

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

Tuesday June 8, 2021, 7:00PM

(Meeting held via ZOOM; link posted on the bulletin board and provided by supervisor Myer)

Supervisor Myer called meeting to order at 7:01PM.

The basis for the virtual meeting is the Continuation of the State of Emergency for the County of Ingham declared by the Board of Commissioners and expiring on June 30, 2021. Roll call—Allen, Myer, Henley, Miller and Kapp-present. The physical location of all board members is Wheatfield Township, Michigan.

Public Hearing—2021-2022 Proposed Budget.

Supervisor Myer opened the public hearing portion of the meeting at 7:02 PM with the statement that public comments during this portion of the meeting are limited to the topic of the proposed budget.

Public comment: Opened at 7:03 PM. Comments about the proposed budget included the suggestion that the attorney line item contain enough money to cover potential costs related to the large wind energy systems issue. Other suggestions included that the township should shop for a new attorney and planner.

Public comment closed at 7:15 PM.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:16 PM. Many people expressed their concern about not wanting wind energy systems in the township. Other comments included:

in-person meetings, outdoors if necessary;

a longer moratorium period;

a survey;

meetings that are topic specific;

a dialogue at board meetings;

their attorney and other experts to advise the township;

the township attorney to attend meetings;

a shorter moratorium period.

they don't trust township officials;

MSU Extension is a biased source of information;

we are spending too much time and money on this.

Public Comment: Closed at 7:37 PM.

MINUTES:

Motion by Henley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 11, 2021, seconded by Allen.

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

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

Motion by Miller to approve the minutes of the special meeting [budget] of May 26, 2021, seconded by Allen.

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

*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:----- \$150,791.42
- ✓ Independent Bank Certificate of Deposit:----- \$100,000.00
- ✓ Independent Bank Tax Roll Checking balance:----- \$ 1,600.03

Motion by Henley to approve the treasurer’s report of May 31, 2021, seconded by Allen.

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

- ✓ Holly said May was a busy month. She is in the process of completing the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2021.
- ✓ Independent Bank had a software change during May.
- ✓ Holly reported a request from a resident who wants broadband.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION: Given by Kapp.

- ✓ The planning commission met on May 20th virtually. About 25 attendees were present. Public comment was lengthy.
- ✓ The commissioners discussed the next steps in the study and research regarding large wind energy systems. Along with visiting a community with wind turbines and talking with officials about their experience and gathering wind topic specific ordinances from other communities, we have invited the MSU Extension to present an educational session to a joint meeting of the planning commission and the board of trustees. This special joint meeting has just been scheduled for **Wednesday June 23, 2021, at 7 PM.** It will be a 2-hour presentation by MSUE for the education of planning commission and board members on the regulatory specifics of large wind energy systems. The meeting will be via ZOOM due to MSU participant constraints. ***The meeting is open to the public and will take the place of the regularly scheduled June meeting of the planning commission of June 17th, WHICH HAS BEEN CANCELED.*** The notice of the meeting and the ZOOM link will be posted on the bulletin board at the town hall, will be available from Supervisor Myer or planning commission chair Mike Kapp or can be obtained by calling the township office at 517-655-4161. Following the MSU presentation the regular business of the planning commission will take place, including public comment.

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

- ✓ The redesign of NIESA’s website is moving forward.
- ✓ Director Yanz has been busy trying to secure money for NIESA via the American Rescue Funds and other grant sources. He would like to obtain as much as \$1,000,000 to assist with extra costs associated with coronavirus responses.
- ✓ *A copy of NIESA’s minutes is available at the township office.

SUPERVISOR: Given by Myer.

- ✓ Activity in May was relatively light. He will submit a written report soon.

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

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

- ✓ May was a very busy month with a significant amount of time spent in preparation for the special budget meeting on May 26th and for tonight’s public hearing.
- ✓ The Wide-Open-West (WOW) 10-year Cable Franchise Agreement was received, reviewed and is on the agenda tonight.
- ✓ The oath of office was administered to the newest ZBA member, Larry Doyle, and he received some training materials.
- ✓ I met with the new hall rental coordinator and custodian, Polly Brainerd to explain the duties of these positions.
- ✓ On June 3rd I attended an all-day Education Day hosted by the Capitol Area Municipal Clerks Association, which included presentations about Elections, Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, and current legislation.
- ✓ The floors throughout the hall have been professionally cleaned and flowers planted around the flagpole.
- ✓ The year-to-date report is attached to the clerk’s report.

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

SHERIFF: No report.

✓

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

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

1. **Large Wind Energy Systems (WES) Moratorium.** Legal counsel reviewed and approved the draft moratorium. The

current moratorium language specifies a time frame of nine months, but following discussion by the board, the consensus was to extend it to twelve months. This is an action item for tonight.

2. **Wide-Open-West (WOW) Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement.** This agreement is for a term of ten years and covers only video (cable) service from WOW. A 3% franchise fee has been levied in the past. We can reduce it to 0% or increase it to 5%. The consensus of the board was to leave it at 3%. This is an action item for tonight.

3. **2021-2022 Budget.** The updated proposed 2021-2022 budget reflected the changes discussed at the special meeting of May 26th. Changes included the addition of the WASC extra voted millage, 2% salary increases, and other minor changes that reflect higher costs due to changes in service contracts, i.e., cemetery mowing and grave digging. This is an action item for tonight.

4. **2021-2022 Salary Resolutions.** These proposed resolutions have been updated to reflect the 2021-2022 budget amounts. This is an action item for tonight.

5. **2021-2022 Compensation and Fee Schedule for Wheatfield Township Personnel and Services.** This item has been updated to reflect the 2021-2022 budget. After board discussion, the fee for tax information was eliminated. This is an action item for tonight.

6. **Possible timeframe for reopening the hall.** Holly said she thought there were some limiting factors by MIOSHA through October. She will check on it.

7. **Hall rental agreement revision.** The rental agreement has been revised to clarify some agreement expectations for both parties and to reflect the rise in the rental fee. The deposit amount is unchanged. If passed it will become effective July 1, 2021. This is an action item for tonight.

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

1. **Large Wind Energy Systems Moratorium Ordinance #1-2021.**

Motion by Allen to approve Ordinance #1-2021, An Ordinance To Declare A Moratorium On The Construction, Maintenance, And Operation Of Large Wind Energy Systems And Meteorological Towers For A Limited Period Of Time Within The Township, the period of time being twelve months, seconded by Henley.

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

*A copy of the ordinance is available at the township office.

2. **Wide-Open-West (WOW) Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement.**

Motion by Kapp to approve the WOW Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement ten-year extension and keeping the local franchise amount levied at 3%, seconded by Miller.

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

*A copy of the franchise agreement is available at the township office.

3. **2021-2022 Budget.**

Motion by Miller to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Budget as presented, including the Williamston Area Senior Center extra-voted millage as both a revenue and an expenditure, and with the addition of \$2,600 in Revenues under Cemeteries; Open/Close and \$600 in Expenditures under Cemeteries, Dennis [lawn mowing], with Total Revenues of \$253,375.00 and Total Expenditures of \$271,745.00, seconded by Allen.

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

*Copies of the 2021-2022 budget are available at the township office.

4. **2021-2022 Salary Resolutions (Trustees, Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk.**

Motion by Motion by Allen to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Salary Resolutions for Trustee, Supervisor, Treasurer and Clerk as presented, seconded by Henley.

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

*Copies of the 2021-2022 salary resolutions are available at the township office.

5. **2021-2022 Compensation and Fee Schedule for Wheatfield Township Personnel and Services.**

Motion by Myer to approve the proposed 2021-2022 Compensation and Fee Schedule for Wheatfield Township Personnel and Services with the change discussed above, seconded by Henley.

Roll Call Vote: Henley, Miller, Myer, Allen and Kapp-yes. Motion carried.
**Copies of the 2021-2022 compensation and fee schedule are available at the township office.*

6. Accounts Payable for May 2021 (Payroll and Expenses).

Motion by Allen to pay the accounts payable for May 2021, seconded by Henley.

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

**Attachments: Payroll and list of expenses.*

7. Revised Hall Rental Agreement.

Motion by Kapp to approve the revised Hall Rental Agreement as presented, effective July 1, 2021, seconded by Allen.

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

Final Notes: Report by Allen on the activities of the Williamston Area Senior Center. Beginning in July this will be a regular report to the board. They meet every two months.

Motion to adjourn by Henley, seconded by Miller. All were in favor—motion carried.

Meeting ended at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kapp, Clerk

Date

**Next board meeting will be the Special Joint Meeting
with the township board of trustees and planning
commission on
Wednesday June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm via ZOOM.**

**Next regular board meeting will be on
July 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm. If large gathering
restrictions are lifted, the meeting will be held in
person at the town hall.**