

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – 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, Coats, Dixon, Ross and Diaz

ABSENT: Franzel

GUESTS: Clint Stoutenburg, Al Stoutenburg, Dick and Marsha Henderson, Jeff Renauden, Don and Diane Ferguson.

MINUTES

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Ross to approve the May 2, 2023 Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

AGENDA

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Coats requested that

- Under Correspondence Report #3 – Headstone Placement
- Under New Business #6 - Township Hall Chairs
- Under Sewer Report – Bill Dispute
- New Business #7 - Blight Officer

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to approve the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

PUBLIC OFFICIALS

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Clint Stoutenburg – As a tax payer, he emphasized to the Board the importance of using legal representation when going over documents for the ordinances and the applications that have been submitted. If there is a legal dispute, he is concerned about the liability for the township, as well as for individual Board members.
- Diane Ferguson – Spoke to the Board about her election pollbook data printout and inquired who she would turn in a FOIA request to. Dixon responded that FOIA requests are turned into the Township Clerk. She also asked which Board Members are up for election. Dixon responded all Board Member terms end in 2 years.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Melissa VanSickle – Cemetery Headstone Issue
 - Dixon reported that during the tree removal process, the heavy equipment moved the headstone. The issue has been addressed and solved.
2. Anna Kukuk issue with 2 headstones
 - Dixon requested more information on this issue. Dick Henderson said the stones are in Section A – halfway back.
3. Ray and Iva Wallace Headstone

- Coats reported that the headstone for Ray and Iva Wallace has been moved and the family is concerned about when the trees will be replanted. Dick Henderson said the stone is in Section B – halfway back. Dixon said the issue is on the docket and has been discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Office Records Maintenance
 - Dixon reported that the Board spoke about new file cabinets and have a work session to sort files. Coats suggested the purchase of containers to store old records in. The work session is set for Friday, September 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. until approximately 7:00 p.m. Tammy Ross will post the work session at the hall and Cambridge will post on the website.
2. 3rd Annual Watertown Community Cleanup Day
 - The Cleanup Day will be held on Saturday, September 16, 2023, 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Cambridge will post this on the website.
3. Internet Stipend & Board Member Computers
 - This item will be addressed at the next meeting the Supervisor is in attendance.
4. Policy For An Area For All People Recording Meetings Per MCL 15.263
 - Dixon reported that it is a citizen's right to audio or video record the Board Meetings. However, the Township Board may establish policies related to video recording that would allow the gallery and the Board to be aware that the recordings are taking place. An area in the gallery may be designated for people engaging in that practice, whether it be a member of the media or a private citizen. The matter will be referred to the township attorney for the proper wordage.
5. Final Redline of Solar Ordinance From The Planning Commission.
 - This item will be addressed by Cambridge under her Planning Commission Report.
6. Township Hall Chairs
 - Coats reported she found non-folding, stacking, chairs on Amazon for \$60.00 apiece. She recommends purchasing 24 chairs.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to approve the purchase as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Blight Officer
 - Coats requested the Blight Officer attend the next meeting and a contract for his services be discussed. Dixon will also contact the City of Sandusky and Sheriff's Department to get quotes for this service. Dixon also discussed creating a cooperative with another township for the service.

ROAD COMMISSION

No Report

SUPERVISOR/ZONING *Scott Franzel*

8. Cemetery Update
 - Dixon reported on behalf of Franzel - Radloff Lawn Care straighten all head stones, fill-in ruts, remove imbedded tree branches, broom the whole cemetery, and put on topsoil to get prepared for seeding.

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Sheila Coats*

Coats requested approval of the May 2023 checks number 17216 thru 17244 for a total amount of \$25,376.44

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

Coats reported that the sides of M-19 have not been brined. She believes something needs to be done as the dust is very bad. Dixon will forward the issue to Franzel for follow up.

CLERK'S REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

Ross requested a motion to approve payment of the monthly bills.

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Ross to approve payment of the bills as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ross received a dividend check from the Michigan Township Participating Plan for \$167.01.

CEMETERY REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

There was one weekday burial during the month of May 2023

1. Database Update
 - No Update
2. Cemetery Fee Schedule
 - Dixon reported the cemetery budget is deficit due to removing the trees. Ross will re-send an email to area clerks requesting their fee schedules. Ross will coordinate and email the information to the board. The item will be discussed at the July 2023 meeting.

SEWER REPORT *Jim Hacker*

Cambridge reported on behalf of Jim Hacker

- Meter readings were done on May 31st and the information sent to Coats
1. Bill Dispute
 - Dixon gave Mr. & Mrs. Jenks payment to Coats. Discussion was held on their account. The unpaid amount will be put on their tax bill.

PLANNING BOARD *Becky Cambridge*

- Cambridge distributed and discussed the meeting minutes.
- The Spicer Group Survey has been completed.
- The next meeting is on June 15, 2023
- Final Redline of Solar Ordinance –. The Planning Commission recommends adopting the lawyer’s recommendation except the last two line items and use the participating and non-participating that she handed out. Discussion was held. Dixon will give this information to Franzel and have him contact the attorney for clarification.
- The Commission reviewed a Special Land Use Application. No action was taken.
- The Zoning Administrator was not at the meeting to present the application from Samsung. It was tabled until the June meeting.

Coats asked if Foster Swift Law Firm could be at the Planning Commission Meetings that address the Solar Issues. Dixon will forward the request to Franzel.

WEBSITE REPORT: *Becky Cambridge*

Report given by Franzel that Cambridge

- Approved and achieved minutes as needed.

TAX ASSESSOR *Jeannie Diaz*

- July 18th at 5:00 is the July Board of Review
- Next year the State Commission is auditing every city and township in Sanilac County. She will have the list of what will be audited at the next meeting,

PERMITS ISSUED:

None

OLD BUSINESS

1. ARPA Money Plan
 - The report is done for the year.
2. Worker’s Compensation Replacement Check

- Ross will call for an updated status on this.
- 3. Ordinance Review
 - Tabled until July 2023 Meeting

ADJOURN

*** Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting 7:00 pm. Cambridge supported. All in favor. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting and Public Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 11, 2023, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk