

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 2, 2024 –6:00 pm

PRESENT: Cambridge, Coats, Cole, Dixon, Ross and Diaz

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Dick Henderson, Scott Kenny, Jeff Renaudin, Matt Cole, Steve Scribner, and Gary Heberling

1. BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES: CONSIERATION/APPROVAL

Dixon requested approval of the December 5, 2023 Minutes.

*** Motion by Coats supported by Cambridge to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC OFFICIAL

County Commissioner, Gary Heberling gave his monthly report.

- On January 10th, the State of Michigan is offering a webinar on the New Solar Energy Program.
- There has been confusion on the State ORV ordinance. Per M-DOT, the current State ORV ordinance does not allow an ORV to be ridden on any State M Road such as M-46 or M-19. The Sanilac County ORV Ordinance allows an ORV to be ridden on county paved roads to the nearest side road.
- Some constituents have stated complaints about farm equipment tearing up roads, large equipment causing excessive dust, young children driving large equipment, etc. The Right to Farm Act of 1991 has been discussed and farmers have the right to farm. Mr. Heberling would like to see a meeting between the stakeholders in order to come up with a reasonable solution.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comments

4. CORRESPONDENCE

No Correspondence

4. NEW BUSINESS

a) AARP Grant Fund Planning: Consideration/Approval

1. Townley Engineering RFP Geo-location and inventory of sanitary sewer.

- Dixon reported that the proposal from Townley Engineering, LLC for the GPS Geo-location and inventory project has been received. The project is to be paid from the ARPA Grant Funds received by the Township. The proposal stops short of a video inspection and cleaning of the underground assets. However, Mr. Dixon recommends this as the first step in geo-location and inventory of assets. The quote is for \$5,750.

*** Motion by Coats, supported by Cole to adopt the Townley Engineering RFP as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

b) Poverty Guidelines

- Dixon presented the updated 2024 Poverty Guidelines. Assessor, Jeannie Diaz, stated that this year low income landowners are allowed to request a 100%, 75%, 50% or 25% reduction in property taxes.

*** Motion by Cambridge, supported by Coats to approve the 2024 Federal Poverty Guidelines as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a) Sylvan Dr. Dangerous Buildings complaint (on-going)
 - Dixon reported the Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara sent a letter, dated December 18, 2023, to the homeowner stating the property must be brought into compliance within 30 days of receipt of the letter. If the 30-day deadline is not met, the Township may initiate legal action to abate the nuisance and bring the property into compliance. As of today, the Township has not received a response.

TREASURER'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

Coats requested approval of the December 2023 checks number 17433 thru 17463 for a total amount of \$50,405.72

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Cole to approve the December 2023 checks as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Approval of current month claims

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cole to approve payment of the monthly claims as presented. All in favor. Motion carried

Ross reported that the February 27, 2024 Election Public Accuracy Test will be held on the same date as the regular Township Board Meeting – February 6, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

CEMETERY REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) Burials & Lot Sales
 - No burials
- b) Headstone Repair
 - No update

SEWER REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

No Report

PLANNING BOARD/POSSIBLE ACTION

- a) 12/21/23 PC Meeting Summary
 - Cambridge reported that
 - The Planning Commission Minutes are included in the Board Information Packets. She was unable to attend the meeting and recommends contacting Planning Commission Chairman Jim Hacker with any questions.

WEBSITE REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION

- Cambridge reported she
 - Added proposed and approved minutes
 - Updated the calendar as needed

- Added the new cemetery rates that went into effect January 1, 2024
- Archived minutes as needed

TAX ASSESSOR/POSSIBLE ACTION

No report

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:28 p.m. Cambridge supported. All in favor. Motion carried

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Election Public Accuracy Test – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 5:15 p.m.

Regular Board Meeting – Tuesday, February 6, 2024 at 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk