimated \$250,000 in damage and it could have been worse except that some members of the department were already on site for a meeting. Bradford White had a policy to not store pallets up against the building, but they had pallets stored there. One issue encountered was their fire hydrants put out 190 psi of water rather than the standard 60 psi for hydrants, so the fire equipment used was damaged. Some damage to E51 occurred and it will be taken to Spencer’s to have some repairs done. Engine 52 is in service as of last week. Engine 56 is up for sale. The fire department did a great job training and Chief Richardson said he is very proud of his organization. Chief Richardson clarified that Bradford White has its own tower with fire pumps on either end. They also received a call from Alec Belson saying that they had pulled almost all the available water out of the village water system and that the amount of water being used couldn’t be maintained, without draining the system.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Resolution 10-2023,** 2023 Barry County Hazard Mitigation Plan – Rairigh asked if the other board members had read through the plan. Campbell said he’d read through the part regarding flooding. Selleck said the county doesn’t really have seismic activity. Rairigh wondered if there is anything, as township officials, they would be called on to do should there be an emergency. Schaefer said no.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Rairigh – Motion to adopt Resolution 10-2023, “2023 Barry County Hazard Mitigation Plan.”
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no’s and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Absent Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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**B. Roofing Quote** – Schaefer said the Property and Public Utilities Committee reviewed the different quotes and are recommending Red Maple Roofing as they are locally owned. Selleck said he had hired Red Maple Roofing to work on his home and so he wanted to abstain from the vote as it could be seen as a conflict of interest. Rairigh asked if it was covered by insurance. Schaefer said the insurance claim would cover 100% of the project cost.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Schaefer - Motion to accept Red Maple Roofing’s contract to repair the damage from hail to Thornapple Township’s two facilities.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 1 abstained, 0 no’s and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Absent Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Abstain
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**C. ESO Software** – Schaefer explained that there are two software programs by ESO, “Scheduler” and “Asset Management” that Chief Richardson recommends the department use. Ordway said she wanted to make sure that going forward agenda requests get submitted prior to implementing them.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Rairigh - Motion to approve the purchase of ESO’s scheduler and asset management software.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no’s and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Absent Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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**D. Tornado Siren** – Rairigh asked why the township needed to take ownership of the siren when it was mainly heard by village residents. Schaefer said that the village residents are also township residents and that the siren had originally been owned by the township. Ordway wondered where it would be placed. The Chief said he hoped it would be placed on the north side of the TTES building. Bouchard wondered if the company who will be installing it might know the best location for it to be placed. Ordway wondered if there would be a cost to have it moved. Campbell said Stolsonburg had said the village would cover the cost.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Selleck - Motion to take ownership of the Tornado Warning siren from the Village of Middleville after it is moved to the fire station property (pending Village of Middleville approval.)
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Absent Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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**E. Correction to Resolution 1-2023** – Schaefer explained that line seven needed to be added to the resolution to outline the asset ceiling and this was discovered during an audit.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell - Motion to adopt Resolution 1-2023, "Poverty Guideline Resolution" with the addition of line # 7, "Asset Ceiling."
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Schaefer
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Absent Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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**F. Gear Washer** – Chief Richardson said the gear washer had a 20-year life expectancy and the washer had already reached that point. They had tried to have it repaired but it's too old. The fix involved unplugging the unit and plugging it back in and that worked for a short time but now it doesn't work at all. Chief Richardson said that firefighters are already at a heightened risk of cancer and that washing gear helps minimize that risk by

washing the carcinogens off the outer shell of the gear so it can't be absorbed into the inner, insulating liner of the gear. He said they used to scrub the outer layer by hand, but studies found that caused the carcinogens to be absorbed further into the inner layer, so fire departments no longer use that method. This washer is the better value as it comes with a 10-year warranty rather than a 3-year warranty.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Rairigh - Motion to purchase a new NFPA compliant gear washer at a cost NTE \$19,016.00 (includes shipping and installation.)
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Campbell
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Absent	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

**G. TTES Pay Scale** -Chief Richardson recommends the attached pay scale for TTES as it combines the shift rates and paid on call rates into one table, He said this will address inconsistencies such as a four-year lieutenant making less money than a two-year firefighter. It will also address the difference in pay between someone being at the station working a shift versus someone responding to a call and coming in to go on a transfer. He said no one will have a pay decrease but rather it will maintain some rates until the pay scale catches up to their rate, so no one is being asked to undergo a decrease. Campbell asked the Chief if he had talked to the staff about the change. He said he had, and everyone was on board it.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell – Motion to approve the attached TTES Pay Scale.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Selleck
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.

<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Absent	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

**H. Chief's Salary** – Schaefer said the EMS Committee and the Personnel & Compensation Committee were recommending the Chief's merit raise to the board. Bouchard asked if this was going to be changed going forward to happen at the beginning of the fiscal year along with the rest of the staff. Chief Richardson said yes, that was the plan. Rairigh stated that a new contract would also be needed.

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Schaefer - Motion to give Chief Richardson his annual merit raise, beginning July 1, 2023, to bring his salary to \$92,000/year.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Rairigh

<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	Approved by roll call. 6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.
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<b>ROLL CALL VOTE:</b>	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Absent	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

**12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway)**

**B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh)** Ordway stated the cemetery has been very busy lately with questions after Memorial Day. Also, lots of funerals have been scheduled. Rairigh asked if anyone has asked about the columbarium yet. It is scheduled to be installed in July.

**C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer)** Schaefer said the Music Series had started and Rotary had good food sales. Movie night did not have very many people there. Bouchard said she didn't think it had been advertised as much this time.

**D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer)** Ordway said she would be working on getting certified soon.

**E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh)** Chief Richardson said they had met with Nashville's Director to discuss the possibility of ambulance coverage for their area if the need arises. Mercy's ambulance contract ends in four years but there is no consequence financially if they decide to stop operations prior to that. The Chief said that currently TTES is not equipped or staffed to expand coverage to all the Nashville area. Nashville is looking at all the possibilities should Mercy decide to stop operating. They also met with Jim Brown at Rutland Township. The Chief also asked Life EMS if they were interested in covering the area and they said that isn't likely due to the cost of additional equipment needed.

**F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh)** Bouchard said there wasn't anything new to report.

**G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer)**The charity shed has been very popular. There was \$180 in returned bottle deposits for this month. The meeting for this past Wednesday had to be canceled as there weren't enough board members available for a quorum.

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

**I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell)** Schaefer said he would contact Red Maple Roofing to let them know they got the contract.

**J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck)** Campbell said there wasn't much as they hadn't started the Noffke drive dredging yet. Bouchard said they seem to be working on the retention pond and wondered if the trees would need to be removed. She had noticed they were marked.

**K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer)** Selleck and Campbell asked Brown about the Duncan Lake Sewer ordinances that had been emailed to them. Rairigh explained that she had asked Brown to forward them so they could review the ordinances for any changes that might need to be updated. The other ordinances had been reviewed by Rairigh and Denton but they didn't know anything about the Duncan Lake Sewer so they would like that to be done by those who are on the DLSA and have more knowledge of the system. Schaefer said he is looking into the possibility and cost of having a non-potable well placed at the sewer lagoons. Campbell wondered if the test wells could possibly be used. Schaefer said Finkbeiner had checked, but it couldn't be. The quote Schaefer got for a well drilling would be about \$5,000 to \$6,000. The water is needed for mixing with the alum prior to being added to the ponds. Selleck said the facilities are very nice since the upgrade. Schaefer said that Finkbeiner had learned some strategies at the conference on how to run the blowers more effectively and the water is very clear at the ponds.

**13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Pat Jamison again asked board members to consider looking at the Barry County Master Plan regarding the Blue Zones Initiative. He thanked Selleck for abstaining on the vote for the approval of Red Maple Roofing's quote. He stated that Commissioner Getty didn't abstain from voting regarding the Blue Zones Initiative even though she works for the organization, and he felt that was a conflict of interest. He also said that 66% of the funds for Blue Zones in Barry County are anonymous and he would like to know who is paying for this work. He gave an example of one change that Blue Zones is advocating for in Middleville. As part of the walkability of "Complete Streets" bus drivers would drop school aged children off a quarter to a half mile from school and have them walk the rest of the way to school. He said that his kids are bused in as they live in a rural area, and he doesn't like that idea. He wants to know how that would work. He doesn't like the idea that an outside influence is trying to shape Barry County. He strongly encourages board members to review the Barry County Master Plan.

**14. POLL OF MEMBERS:**

**Kim Selleck (Trustee)** – Wish Ross the best and sending prayers for his recovery.

**Sandy Rairigh (Trustee)** – Same

**Ross DeMaagd (Trustee)** – Absent

**Curt Campbell (Trustee)** – Echoed those sentiments and wanted to make members aware of MTA's request to contact state representatives regarding the possibility of the state taking over mining operations oversight from local government control. Rairigh stated that this issue has been talked about at the state level for many years but lately it seems more likely to pass.

**Laura Bouchard (Treasurer)** – We're getting ready for summer tax bills to be sent out. They will be mailed before July 1. Hope Ross is okay.

**Cindy Ordway (Clerk)** – Working on getting things figured out and getting things organized in a way that makes sense. Appreciates the opportunity to serve.

**Eric Schaefer (Supervisor)** – Also, hopes Ross will be okay in the long run. Will try to touch base with him soon.

**18. ADJOURNMENT:**

**TIME: 8:06 P.M.**

<b>MOTION STATED:</b>	Campbell – Motion to adjourn.
<b>MOTION SUPPORTED:</b>	Selleck
<b>MOTION STATUS:</b>	6 ayes, 0 no's and 1 absent.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 7/10/2023