

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 November 13, 2023

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Present Campbell: Present DeMaagd: Present Ordway: Present	Rairigh: Present Schaefer: Present Selleck: Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Bill Richardson, Phil Gensterblum, Amy Brown, Pat Jamison, Jennifer Antel, Commissioner Catherine Getty, Dan Patton, McKenna Preslar, Robert VanZanen, Mike Powell, Corene Powell, Frank Fiala, Jerrie Fiala, Brandon Luxford, Joe Johnson, Collin Chrenka, Alyssa Chrenka, Greg Chandler.	

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell– Motion to approve the Printed Agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh– Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended with a change to the meeting minutes to add to the Poll of Members, “Bouchard and Ordway absent due to attending a work conference.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat Jamison – Spoke about his concerns regarding Blue Zones and its influence in the community as an outside entity. Jamison also said there is a conflict of interest in Commissioner Getty working for both Barry County as a commissioner and Blue Zones Activate. He believes Blue Zones program does not support the beef and dairy industries and so it isn't a good fit for Barry County. He said he does support having trails available to the community but not the intertwining of Blue Zones with the trails program.

7. COUNTY REPORT:

<p>County Commissioner Catherine Getty:</p>	<p>Getty stated that she is available to speak with anyone who has questions. Barry County Commissioners adopted the 2024 budget which includes the General Appropriations Act and the millage rate. The County Commissioners adopted a resolution opposing the preemption of local control over solar and wind energy production. She is disappointed in the legislature’s decision to take away local control. They approved the 2024 health plans for Barry County employees. The Barry County Medical Examiner gave her Annual Report. She covers 12 counties in the State of Michigan, so she has a large region. The overall deaths in Barry County are back down to pre-pandemic levels, but fentanyl use continues to be a problem as it is all over the state and country. Commissioners approved several programs that are funded by grants from the state. There are some pending appointments to various boards that will be voted on tomorrow.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>Schaefer thanked Getty for her report and there were no further questions.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME:

A. Barry County Trail Plan – Catherine Getty, Jennifer Antel, Dan Patton, and Frank Fiala. Getty presented board members with the County Wide Trail Plan Booklet to review. Antel spoke as a representative of West Michigan Trails, a non-profit organization, which works in the southwestern region on a Master Plan for the entire area. Patton spoke from the Barry County Road Commission about how the trails have been developing for a long time and that this Master Plan is helping connect communities. Fiala, a longtime resident in Yankee Springs Township and who serves on several Barry County Boards, spoke about how the trails have been discussed for a long time. He remembers discussions regarding a trail around Gun Lake when he was a young man. Fiala said that 1% of MDOT funds were allocated for trails. Getty spoke about their efforts in putting together the trail plan and the history of trails in Barry County. Getty explained that the Barry County Master Plan is a tool for local entities to use in their future planning, funding, and maintenance of the trails. Her hope is that as expansion occurs it is done in such a way that serves the needs of local communities, but also builds connections among communities.

DeMaagd said he was in favor of trails, but asked about how Blue Zones could profit from trail developments. Getty explained that although Blue Zones is a privately funded organization, its focus is on improving the overall health of communities. Corewell Health and other philanthropists sponsor Blue Zones because they also want to support healthy lifestyle options. They feel that having trails helps people remain more active throughout their lives and thus healthier, and that benefits the whole community.

Selleck asked if they had any data as to how many people are using the trails. Patton explained the data is available, but the process will take some time.

B. Promotion – Chief Richardson presented Collin Chrenka with his bugle lapel pins and explained that a long time ago bugles were used as a signal by firefighters. Chief Richardson said Chrenka had the tenure for the promotion but went through all the testing and did an excellent job. He is also a certified CPR and first-aid instructor. The Chief congratulated Chrenka on achieving the rank of lieutenant and invited Mrs. Chrenka to pin Mr. Chrenka’s bugles on.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT:

A. Chief’s Run Report – (Enclosed in Board Packet.) Chief Richardson explained their call volume is down about 20% from last year at this time.

B. Summary – Chief Richardson said there are five students who are working with five mentors in the fire department on their training. He would like to apply to the state to operate on an 800 MHz paging system. The fire trucks have all gone through their DOT testing and a couple of tires were replaced. The pump, ladder, and hose also went through an annual inspection. The structural engineer inspected the deflection in the Emergency Services building and said there is no need for concern. They found some of the SCBA masks need to be replaced. The Chief is currently working on some departmental goal setting.

10. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Gensterblum said he received 10 permit applications in October and 4 more in November so far. Some of them are special uses, others are accessory buildings, and some are additions to homes. There are some code enforcement issues he is addressing. Peace Church had a meeting with the M-37 Corridor Committee and the church has made some adjustments to their site plan. They will be coming back to the Planning Commission this month.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. None

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 13-2023 – DeMaagd asked how the township is committed by approving the resolution. Schaefer explained that passing the resolution is a way of supporting the plan but doesn’t obligate them to any specific actions.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to adopt Resolution 13-2023 “Resolution Endorsing Barry County Trails Master Plan.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

B. Special Assessments for Winter Tax 2023 – DeMaagd asked if the board passes all six special assessments together in one group, whether it could create an issue if someone contests one of them. Bouchard explained that each special assessment had already been voted on by the board and that this is a procedural action to place them on the 2023 Winter Tax Bill.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve the following special assessments for the 2023 Winter Tax Bill: Hilltop Lighting - \$89.32 each to 37 parcels, Moe Road Dust Abatement - \$26.86 each to 67 parcels, Delinquent Duncan Lake Sewer Fees – 2 parcels, Various Drains as directed by Barry County Drain Commissioner, Duncan Lake Weed Control - \$78.82 each to 159 parcels, and Noffke Road as directed by Thornapple Township Supervisor to 161 parcels (less prepaid parcels.)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

C. Pay Increase – Ordway explained that Brown has been working for the township a long time and with the upcoming elections there will be a lot more to do. Ordway feels Brown is well deserving of the increase. DeMaagd asked if the pay scale for all employees should be reviewed. Schaefer said a review is planned as part of the budget review for the next fiscal year.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve an increase to the Deputy Clerk’s hourly wage by \$1.50.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

D. Hire of Pastor Robert VanZanen – Chief Richardson said the EMS Committee had discussed how to provide some mental health support to staff and felt having a Chaplin available would be helpful. Chief Richardson would like to hire Robert VanZanen to act as their Chaplin. Also, he would like to see VanZanen be covered under the Thornpapple Township workers’ compensation and liability insurance. It is likely he will be on the scene of fires or accidents and the Chief would like to see him covered in the case of an injury. Also, the Chief will be looking into sending him to some training for the position. VanZanen is willing to act as Chaplin without pay. VanZanen has been the pastor at Restoration CRC in Middleville for five years.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to appoint Robert VanZanen as the Fire Department Chaplin and to have him covered under our worker’s compensation insurance.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

E. 800mhz Application – Chief Richardson explained a new 800 MHz tower is being installed in Middleville and he would like to apply to the State of Michigan for licensure to be able to use the new system. That way the hardware and software are in place when the new system becomes operational. The current system runs on VHF whereas the new system is digital, so the signal will be clearer. Several counties are starting to transition over to the new system. Rairigh asked when the tower would be up. Richardson thinks it will be sometime next year. Richardson also explained that one of the issues with a digital system is that Bradford White’s building is steel which blocks the broadcast, but they have talked about installing repeaters so that the signal can carry throughout the building.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to apply to the State of Michigan for licensure to use a 800mHz paging system at a cost NTE \$2,000.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

F. Trane Service Agreement – Chief Richardson explained the HVAC system is nearing the end of its service life and has several expensive repairs that would have been caught if there had been a service agreement with regular maintenance being performed. He believes signing a one-year contract would decrease the costs of emergency repairs. DeMaagd said in his experience, service agreements generally are not a good idea as they are written by companies in such a way that it favors the company over the customer. However, this situation is a little different because of the complexity of the system and no one in the department being able to do the general maintenance that is needed.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer - Motion to enter into a 1-year HVAC service agreement with Trane and for a thermostat repair for a total cost of \$3,800.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

G. Pay Structure – Moved to table this discussion until the January board meeting.

Chief Richardson explained that currently staff are penalized if they use PTO or vacation time as their overtime is built into their annual amount of pay. Ordway asked how they are penalized. DeMaagd asked whether this plan would be consistent with those in private employment. Bouchard suggested the Personnel Committee study the topic further. Ordway said the Employee Handbook also needs review and that this issue could be part of an overall review. Schaefer asked whether the discussion being tabled until next month would be enough time for the committee to meet. Campbell suggested reviewing this separately from the Handbook. Rairigh said she thought this motion was already reviewed by the labor attorney.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer - withdrawn
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck - withdrawn
MOTION STATUS:	Tabled.

H. Section/Wall Maps – Chief Richardson requested they have section maps created and printed. He said they are helpful in finding rural addresses and would also be available as a back-up system in case their electronic systems were ever down. DeMaagd asked where the maps were coming from, and Richardson responded that Barry County produces them. Rairigh asked if this would help decrease response times. Richardson said yes. Also, having them would help when responding to hazmat scenes as they will have information showing rivers and streams.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell - Motion to have section maps created and printed at a cost of \$600.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

I. MIOSHA Grant Spending – Chief Richardson requested approval to purchase several items for the fire department and said the purchases are eligible for a \$5,000 matching grant. To receive the grant, they would need to provide evidence that the items are being used and the items have been paid for within 120 days of their application. DeMaagd asked which budget line would be used. DeMaagd said that used to be part of each request presented. Richardson responded that it would be 206-336-768.000 and that funds were available.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh - Motion to expend OSHA grant dollars as follows: 12 SCBA masks, 40 pairs rescue gloves, 12 pairs firefighting gloves, 40 carcinogens resistant Nomex hoods, and 6 pairs of fire boots for a cost of \$6,625.00 after reimbursement
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

J. LED Lighting – Richardson explained that a project to install LED lighting in the Emergency Services Building had been started but not completed. The request is for funds to pay for labor to have them installed. The bulbs were already purchased and stored at the building. Ordway asked if they received three bids for the work. Richardson said he had asked for three but only one was received. Rairigh asked which budget line it would be. Richardson said it would be 206-336-931.000 and 505-651-931.000. Richardson said that in the future he would include GL #'s in his agenda requests.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck - Motion to repair lighting at the Emergency Services building at a cost of \$2,098.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

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

B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh) They have discussed the columbarium but haven't made a final decision on the cement work. Rairigh suggested they may use Shaw trust funds for the project.

C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) Small Business Saturday (Nov 25) and Christmas on the River (Dec 7 & 9) Schaefer said he has a meeting tomorrow about the Christmas on the River events and anyone is welcome to attend.

D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer) Ordway said she has passed her certification for elections. The legislature will be adjourning so that the primary can take place on February 27. There will be nine days of early voting so she will be working on getting people to work those days.

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

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

G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Getty) Getty stated that Mike Bremer has planned to do field maintenance another season and that Nathan and Lindsey Fisher are willing to be co-directors. The United Way Campaign is underway. They are one of the sponsors of TAPRC. They also will be holding a used equipment sale in March and there is a donation bin in the front hallway at the township. There is a new shed with school colors and a cement pad that will last a very long time which was recently completed. Also, there are two positions for the TAPRC board that will be coming open at the end of the year. One will be a township appointed representative and the other will be a school appointed representative.

H. Personnel – Compensation (Ordway, Campbell, Schaefer) Ordway stated there will be some work to do on the Employee Handbook coming up soon.

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) Schaefer said there will be a permit application for a well at the lagoons coming up. Selleck asked about the annual review of sewer hook-up fees. Campbell confirmed it is coming up soon, during the budget time.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

15. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Congratulations to Collin on his promotion. He is an asset to the community. Wish all safe hunting and a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Congratulations to Collin, Mike, and Cas. When will they be done with school? Powell replied in March.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Congratulations to Collin and would like to wish everyone safe hunting and a happy Thanksgiving.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Also, congratulations to Collin and Happy Thanksgiving.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – Congratulations to Collin. Also, taxes will be done and going out at the end of the month, which is about two weeks.

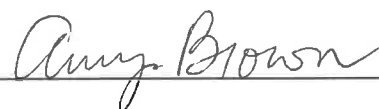
Cindy Ordway (Clerk) – Congratulations to Collin and thank you for your service. Also, the taxes will be due on the same date as the presidential primary so it will be a busy day in the office.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Echo all the congratulations. Also, have a power adaptor Collin can use on his trip to Italy if they still need it.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 9:12 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 12/11/2023