

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 08, 2018

1565 Jackson St., Marne MI 49435

www.wrighttownship.com

draft

1. The Regular Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Westgate with the Pledge of Allegiance. Cydney Idsinga, pastor of Marne United Methodist Church, was present to give the Invocation. Board members present: Josh Westgate, Maureen Carmody, Nancy Hopper, Gary Karr. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Karr to excuse the absence of Rick Schoenborn. Motion carried.
2. There were no additions to the agenda.
3. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to approve the bills for July 2018 in the amount of \$33,922.33 and to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Karr to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2018 Regular Board meeting and the July 31, 2018 Special meeting as written. Motion carried.
4. There were no public comments.
5. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to appoint Rick Sparks as an additional building inspector and Lance Gates as an additional mechanical inspector with Imperial Municipal Services under the Supervision of Doug Hopkins. Motion carried.
6. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to reappoint Steve Gray, Harold Popma and Jim Molyneux to the Construction Board of Appeals. Motion carried.
7. There was no fire report available. Pastor Idsinga informed the Board that Marne United Methodist Church is interested in forming a partnership with the fire department, and are exploring ideas such as using volunteers for victim services and support during fire calls or other emergencies. Karr gave the Planning Commission report. At the July 16, 2018 Planning Commission meeting, a special land use permit was issued and the site plan approved for Westside Coffee, LLC to renovate the former Berlin Baptist Church into apartments. At the August 20, 2018 Planning Commission meeting there will be a site plan review of a proposed expansion for Priced Right Auto. Westgate reported that at the July Board of Review meeting there were only a few clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact to correct. Carmody reported that the August 08, 2018 Primary Election had a good turnout of voters, and that this was the second election to be held in the new polling location at St. Mary's church parish hall. Voters are reminded that all voters in Wright Township now vote at this location for all elections. Carmody also gave an update on the fencing project at Wells cemetery. The township has also received unexpected funds to be used for cemetery maintenance as the County dissolved the cemetery trust fund it administered on behalf of the township, and these funds in the amount of \$2346.95.00 were distributed recently to the township.
8. Westgate reported that the local Senior Services board is still working on administrative and program details. He also gave an update regarding the DeWys sewer project. It will be a complex project as the

grant awarded to DeWys by the State must be applied for by the township, and the funds must be used by DeWys to purchase equipment for their facility. DeWys then would be responsible for 100 percent of the sewer expansion costs. Karr suggested that the township should be compensated for administrative expenses incurred by this project. Westgate also informed the board that Mary Alt from the Historical Commission has requested that the number of Historical Commission members be increased from seven to nine members. There was discussion of whether it would then be difficult to obtain a quorum for meetings, and whether adding members would facilitate the functioning of the Commission. Also discussed was whether it would be better to change their charter to a society supported in some way by the township for the work they do on behalf of the township rather than continuing to exist as a governmental function. The Board expressed appreciation of the contributions of the Historical Commission to the community in preserving the Township's history. Westgate also requested that the board begin to consider the future building needs of the township as there is a need for more office, storage and meeting space. Karr agreed that the township should be looking toward the future and that it would be good idea to form a committee of community members to provide recommendations.

9. Under Board concerns, Karr brought up the change in occupancy at Serenity Point. He would like to invite a representative from the company to a board meeting and hopefully have them share their plans for the facility. Carmody initiated a discussion regarding restricting access to the township offices. There will be further discussion at the next board meeting. Recommendations from MTA will be obtained.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody
Wright Township Clerk