

# WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 12, 2017, 7:30 P.M.

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1. The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Prayer. Board members present: Josh Westgate, Maureen Carmody, Tracy Worrell, Rick Schoenborn and Gary Karr. No parking in the reserved fire spaces was announced.
2. There were no additions to the agenda.
3. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Schoenborn to approve the bills for March 2017 in the amount of \$49,162.17 and to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. A motion was made by Schoenborn and supported by Worrell to approve the minutes of the March 08, 2017 Special Budget Prep Meeting, the March 08, 2017 Regular Board Meeting and the March 29, 2017 Special Board Meeting and Budget Public Hearing as written. Motion carried.
4. There were several members of the community in attendance to bring their concerns to the Board regarding an accumulation of junk and junk cars on property located at 2891 Roosevelt St. Richard Burns, 17755 28<sup>th</sup> Ave., informed the board that there were multiple junk vehicles near the pond adjacent to the property in an area that floods and drains into the pond. He also stated that several structures have been erected on the property in the past ten years, and that some were too close to the property line. He questioned whether any building permits had been obtained by the property owner. Mark and Marilyn Zemaitis, 17795 28<sup>th</sup> Ave, presented pictures to the Board of the pond and surrounding junk vehicles. The primary concern of nearby residents is the potential contamination of the pond from oil and other contaminants from the abandoned vehicles. The Supervisor informed the residents that as a complaint was filed regarding the property earlier in the week, the zoning administrator would be sending notices to the property owner requiring him to clean up the site or be subject to fines and possible court proceedings if no action is taken to rectify the situation.

County Commissioner Fenske was present to give his monthly report. Included was information regarding the next "Breakfast on the Farm" event which will be hosted by Dave VanDyke and J&J Dairy, 15637 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Marne, on Saturday, June 24 from 9:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. Fenske will be serving pancakes. Fenske reported that 911 texting is now available in Ottawa County for situations in which it is difficult to make a verbal call to 911. On Tuesday, April 25, there will be an open house at the newly combined and renovated Register of Deeds and County Clerk's Office at the Fillmore St. complex from 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Information was also presented regarding the new Ottawa County Parks Foundation. Karr commented on the numerous complaints regarding the Road Commission's customer service, and requested that Fenske encourage the Commissioners to consider eliminating the Road Commission and make it a department directly answerable to elected officials. Fenske stated that was still an option.

5. A motion was made by Schoenborn and supported by Karr to approve the 2017 Fireworks permit for the Berlin Raceway. The scheduled dates are April 22, May 27, July 1, August 26 and September 9. Rain dates are April 29, June 3, and September 2. Motion carried.
6. Nick Mesman from the Berlin Raceway was at the meeting to request approval for changes to the 2017 schedule. They would like to have an open practice every other Wednesday from 3:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. On the

other Wednesdays, they would like to offer mini wedge racing for kids age 6-14 from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Schoenborn to allow the mini wedge racing for one month, beginning next week. The event would be evaluated at the May Board meeting to determine if it would be allowed to continue through the summer. Motion carried. Board members discussed the possible impact on area residents of allowing the open practice on Wednesdays with mid-afternoon to evening hours. The Board was reluctant to approve the 3:00 p.m. -7:00 p.m. timeframe without the support of residents near the raceway. Carmody suggested to Mesman that he could contact residents within a half-mile radius of the track to obtain signatures from residents indicating approval of the later hours. The other Board members agreed that it would be a good idea for Mesman to gather community support for the change and the Board will wait for the results of Mesman's survey before considering approval of a change in practice times. The raceway also is planning a Food Rally on August 13, 2017. They estimate there will be 50-100 food trucks participating. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Worrell to allow the Food Rally event on August 13. Motion carried.

7. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Worrell to adopt Resolution 17-04-01 confirming Josh Westgate as Wright Township's Member Representative to the Michigan Township Participating Plan. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Karr, Schoenborn, Worrell, Carmody, Westgate. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.
8. Reports were given. There was no fire report and the Planning Commission did not meet in April. Carmody reported on the progress being made on fencing Wells Cemetery. Josh Westgate and Mike Keefe have obtained free fencing for a portion of the cemetery. Todd Olsen, the owner of the property surrounding Wells Cemetery, is also assisting the Township with this project. Carmody also informed the Board that there are multiple items in the Marne Cemetery that do not comply with the Cemetery ordinance. Signs will be erected in the Cemetery to notify those who maintain gravesites of what is allowed and not allowed in the cemetery. All non-complying items must be removed from the Cemetery by June 01, 2017. After this date, Township personnel will remove any remaining items, which will be saved for collection until October 15, 2017. A full copy of the Cemetery Ordinance can be viewed in the office on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday from 9:00-1:00 or on the Township website.
9. In the Supervisor's report, Westgate informed the Board that Seventh Day Adventists would be going door-to-door in the community. Worrell stated that she has concerns regarding members of this group who approached her children when she was not home. Westgate also reported on the discussions the local Townships have been having with the City of Coopersville regarding the Council on Aging. The City of Coopersville wants control of the Council on Aging, but the Townships would rather create an Authority to oversee the funds. Karr reported that Julie May has done an outstanding job organizing the 2017 Memorial Day parade and Marne Fest. Finally, Westgate said he had received a call complaining about trucks engine braking on 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. The Board is not in favor of an ordinance to prohibit engine braking considering the agricultural nature of Wright Township.
10. There were no Board concerns.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody  
Wright Township Clerk