

## WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DECEMBER 13, 2017, 7:30 P.M.

1565 Jackson St. Marne, MI 49435

[www.wrighttownship.com](http://www.wrighttownship.com)

1. The Regular Board meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Westgate with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer. Board members present: Josh Westgate, Maureen Carmody, Nancy Hopper, Gary Karr and Rick Schoenborn.
2. There were no additions to the agenda.
3. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Hopper to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2017 Regular Board meeting as written. Motion carried. A motion was made by Schoenborn and supported by Karr to approve the bills for November 2017 in the amount of \$27,037.12 and to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.
4. Peter Nielson and Jon Monroe from Alliance Analytical Laboratories in Coopersville were in attendance and gave a brief description of their business credentials and the upcoming relocation of Alliance Analytical Laboratories into Wright Township. The business will be utilizing the former Sam's Joint location on 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. As the company is interested in pursuing a license from the State of Michigan to test medical marijuana in addition to the other services they currently provide, they requested that the Wright Township Board consider adopting an ordinance to permit the licensing of a testing facility. While the Board recognizes that the business has been an asset to the community, several Board members expressed concerns regarding the fact that marijuana is illegal at the Federal level and that allowing a medical marijuana facility could be detrimental to the community. They felt that more information would be necessary before there could be any further consideration of allowing the licensing of such a facility in the Township. Karr stated that he would not support the licensing of marijuana in any capacity.
5. Westgate presented to the Board a court petition to vacate Main Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street of the Village of Reno. These are streets that were never developed and only exist on old plot maps. Gary Peterson, the filer of the petition and also the adjacent property owner, has been maintaining the property. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Hopper to approve the vacation of the right-of-way of Main Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Street of the Village of Reno. Motion carried.
6. Karr gave the fire report. There were 67 calls in the month of November with a labor cost of \$12,670.00. At the joint Fire Board meeting on December 11, there was discussion of the lack of funds to continue running such a high number of calls, and of the risk of burnout for the part-time emergency response personnel. The Fire Board also recommended that the department hire a full-time person to respond to daytime calls, especially considering the high number of calls occurring during the day when the part-time personnel are not available. The department

is anticipating a total of 1,000 calls in 2017. The high cost of responding to these calls will likely require an increase in the Fire Millage. There was no Planning meeting in November. The next Planning Commission meeting will be Monday, December 18, 7:30 p.m. to consider two requests for rezoning.

7. Westgate gave the Supervisor's report. The preliminary sewer numbers from Grand Rapids indicate a 3% increase in sewer rates for 2018. He also gave an update regarding the driveway lawsuit on Cranberry Lake Ct. Attorneys for the Township have filed for summary disposition of the suit and sanctions against the plaintiff's attorney. The hearing has been rescheduled for next month. The Marne Christmas Tree lighting and party with Santa on November 25 was very successful with a gift for each child in attendance donated by an area business. Westgate reported on the progress being made to form an authority with three local townships and the City of Coopersville for the administration of millage funds for senior services. The City of Coopersville finally decided to join the townships in their efforts to better serve the residents of all the local communities. A survey is being sent to households in Wright, Chester and Polkton Townships and the City of Coopersville asking for input from seniors regarding activities and services they would like to have provided locally. Additional survey forms may also be obtained at the Wright Township office. All completed surveys need to be returned to the Wright Township Office by January 17, 2018 in order to be entered into a drawing for a gift card. Lastly, Westgate gave information to Board members regarding the Prein and Newhoff lunch on December 22.
8. Under Board concerns, Schoenborn inquired about progress on updating Township policies. Carmody brought to the Board's attention that the date of the Regular Board meeting in February is also Ash Wednesday, and that three Board members would likely be absent due to church responsibilities. It was decided to reschedule the February Board meeting to Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 p.m.
9. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody  
Wright Township Clerk