

Watertown Township
2630 South Sandusky Rd
Sandusky, MI 48471

Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 1, 2023 – 6:00 pm

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

PRESENT: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon, and Ross

ABSENT: Franzel and Diaz

GUESTS: Scott Kenny, Don & Diane Ferguson, Al Stoutenburg, Clint Stoutenburg, Glenda Kirkbride, Jeff Renaudin, Mike & Christine Papp, Rick Pangburn, Rex & Debbie Hazard, Jim Hacker, Susan Cole, Justin Oudman, Dick & Marsha Henderson, Carol Dorman, Tracy Dorman, Mrs. Thorley, Greg Thorley, Ron and Marilyn Payne, Jim Cambridge, Mr. Willis, someone from Sanilac County News and Sheriff Deputy.

AGENDA

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

Cambridge requested that

- Community Clean-up be added under Old Business, Letter B
- Change PC meeting summary from 6/20/23 to 7/20/23 Meeting under 11. Planning Commission Report/Possible Action letter A

Dixon requested that

- Zoning Duties be added under New Business, Letter A

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

SUPERVISOR RESIGNATION/REPLACEMENT and/or TRUSTEE REPLACEMENT

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Coats to accept the resignation of Scott Franzel from the positions of Township Supervisor and Zoning Administrator. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dixon reported to the Board that there are two applicants for the position of Township Supervisor – Diane Ferguson, as well as himself.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to nominate Bill Dixon to the position of Township Supervisor. 3 ayes and Bill Dixon abstained. Motion carried.

Dixon reported that Diane Ferguson and Susan Cole are interested in the position of Board Trustee.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Ross to approve Susan Cole to the position of Board Trustee. All in favor. Motion carried.

Ross administered the Oath of Office to Bill Dixon. As Susan Cole is not present, she will be administered the Oath at a later time.

MINUTES

Dixon requested approval of the July 11, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Diane Ferguson

- Dixon informed the Board that correspondence from Diane Ferguson was received and given to them.

B. Gary Heberling

- Dixon reported that Commissioner Gary Heberling's July 2023 report was received and given to them. Mr. Heberling was in attendance and stated he had two other meetings to attend, but this is public notice of his report.

NEW BUSINESS

- ### A. In light of the resignation of Supervisor/Zoning Administrator Franzel, Dixon would like the current duties for zoning to be handled by the Planning Commission. Those procedures have begun as there have been 1 or 2 land use applications submitted.

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Coats to assign zoning duties to the Planning Commission, with Jim Hacker as Interim Zoning Administrator, until such time as a replacement Zoning Administrator can be hired. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dixon reported that job compensation is prescribed in the Township's extra duty hourly rate at \$20.00 per hour.

OLD BUSINESS

A. ARPA Grant Fund

- Dixon reported the township does not have a definitive path for ARPA Grant Fund monies at this time. He recommends tabling this until next month's meeting and such time as there is direction from the attorney and administrators of the ARPA Grant.

B. Community Cleanup

- Cambridge reported that she has not received confirmation for September 16, 2023 Cleanup Day dumpsters from Waste Management Representative Jill Reynolds. If confirmation is not received by September 1st, she will look into other options and inform the Board of her findings. Dixon pointed out that Waste Management previously agreed to provide the service at no cost. Is the township willing to hold the cleanup if another company is found? The consensus is that this will be decided at the September meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT: *Sheila Coats*

Coats requested approval of the July 2023 checks number 17281 thru 17315 for a total amount of \$44,831.35

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

CLERK'S REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

Ross reported there are no additional bills to be paid.

CEMETERY REPORT: *Tammy Ross*

Ross reported 2 weekend cremations, 1 weekday cremation, and 1 weekend burial for the month.

*** Motion by Cambridge, Supported by Coats to accept the cemetery report presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

SEWER REPORT: *Jim Hacker*

- There were 2 alarms recently. One was a fluke and the other was due to a pump that needed to be primed.
- Purchased maintenance supplies.
- There was a driveway washout reported. However, this was a drain, not a sewer issue.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT/POSSIBLE ACTION *Becky Cambridge*

- Passed out the Planning Board Meeting Minutes to the Board
- Pointed out that under New/Old Business, the updated Parks & Recreation Plan was discussed. Spicer is working on this and may have a rough draft ready for the August meeting.
- The PC reviewed the suggestions/comments on the Solar Ordinance from Foster Swift Law Firm and had questions/comments. Cambridge emailed them to Foster Swift and is awaiting their response, which will be reviewed at the next PC meeting.
- Upon completion, the PC would like to forward the revised/final Samsung Solar Application to Foster Swift and an engineering firm (with knowledge in solar projects) for review. The PC would also like recommendations from the board for an engineering firm the township will utilize for this purpose. Foster Swift will email recommendations and Cambridge will contact MTA for recommendations.
- The next meeting will be on August 17, 2023
- The Planning Commission would like a municipal attorney at some of their meetings. Cost would be travel time, plus time at the meeting.

*** Motion by Coats, Supported by Cambridge to have Foster Swift at all future Planning Commission Meetings while in discussion of the Samsung Solar Project. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dixon gave Jim Hacker a Land Use Permit for the Planning Commission and his review.

WEBSITE REPORT: *Becky Cambridge*

- Added and achieved minutes as needed.

TAX ASSESSOR: *Jeannie Diaz*

Coats reported for Diaz. If a township assessor fails to perform their job duties in a satisfactory manner, a county paid temporary assessor will be put into the position. The county must have an employee hired for the position and each township will be invoiced for the service.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Dick Henderson addressed the Board regarding
 - o The care and maintenance of the cemetery. Mr. Henderson believes the cemetery is not being maintained to an acceptable standard. He urged the Board to have the clerk inspect the cemetery weekly. As it may have to be mowed more often than it has been. He would also like to have a monthly Cemetery Condition Report presented to the Board. The Township Clerk should also receive and return calls from township residents and report these calls to the Board.
 - o The property on the corner of M-19 and Watertown Road is too small for the building that has been put on it is not correct. Is the Board going to act on this?
- Mrs. Thorley addressed the Board
 - o She agrees with Mr. Henderson that the cemetery is not being maintained to an acceptable standard. First it was the tree removal and now it is not mowed as often as it should.
- Rex Hazard addressed the Board regarding
 - o The cemetery trees were removed; however, the stumps are still there. The grass that is being seeded is not an acceptable grass type. There should be a landscaping company brought in to take care of the issues.
- Glenda Kirkbride addressed the Board regarding
 - o The bare ground surrounding the tree trunks has not been seeded and therefore weeds are growing. It should be seeded and fall would be a good time to have it done.
- Mr. Willis addressed the Board regarding
 - o Mr. Henderson's comments about the cemetery grass mowing. He also thinks it should be maintained better. Also, he doesn't believe that all the trees needed to be removed.

- Diane Ferguson addressed the Board regarding
 - o The FOIA request she submitted. She requested the fee be adjusted to the amount she believes is set by the State of Michigan.
 - o An issue with Highline violating an ordinance by bringing in the fiber optics connection over the easement limit in front of her home. She is asking the Board where she would find the ordinance for the easement in front of her house and what company violated the ordinance.

- Tracy Dorman addressed the Board regarding
She is not a member of the township, but has family members in the township and in the cemetery. She agrees the cemetery should be maintained better. Also, there are numerous properties owners who do not live on or maintain their properties.

- Don Ferguson addressed the Board regarding
 - o If the property on M-19 and Watertown Road property is too small for the building, the building should be taken down.

- Rick Pangburn addressed the Board regarding
 - o The M-19 and Watertown Road building concerns from Mr. Henderson. Will the Board be following up on the zoning discrepancies or will it be set aside? Dixon reminded Mr. Pangburn this is public comment, not public questions. He will be glad to speak with him at another time.

- Debbie Hazard addressed the Board regarding
 - o The replanting of cemetery trees. Has there been anymore thought of replacements or will families be able to put small ornamental trees on their plots? Cambridge said someone will get back to her with an answer. Mrs. Hazard she agrees that there needs to be better maintenance of the cemetery.

- Justin Oudman addressed the Board regarding
 - o The length of his lawn. It was cut very short and turned brown. He let it grow up taller to recover, but will get it mowed to the correct height.

ADJOURN

***Coats made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. Cambridge supported. Ayes: Cambridge, Coats, Dixon and Ross. Nays: None. Motion carried

Next Regular Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 6 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Ross, Clerk