

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471
Tuesday, January 4, 2022 – 6:00 pm

The Watertown Township Board meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Scott Franzel at 6:00 pm. All present rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Cambridge, Franzel, Ross, Coats and Diaz

ABSENT: Dixon

GUESTS: Al Stoutenburg, Mike and Karen Smith, Eric Levine, Jason Radloff, Ryan Drabant, Bill Parish, Lyne Stauffer, Rick Pangburn and Mr. Scribner.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Coats requested that

- Purchase of a printer/fax/copier be placed under Treasurer's Report

Ross requested that

- Board of Review Training Correspondence be placed under Correspondence

Franzel requested that

- Bill Dixon email be placed under Correspondence

*** Cambridge made the motion to accept the agenda as amended. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross Nays: None. Motion carried

MINUTES

Franzel requested approval of the December 7, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes.

*** Cambridge made the motion to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2021. Coats supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Franzel requested approval of the December 16, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes.

*** Coats made the motion to approve the minutes for the Thursday, December 16, 2021 Special Meeting as presented. Franzel supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Franzel, Coats and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Samsung email ready to start the process for a solar permit
 - Franzel reported that Jim from Samsung sent him 2 emails wanting to get the process started. However, at that time the ordinance was not approved and there wasn't much that the Board could do. Township Attorney, Kyle O'Mara said basically they need to provide the Board with everything and the Board will review it. Samsung would like to meet with the attorney and Board to discuss it. Franzel would like to wait until everything is approved. Coats agreed.
2. Township Attorney opinion letter regarding the planning process that it was properly completed per State of MI

- Franzel reported that, per the Township Attorney Kyle O'Mara's opinion letter, the Board did everything correctly in regards to the process of planning. Coats read the correspondence.
3. Elmer Township Newsletter example that they send out.
 - Franzel reported he thought the example of the Elmer Township's Newsletter he supplied was nicely done and maybe the Board should consider doing a similar one to be posted on the website. Possibly quarterly.
 4. Email from Bill Dixon
 - Franzel reported that he received an email from Bill Dixon explaining he could not be at tonight's meeting due to impending travel. Mr. Dixon reported that:
 - There are no reportable issues with the sewer department operations
 - The next scheduled water meter reading is scheduled for February 28, 2022
 - The Planning Commission met on December 16, 2021 and began working on fortifying the Ordinance Book
 - The Township Electronic Sign has been programed
 - Still working on Ms. Dig Program, as well as emerging grant opportunities
 - With respect to the Solar Ordinance, he suggests a fee of \$1,000 per megawatt
 - Lastly, with some regret, he resigns from his appointments to both the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The regiment of every other work week meetings and recording secretary responsibilities are not compatible with his future plans of travel and retirement.

Franzel requested a volunteer to join the Planning Commission and/or the Zoning Board of Appeals. Rebecca Cambridge will join the Planning Commission and Sheila Coats will join the Zoning Board of Appeals.

ROAD COMMISSION

No report

TREASURER

1. Coats requested approval of December 2021 checks number 16698 thru 16727 for a total amount of \$39,265.04.

***Cambridge made the motion to approve the paid bills as presented. Franzel supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

2. Purchase of a printer/fax/copier be placed under Treasurer's Report
 - Coats requested approval to purchase a printer/fax/copier for a price of \$160 to \$170. This printer would go with the treasurer's job.

***Franzel made the motion to approve the purchase of a printer/fax/copier as presented. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

CLERK

Ross:

1. Requested a motion to approve the monthly bills to be paid.

*** Cambridge made the motion to approve the bills to be paid as presented. Franzel supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Community member Rick Pangburn thanked the Planning Commission and the Watertown Board for the things they've gone through with the Solar Ordinance. He spoke about the ordinance setbacks and healing of relationships between township residents.

CEMETERY REPORT

Ross presented the Cemetery Activity Report through December 2021 as submitted by John Harding, Sexton:

- There was a standard weekday burial – Weekday rates.
 - There was a standard weekday burial – winter rates.
1. Remove trees along the East side that are into the driveways.
 - Franzel reported that this did not get done this month, but is looking for a digger to move them.
 2. More trees have broken off near the tops
 - Franzel reported a couple more tree tops broke off and he hauled them away. He asked if the Board would consider taking down some of the fragile trees. Coats suggested going over and selecting trees to be removed.
 3. Broken Treetop Update
 - Franzel reported that the broken treetops have been removed and all trees on the roadways have been trimmed.
 4. Tree Removal
 - Discussion was held on future tree care, public planting of trees and relocation of newer planted trees. Franzel and Dixon will work on relocating the new planted trees.

SEWER REPORT

Please see item number 4 under Correspondence.

PLANNING BOARD

Please see item number 4 under Correspondence.

WEBSITE REPORT

Cambridge reported that she:

- Updated or archived agendas and minutes as need.
- Updated the calendar and announcements.
- She will add Planning Commission Meeting Dates of January 20, ~~and 22~~. 2022.

TAX ASSESSOR

No Report

ZONING

1. Waiting on a letter from Kyle to reflect new fines associated with blight
 - Franzel reported he is waiting on this letter.

PERMITS ISSUED:

1. Land combination of two parcels
 - Franzel received a zoning request to combine two parcels and received the check for it.
2. Pole Barn Permit

- Franzel received a Land Use Permit for a Pole Barn with payment.
- 3. Sent Letter to Wedge Road Residents
 - Franzel sent a letter to the residents who swapped trailers around without permits.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Front Door Floor Issue Update
No update.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Solar Ordinance needs to be reviewed then approved/not approved.

Franzel presented the final Solar Ordinance Draft which included the changes the Board voted on and approved at the December 7, 2021 regular meeting as well as Township Attorney Kyle O'Mara's legal opinion and updates. Franzel reviewed each page of the Ordinance with the Board.

***Franzel made the motion to approve the Solar Ordinance with amendments. Ross supported. Roll Call Ayes: Coats, Franzel and Ross. Roll Call Nays: Cambridge. Absent: Dixon. Motion carried

2. Set meeting dates and times for all the boards for the year.
 - By unanimous conscience, the Board set regular meetings on the first Tuesday of the Month for 2022.
3. Fee Schedule to match the new solar ordinance and others that are missing/wording incorrect.
 - The Board discussed the fee schedule.
4. Highline Internet waiting for part shipment.
 - No action taken on this item.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Franzel and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2022, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy Ross, Clerk,