

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE WHEATFIELD TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Tuesday November 10, 2020 7:00PM
(Meeting held in Large Room)

Supervisor Myer called meeting to order at 7:00PM. Roll call—Myer, Henley, Miller and Kapp-present. Allen-absent.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation: Apex Clean Energy, Kalamink Wind Project. Supervisor Myer stated that any board and audience participation during the presentation should be directed through him, and that there would be time following the presentation for questions. Beginning at 7:04PM, Sean Stocker and Brian O’Shea passed out handouts to the board members and presented the project idea to the group. Five townships are being considered within the scope of this project—Ingham, White Oak, Leroy, Stockbridge and Wheatfield. Following the presentation there were several inquiries. The presentation ended at 7:55PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened at 7:56PM.

- Pat Stoney said there have been some accidents and near accidents at the intersection of Linn and Zimmer Roads recently and she inquired if there are any safety measures that can be taken there.
- Don Henley recognized Tom Mills as bring the recipient of the 2020 Volunteer of the Year by Habitat for Humanity Capital Region. *Congratulations Tom!*
- Lauren Babbage offered to look at contracts from Apex Energy for township residents.
- Ron Dlouhy asked what the process regarding the Wind Project would be going forward, and how are township residents kept informed as there isn’t a website. Supervisor Myer outlined the steps that will be taken and said the township is in the process of creating a website. Closed at 8:03PM.

Presentation: NIESA Director Mike Yanz. Beginning at 8:04PM, Mike gave us some background regarding adopting a Fire Code that is consistent with the State Fire Code and with the other jurisdictions in NIESA. The State of Michigan does not have the capacity for enforcement due to insufficient resources, so NIESA would take on this responsibility given the authority by each of its members. The enforcement would apply to commercial establishments only and include regular inspections of established businesses well as plan review and building inspections of new businesses. Safety is the main thrust. Mike also included a separate sample Fireworks Ordinance for us to review and possibly adopt, if we choose to. The presentation ended at 8:20PM

MINUTES:

Motion by Henley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of October 13, 2020, seconded by Miller. All were in favor—motion carried. Allen absent.

*Copies of the minutes are available at the township office.

*******REPORTS*******

TREASURER’S REPORT: Given by Miller. Summary:

- ✓ Independent Bank General Fund-fund balance equity:----- \$189,194.92
- ✓ Independent Bank Tax Roll Checking balance:----- \$ 6,932.79

Motion by Henley to approve the treasurer’s report of October 31, 2020, seconded by Kapp. All were in favor—motion

carried. Allen absent.

- ✓ The Senior Center millage passed and needs to be added to the taxes.

*Copies of the treasurer's report are available at the township office.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Given by Miller.

- ✓ The October meeting covered potential zoning ordinance amendments aimed at correcting a building height requirement and considering modifications to shooting ranges and setbacks for buildings with animals. There is a meeting scheduled for November 19th and everyone is invited to attend.

N.I.E.S.A.: Given by Henley.

- ✓ They haven't had a meeting since our last board meeting.

*A copy of NIESA's minutes is available at the township office.

CEMETERY: No report.

- ✓ Dennis Cemetery:
- ✓ Cabot Cemetery: There are no lots available.
- ✓ Spaulding Cemetery: There are no lots available.

*A copy of the cemetery report is available at the township office.

SUPERVISOR: Given by Myer and submitted in writing. Summary:

- ✓ This month was very busy with many of the inquiries involving lots of back and forth. As noted in the agenda we need to discuss several issues as a board and determine our path forward. The discussion around how we as a board should approach the proposed wind energy project impacting the township is important. Emotions are likely to run high both for and against such activity. We need to be informed as a board and ensure that our citizens have access to information.
- ✓ There were eight zoning inquiries, two zoning approvals, one zoning enforcement update and one general inquiry.

*A copy of the supervisor's report is available at the township office.

CLERK: Given by Kapp and submitted in writing. Summary:

- ✓ The General Election has come and gone, breaking several records in the township. We had the most absentee voters, including a significant number of early voters and we had an 83% turn out of our voters. The day went smoothly in spite of some tabulator ballot jams, thanks to pre-Election day planning and organization, and in great part to our super team of Election Inspectors.
- ✓ Pre-Election, Channel 10 WILX interviewed Violet Lentz for a feature story that ran on Election Day. It's a great report.
- ✓ The year-to-date report is attached. Nothing of note to report. We did receive our largest Revenue Sharing check from the State in early November.
- ✓ DeLau performed our annual inspection.

*Copies of the clerk's report are available at the township office.

SHERIFF: Submitted in writing by Deputy Cheryl Huhn.

✓

*Copies of the Sheriff's report are available at the township office.

*****DISCUSSION ITEMS*****

1. *Apex Wind Energy.* Discussion points were that we need input from our community and to have discussions with surrounding communities that have been approached. We may need to amend our zoning ordinance, depending on the desires of the community as well. The consensus was to reach out to Mark Eidelson of Landplan, Inc. for assistance with direction and possibly a survey. Supervisor Myer said he will do this. Also, we can talk to some communities who have already implemented this energy for their experiences and feedback.

2. *Zoning issue—Building setbacks for animals.* Supervisor Myer said that the current setbacks of 100 feet for buildings that house animals are too restricting for smaller acreage parcels in the agricultural district. He said that enforcement is also problem. With the adoption of the latest zoning ordinance, there is no longer a minimum land size requirement for keeping animals in the Agricultural district, the rationale being that the setback restrictions would govern this. Since the real problem is the storing of manure and not the location of the buildings per se, he would like the board to consider other options. Many folks move to the country with the expectation of keeping an animal or two on their non-farm property. Supervisor Myer will ask Mark Eidelson of Landplan for any thoughts or solutions on this.

3. *Trucks on Bravender Road.* The issue is that large delivery trucks are incorrectly being routed down Bravender Road and

with no outlet, they must back out the whole way. Sometimes they drive over resident's lawns and knock down mailboxes. The residents there have asked if there is anything we can do. Supervisor Myer spoke with the Ingham County Road Department who said we can enact a *No Trucks Ordinance*. Board discussion yielded a couple of other suggestions before taking this step. One was to confirm that there is already a "No Outlet" sign at Bravender Road. Another was to give feedback to the GPS applications that this is in fact the incorrect route. One more was to talk to someone at the facility where the trucks are going to see if they will communicate with their delivery drivers the correct place to turn, possibly even placing a sign indicating their entrance in a prominent location. Supervisor Myer will talk to whoever oversees the facility. We will also look at a sample No Truck Ordinance in December.

*******ACTION ITEMS*******

1. Payroll and Accounts payable (October 2020 bills). Reports attached.

Motion by Henley to pay the October 2020 bills, seconded by Miller.

Roll call vote: Myer, Miller, Henley and Kapp-yes. Motion carried. Allen absent.

Final Notes: All board members were reelected, and we will take the Oath of Office in December, we will have our Audit Report presentation, and we will formally appoint Polly Brainerd as the new Cemetery Sexton. Holly mentioned another possible presentation in December.

Motion to adjourn by Henley, seconded by Miller. All were in favor—motion carried. Allen absent.
Meeting ended at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kapp, Clerk

Date

Next board meeting:
Tuesday December 8, 2020 at 7:00 pm.