

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

**Wednesday March 10, 2021 7:00PM

**Rescheduled from March 9th due to Board of Review scheduling conflict.
(Meeting held in Large Room, masks and social distancing required)

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

Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentation to Violet Lentz of the CivicPlus Small Town America Volunteer Award Certificate of National Recognition, presented by Holly Miller. \$1,000.00 to the township was awarded in Violet’s name. Violet was honored as a top 100 National Award Winner for Outstanding Civic Volunteerism. ***Congratulations Violet and Thank You for your service!***

PUBLIC COMMENT: Opened at 7:07 pm by Supervisor Myer, who stated public comment is the opportunity for the board to listen to comments from citizens on any topic and that questions or concerns at this time may be assigned for follow-up by the board at a later date. A three-minute time limit per speaker was imposed. All comments were regarding large Wind Energy Systems and are grouped by categories:

- Colin Kummerfeldt from Apex said he was available to answer questions regarding large WES in the Kalamink Wind Project outside of the meeting.
- Concerns from attendees included the potential loss of property values, noise, the impacts of turbines on health, agriculture and rural character, decommissioning and land reclamation responsibility, general hazards and unintended consequences, recyclability of blades, how the sites are chosen and the number turbines, alternatives and options to wind energy, how to disallow large WES in the township, complete opposition to large WES, the lack of logic in having wind turbines in the township, and “not in my backyard”.
- Other concerns were for more and better communication from the township, i.e., informational meetings, answers to questions, letters/survey, draft amendment language, a website, a vote, a timeline of the process. Some asked if the board has talked to other townships.
- Folks asked why the issue is with the planning commission, who does the planning commission work for, they are too powerful, and what are the bios of the planning commission members.
- Other comments: the board is letting young people down, the board is getting a federal kick-back, the board has lost the confidence of some and they may support a recall campaign and some have hired an attorney to oppose large WES.
- Closed at 8:00PM.

MINUTES:

Motion by Henley to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 9, 2021, seconded by Miller. All were in favor—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:----- \$211,746.97
- ✓ Independent Bank Tax Roll Checking balance:----- \$651,696.52

Motion by Henley to approve the treasurer’s report of February 28, 2021, seconded by Allen. All were in favor—motion carried.

- ✓ The 2021 tax season has officially ended and Holly is working on settling with the County.
- ✓ Holly will check on interest rates for a certificate of deposit of \$100,000 for 6 months.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION: Given by Kapp.

- ✓ The February meeting was canceled but there will be a meeting on March 18th to continue working on the proposed amendments to the zoning ordinance and the budget. The meeting will be held via ZOOM.

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

- ✓ The vendor/service provider contract SOP was passed without the requirement for vendors to be up to date on their taxes with the NIESA units.
- ✓ It was decided that it is in the best interest of NIESA for their employees to be able to perform work for NIESA.
- ✓ They discussed the purchase of a new ambulance, approximately \$250,000.
- ✓ They had the election of their officers.

*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 was another very busy month with many of the inquiries involving lots of back and forth.
- ✓ There were seven zoning inquiries, two zoning enforcement issues and one zoning permit was issued.
- ✓ In addition, there were multiple calls on the wind energy systems issue.
- ✓ The March Board of Review convened in person on March 8th and 9th. A total of nine petition applications were reviewed, including four veterans’ exemptions, one poverty exemption, one property card correction and two protests of true cash value.

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

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

- ✓ The November 2020 election materials have been released and are in retention for 22 months and the RLA results confirmed election night results, adding to the knowledge of election security in Michigan.
- ✓ The Ingham County Chapter of the MTA met virtually on February 24th. Guests were Bill Conklin and Kelly Jones of the Ingham County Road Department. The matching funds are expected to be the same as last year (\$33,300) and they are programming for the 2021 construction season. They are asking municipalities for their road projects.
- ✓ I attended a virtual lunch seminar on FOIA through the MTA.
- ✓ The year-to-date report is attached.

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

SHERIFF: Submitted in writing by Deputy Cheryl Huhn.

- ✓ Cheryl sent both the January and February reports.

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

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

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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

1. Resolution 2-2021, to Authorize the Approval and Signing of an Interlocal Agreement for the Ingham County Designated Assessor.

Motion by Henley to approve RESOLUTION 2-2021, A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE APPROVAL AND SIGNING OF AN INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR THE INGHAM COUNTY DESIGNATED ASSESSOR

WHEREAS, MCL 211.10g establishes the requirement for a designated assessor in each county and that such designation should be made before December 31, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, to meet the requirement of appointing a Designated Assessor for Ingham County, the assessing districts in Ingham County and the Ingham County Board of Commissioners have agreed to designate William E. Fowler as Designated Assessor; and,

WHEREAS, the Interlocal Agreement naming the Designated Assessor shall be binding upon all assessing districts upon its approval by

the County Board of Commissioners, William E. Fowler, a majority of the assessing districts, and the State Tax Commission; and, WHEREAS, the Designated Assessor shall only act as the assessor of record for an assessing district when required by the State Tax Commission PURSUANT TO mcl 211.10g.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Wheatfield Township approves the Interlocal Agreement naming William E. Fowler, an individual qualified and certified by the State Tax Commission as a Michigan Master Assessing Officer, to be the County Designated Assessor for Ingham County; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Wheatfield Township Supervisor is authorized to sign the Interlocal Agreement,

seconded by Allen.

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

2. Payroll and Accounts payable (February 2021 payroll and expenses. Reports attached.

Motion Allen to pay the February 2021 Accounts Payable (payroll and expenses), seconded by Henley.

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

*Payroll and list of expenses attached.

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

Meeting ended at 9:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Kapp, Clerk

Date

Next board meeting:
Tuesday April 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm.