

WRIGHT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 10, 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. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Carmody 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 December, 2017 in the amount of \$37,583.20 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 December 13, 2017 Regular Board meeting as written. Motion carried.
4. Joe Haveman, a candidate for State Senate in the upcoming August Primary, was in attendance to introduce himself to the Board and to present information regarding his candidacy.
5. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to approve the 2018 Berlin Raceway Schedule as presented by Nick Mesman. Motion carried.
6. Karr, the Wright Township Board representative on the Planning Commission, gave a brief overview of the Planning Commission recommendation to rezone property Owned by Ottawa Excavators, Inc. from Agricultural to Industrial. The Planning Commission was unanimous in recommending the change to the Township Board as it is adjacent to property already zoned Industrial and was intended to be Industrial in the Master Plan. Ed Niemi and Brandon Niemi, owners of Ottawa Excavators, Inc., were in attendance and stated that they had no specific plans for the property. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Carmody to adopt Ordinance 131 Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance- an Ordinance to amend the Wright Township Zoning Ordinance by rezoning certain lands to the Industrial Zoning District. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Karr, Westgate, Carmody, Hopper. Nays: None. Absent: Schoenborn. The Supervisor declared the Ordinance adopted.
7. Karr also presented a brief overview of the Planning Commission recommendation to rezone property owned by Westside Coffee from Residential to Village District. The property includes parcels previously owned by the Berlin Baptist Church. As these parcels are indicated as Village District in the Master Plan, the Planning Commission was unanimous in recommending the change to the Township Board. Mike Mohn, owner of Westside Coffee, was in attendance also. A motion was made by Carmody and supported by Hopper to adopt Ordinance 132 Zoning Map Amendment Ordinance-and Ordinance to amend the Wright Township Zoning Ordinance by rezoning certain lands to the Village District Zoning District. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Hopper, Carmody, Karr, Westgate. Nays: None. Absent: Schoenborn. The Supervisor declared the Ordinance adopted.
8. The Senior Services Joint Contract between the City of Coopersville, Wright Township, Polkton Township and Chester Township was discussed. This contract would create an authority with equal representation from each jurisdiction to oversee and spend the senior millage funds collected by each jurisdiction. The authority

would have the ability to contract with Four Pointes for senior services or to provide such services internally. The contract as presented is in the process of being reviewed by Polkton Township's attorneys, and there may be some minor wording changes in the final contract. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to enter into the joint agreement as outlined in the document, and if any minor wording needs to be adjusted according legal advice, that the Township Supervisor and Clerk be authorized to determine if any changes in the wording of the contract are in keeping with the original intent of the agreement. Motion carried.

9. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Karr to accept the Advance Newspaper's 2018 Legal Advertising bid. The rates are unchanged from the previous year. Motion carried.
10. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Hopper to approve budget amendments (see attached). Motion carried.
11. The 2018 Cemetery mowing bid from J & F GroundKeepers was discussed. The 2018 bid is approximately \$400.00 more than last year to reflect added costs for fall clean-up. The extraordinary amount of leaf clean-up required in the Marne Cemetery was discussed also. Carmody informed the Board that a lot of trimming was done that will help alleviate the problem, and that the removal of aging trees would ease the increasing costs of maintenance in the cemetery. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Hopper to approve the 2018 Cemetery mowing bid by J & F Groundkeepers with the stipulation that the fall clean up be completed to the satisfaction of the Township Clerk. Motion carried.
12. A motion was made by Hopper and supported by Carmody to reappoint Gary Karr as Township Board Representative to the Planning Commission. Motion carried.
13. Westgate nominated Gary Karr and Rick Schoenborn for a 1- year term to the Wright/Tallmadge Fire Board. A motion was made by Carmody and supported by Hopper to appoint Gary Karr and Rick Schoenborn to the Wright/Tallmadge Fire Board for a 1-year term. Motion carried.
14. Dates were set for the 2018/2019 Budget. A motion was made by Karr and supported by Carmody to set the dates as follows: The Pre-Budget workshop to be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at 12:00 p.m., The Budget Prep Meeting to be held prior to the Regular Board meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. and the Special Meeting with Budget Public Hearing to be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. The Closing of the Books is Thursday, March 29, 2018. Motion carried.
15. Karr gave the fire report. There was a total of 939 runs in 2017, which was a record number. December alone had 104 runs. Karr reported that with the way the department has been traditionally funded and operated, they can't sustain this number of runs. For Planning, Karr reported that at the December meeting the Planning Commission referred two requests for rezones to the Township Board. There will not be a Planning Commission meeting in January.
16. Westgate reported that there has been a good response from the Senior Services Survey which was mailed to Township Residents. Ken Rizzio contacted Westgate to inform him of changes in the funding models for Lakeshore Advantage. They would like the Township to increase its contribution. The Township has changed waste services from Waste Management to Potluck Pickup at a great savings to the Township. Westgate also reported that at the Circuit Court Hearing for a summary disposition regarding the Cranberry Lake Ct. driveway lawsuit, the judge refused to release the Township from the lawsuit. The trial is scheduled for next month. Any Board members wishing to attend the MTA conference in April should notify the

Township Clerk. The Prein and Newhoff lunch has been rescheduled for Friday, January 19. Westgate informed the board that Township Assessor, Steve Hanson, is experiencing some health issues.

17. Under Board concerns, Carmody presented Board members with communications sent to her by Trustee Schoenborn who was unable to attend the meeting. His first concern was regarding compensation for the Supervisor to attend Fire Board meetings. After discussion, it was decided by the Board that in order to make sure that there are always two voting members from Wright Township present at each quarterly meeting, and as the Supervisor is the alternate in the event of the absence of Karr or Schoenborn, and due to the need to attend meetings regularly in order to be informed regarding ongoing discussion, and as the Supervisors from both Townships are frequently needed for information due to their involvement with day to day department activities, and as the Tallmadge Township Supervisor is compensated for attending the meetings, a motion was made by Karr and supported by Hopper to encourage the Township supervisor to attend all Fire Board meetings and be compensated from Township Office Salaries at the regular meeting rate of \$50.00 as an expert reference , or from Fire Board Payroll as an alternate to the Fire Board when either of the Township Board Representatives are absent. Motion carried. Schoenborn's second concern was regarding a review of Supervisor compensation for non-statutory duties. It was decided this would be better discussed at a later meeting.

18. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Maureen Carmody
Wright Township Clerk