

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2018, 7:30 P.M.

1565 Jackson St., Marne, MI 49435

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. Schoenborn requested that discussion regarding compensation of Township officials for non-statutory duties be added to the agenda. This will be new item number 9, with subsequent agenda items moved down.
3. A motion was made by Carmody and supported by Karr to approve the bills for January, 2018 in the amount of \$18,487.20 and to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Hopper to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 Regular Board meeting as written. Motion carried.
4. Several township residents were in attendance to voice various concerns and to provide comments regarding driveways in the Ag zoning district, publication of township minutes and the condition of roads in the Township. State Representative Daniela Garcia was in attendance to introduce herself and provide information to the Board and residents regarding her campaign to run for a seat in the State Senate this year. She also gave a legislative update regarding State funds for road improvements.
5. Resolution 18-02-01-Resolution Approving Fifth Amendment to Water and Sewer Service Agreement. Westgate presented information to Board members regarding the resolution submitted by the City of Grand Rapids. There were changes in costs for new connections to the sewer system. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Karr to adopt Resolution 10-02-01-Resolution Approving Fifth Amendment to Water and Sewer Service Agreement. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Schoenborn, Karr, Carmody, Hopper, Westgate. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.
6. Public Hearing for Nielson Enterprises LLC-to establish an IFT district at 15520 48th Avenue. The Public Hearing was opened at 7:59 p.m. Peter Nielson from Alliance Analytical Laboratories was present to introduce himself and briefly describe the business. They are moving the business from their current Coopersville location to the location at 15520 48th Ave., and have plans to expand. Ken Rizzio from Lakeshore Advantage was also present to explain the IFT process and answer questions. Approving the establishment of an IFT (Industrial Facilities Tax) district would then allow the business to apply for an IFT tax abatement certificate in the future. Karr clarified with Rizzio that no rezoning of the property would be needed. Joann Becker inquired about the number of years applied for in an IFT certificate, and Westgate informed her that the business has not applied for an IFT certificate yet. The first step in the process is the establishment of an IFT district. Ted Clum asked if the applicant has to go before the planning commission first to get approval and request a rezoning of the property. Westgate informed him that the applicant would go to the planning commission for a site plan review. The discussion today is regarding the establishment of an IFT district. The public hearing was closed at 8:02 p.m. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to adopt Resolution 18-02-02-Resolution to establish an Industrial Development District (15520-48th Ave.) in Wright Township, Ottawa County, Michigan. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Carmody, Karr, Westgate, Schoenborn, Hopper. Nays: None. Absent: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.
7. Drain maintenance of Sevey of Wright Drain was discussed. A sedimentation and obstruction clean out was done by Ottawa County on Cleveland St. between 40th and 48th Ave. in response to a complaint. The board discussed whether the Township should levy the affected property owners to cover the cost of the maintenance,

or should the Township pay the cost of the maintenance. The cost for the maintenance work already done was \$3730.00. If the Township were to levy the property owners, an additional \$1500.00 in engineer fees would be necessary. After discussion, the Township Board decided that the Township would cover the cost of the drain maintenance in the amount of \$3730.00.

8. Westgate and Carmody gave updates regarding the results of the Senior Services Survey mailed to residents. There were many responses, the majority of which were interested in physical/social activities to be provided locally. Most respondents were not aware of any services or activities provided locally or through Four Pointes in Grand Haven. Wright, Chester and Polkton Townships along with the City of Coopersville are still in the process of finalizing a joint agreement for the purpose of providing senior activities and services in each jurisdiction as well as the Four Pointes Location in Grand Haven. Carmody presented information regarding tax preparation assistance for seniors provided by Four Pointes. There will be a tax clinic at Polkton Township on Thursday, March 22, 2018 at the Polkton Township hall. Tax preparation assistance is also provided on Tuesdays and Wednesdays throughout the tax season at the Four Pointes location in Grand Haven. Residents should call the front desk team for an appointment at 616-997-1786. Volunteer transportation is available upon request.
9. There was discussion of Township policies. Carmody stated that in her review of policies adopted by other jurisdictions and those recommended by MTA, she has some concerns regarding access to Township records. As one of the Clerk's statutory duties is maintaining custody of Township records, and as the Clerk is also the appointed FOIA coordinator in Wright Township, anyone wishing to view Township records must do so during regular posted office hours or by appointment with the Clerk. As Township Trustees wished to retain access to the Township office, at least the records with personal data such as social security numbers will need to be properly secured. There was also discussion regarding compensation for non-statutory duties performed by Township officials. There were several public comments expressing disagreement with the policy of compensation and the amount of \$20.00/hour, and Trustee Schoenborn was not in agreement with compensating official for anything other than building maintenance(request by Schoenborn at the March 14, 2018 Regular meeting to add the statement: without proper authorization of policies). It was decided that job descriptions for each Township official and employee would be discussed at the March meeting. Any Township residents who would like to volunteer services for the Township are encouraged to contact the Township office.
10. Karr gave the fire report. Westgate gave information regarding the process of hiring a full-time firefighter/administrator. There was no planning commission meeting in February. Carmody reported that at the January 31, 2018 ZBA meeting, a request for a dimensional variance was denied.
11. Westgate gave the Supervisor's report. The Historical Commission has purchased new laptops and software. Westgate also reported that at the court hearing on Tuesday, the judge dismissed the Township from the Cranberry Lake driveway lawsuit, but as one of the attorneys had issued a subpoena, Westgate had to remain in court for the day. He also reported that the Township Assessor has returned to work after some time off with health issues. Schoenborn wondered if the Township should be searching for a new assessor. Supervisor Westgate informed him that he is a licensed assessing officer.
12. Under Board concerns, on behalf of the Township, Gary Karr recognized and expressed great appreciation for the tremendous historical contribution to the community made by Henry Boersma who recently passed away.
13. The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody

Wright Township Clerk