

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 Held at 128 High St. Middleville, MI 49333 December 11, 2023

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Present Present Present Present	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Present Present Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Bill Richardson, Commissioner Jon Smelker, Commissioner Catherine Getty, State Representative Angela Rigas, Cindy Twitchel, Robin Laansma, John Lake, Shelly Lake, Amy Brown, Steven Sage, Joe Johnson, Jason Preslar, Brad Bender, Lt. Patrick Jansens, Katie Tyner-Green.			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell- Motion to approve the Printed Agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 yes votes.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell- Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 yes votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Yes Yes Yes
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6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: State Representative Angela Rigas gave the following Legislative Report. The legislature has adjourned for the remainder of the year, which is good news for the State of Michigan as no further poor legislation would be passed. She offered her apologies on behalf of her conservative colleagues in the legislature. Rigas said several topics were addressed during this legislative session including: the income tax rollback, wasteful spending, the Chinese Battery Plant, fighting to protect the unborn, and fighting to protect the second amendment. She invited anyone to contact her about any concerns such as Consumers Energy, the Unemployment Agency, the Secretary of State, or any other State of Michigan agencies.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

County Commissioner Jon Smelker:	Ines Straube was elected the trial court administrator of the year. Megan Green was elected the 911 dispatcher of the year. They approved the ballot language for the 911 millage proposal to be on the Presidential Primary in February. Commissioners approved the transfer of 3 million dollars to a COA fund. The COA is asking for donations to add to that amount. Commissioners also approved transferring 5 million dollars to an account for the building of a new jail.
Board Response:	Schaefer thanked Smelker for his report.

8. RESERVED TIME:**A. John Lake and Cindy Twitchel (2nd Amendment)**

John Lake explained that he is a resident of Irving Township, a precinct delegate and on the Barry County GOP executive committee. He spoke about the actions of the legislature and the attack on citizens' second amendment rights. He explained that he had asked Barry County Commissioners to pass a resolution making Barry County a second amendment sanctuary county, but that resolution was not voted on. Rather an alternative resolution was adopted by Barry County. Lake asked the township board members to consider passing the provided resolution in favor of making Thornapple Township a second amendment sanctuary township.

Schaefer stated that the board members would review the resolution received during the meeting but would not be voting on it during tonight's meeting.

State Representative Angela Rigas stated that there are 35 bills in the Senate (current or have been passed) and 73 bills in the House of Representatives concerning gun rights. About 90% of those are infringements on the second amendment. Also, there are different rules for the State Capitol Building and the State House of Representatives Building and furthermore different rules for different individuals in those buildings.

Cindy Twitchel spoke about the rights of citizens as outlined in the Constitution. She gave some history of the constitution regarding citizens' second amendment rights. She also offered to teach a class to any board member that would be interested in learning more about the Constitution.

B. Emergency Services Length of Service Awards – Chief Richardson presented members with a pin for their years of service as follows: Royal Shilton (not present) 6 years, Steve Sage 7 years, Joe Johnson 7 years, Nate Otto (not present) 12 years, Jason Preslar 12 years, Brad Bender 18 years, Patrick Jansens 20 years, Katie Tyner-Green 23 years. The Chief said that if all the years of service were added up, it would make 277 years' experience on the department. He thanked the members for service.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: Chief Richardson said that while call volumes had decreased over the last few weeks, this past weekend was very busy. There were 13 calls on Saturday and 10 calls on Sunday. He has been pleased with staff members' response times and they continue to improve. The ambulance has about 165,000 miles on it and recently had a lot of work done on it. They are going through a virtual inspection with the State of Michigan and will also begin looking at their budget for the next fiscal year.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Pay Period Adjustments – This discussion was tabled at the last meeting. Ordway explained that she had done a lot of research on the topic since then which included reaching out to 6 or 7 neighboring departments. She found that only one other department had a 14-day work period for their overtime. Ordway said the Personnel Committee had met and recommends the township keep the 28-day work period.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to continue the calculation of overtime pay the same as always, which per the FLSA, qualifying firefighters are allowed to work up to the 212 hours in a 28-day work period, before overtime is required.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 yes votes.

B. Overtime Policy Change – Ordway explained that overtime is calculated based on hours worked and that vacation and PTO hours do not count as hours worked in the overtime calculation. DeMaagd expressed concern that if someone were on vacation and then is called into work, that those hours should be paid at time and a half as they had to end their vacation early. Ordway explained that any hours worked does count toward overtime. Vacation and PTO do not. Schaefer stated that Ordway had researched it and found that it is uncommon among other departments to have vacation or PTO hours count toward overtime.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to maintain our existing method of calculating overtime wages on the basis of actual hours worked.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 yes votes.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2024 Holiday Schedule – Schaefer presented a proposed Holiday Schedule for 2024.

MOTION STATED:	Ordway – Motion to adopt the 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 yes votes.

B. Board of Review Appointment – Schaefer said he would like to recommend Katie Stanton be appointed to the Board of Review as Steven Baldry has been appointed to the Village of Middleville Board and can no longer serve on the Board of Review.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to appoint Katie Stanton to the Board of Review.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 yes votes.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

C. Staffing – Chief Richardson explained he would like the board to give him some leeway on the ability to fill staffing vacancies. There is a lot of turn over as many part-time staff members have other full-time jobs. He feels that waiting for the next board meeting to present the request slows the process down. He would like to see approval come through the EMS Committee. DeMaagd said that he would like to see the timeline be faster as he realizes it creates difficulty for the person applying for the job. Although he doesn't want to take away the board's approval process altogether. Bouchard asked if this referred to part-time staff or full-time staff. Chief Richardson said just the staff needed to replace those that have left. Rairigh wondered whether a full roster of staff was 48 members. DeMaagd thought that 48 was the upper limit. Selleck said he would prefer the final recommendation to still be a board decision. There was discussion about changing the motion, but Schaefer suggested the motion be tabled.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to approve staff to hire members without having to vote every time there are vacancies.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	MOTION TABLED.

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway) Nothing further to report.

B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh) Nothing new to report.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) Schaefer said the Christmas by the River Celebration went very well. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer) Ordway said it has been a hurry up and wait kind of season with waiting on information to come from the Legislative branch regarding administrative direction regarding Proposal 2.

E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) DeMaagd said that Emergency Services needs a new ambulance and there may be a way to expedite the process which is being researched and more information will be coming soon.

F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh) Nothing new.

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer) Getty stated that Damon Cove has been appointed by Thornapple Kellogg Schools as their representative to TAPRC. Getty said the December 13 TAPRC meeting had been canceled.

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

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

J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) The board is invited to a Barry County Road Commission meeting scheduled for January 10 at 10 a.m. at the Road Commission office.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) Schaefer said that a non-potable well has been approved for use at the Sewer Lagoons. Selleck asked about the annual review of hook-up fees. Campbell said that they should set up a January meeting for DLSA in early January in which they should look at the budget and could review the hook-up fees at that time as well.

13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

14. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to everyone!

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Congratulations to the Emergency Services staff and Merry Christmas.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Thank you to Chief Richardson for his efforts to acknowledge the work of the Emergency Services staff and to everyone, “Merry Christmas.”

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Echo DeMaagd’s comments to the Chief and thank you to Emergency Services staff for their service over the years. Campbell said he realizes some may be disappointed with the decisions made tonight, but they did feel it was in the best interests of the township. Would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – Thanked Emergency Services staff for all their years worked and Merry Christmas.

Cindy Ordway (Clerk) – Again, thank you to all for their years of service and Merry Christmas!

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Schaefer said that he had received some training and so he wanted to take the opportunity to recognize the unique abilities that each member brings to the board.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:13 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 yes votes.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 1/8 /2024