

Meeting Minutes

Montcalm Township Board Meeting

September 13, 2023

7:00 PM



Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum Determination; All present; Blomstrom; Hyde; Hansen; Cousineau; Foley

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Hyde; Second by Cousineau; Motion Carries

Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 9th 2023 Regular Meeting: Motion to approve by Hanson; Second by Hyde; Motion Carries.

Treasurer's Report: All accounts are balanced. Motion by Hansen to approve; Second by Foley; Motion Carries.

Payment of Bills & Allocation of Budgetary Resources: Motion by Hyde to approve; Second by Hansen; Blomstrom asked about restitution and confirmed amounts; budget safety is where back taxes were paid out, more to come; Motion Carries.

Supervisor Comments: MML property schematic has been updated to include the house; later to approve the \$10 K grant for the Fire Department; worked with Mark Christensen for road payments, still under budget, one road came over but 3 other under budget; gravel has been taken care of on Berridge through ARPA; quote for Pickelball court will cost \$6200 and looking at next budget year or potential grants available; Started conversation with the attorney in regards to the road associations around the lakes and the proper way to track money from us to them for road improvements which was asked during audit how we track financials.

Committee and Individual Reports:

Planning Commission: Palmer discussed the the Aug public hearing for the 7.25 Solar Energy Provisions and 3 technical amendments to tables in articles 3; Only one person commented with a list of complaints; none of previous concerns were previously raised by the public, attorney or the PC members, following the public meeting the PC voted 3-1 to table matters and research the concerns raised; Baird and Palmer submitted proposals for Application site planning and special land uses for review; Baird will be incorp provisions and present at the next PC meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals: John Johansen stated 2nd ZBA was on Aug 16 where they welcomed Richelle Lentz to Vice President replacing Christine Foley; considerable conversation took place by zoning, board and public regarding considering article 20.2 and 20.4A Nonconforming lot and usage; suggestion to the PC to review of these articles and rewrite; 2 PC members present for discussion; ZBA has agreed there is language that is confusing and is no benefit to the twp.; next meeting Wed December 20, 2023. Side note there are still opening for ZBA alternates.

Library: Meets tonight

Cemeteries: Continuing to scan docs and enter information into spreadsheets. Potential software proposals will be discussed later in the meeting. Looking into Perpetual care because we have a monument marker that's starting to lean and what we need to do to fix that and other headstones; potential plan over the next couple years to get it cleaned up; Randy been notified about some we can fix; Rule boards and fencing that can be fixed. Dumpsters weren't in the budget and potential use of monthly budget to fund dumpsters; Oct potential dumpsters and Hansen to coordinate. 1 complaint at Monroe cemetery in regards to some mowing things and fence damage.

Cemetery software discussion: Went back to the previous company to discuss mapping charges when we didn't request mapping and different options they offered; DocuFree is \$2300 for one time fee and

\$3495 annual fee for 3 year agreement for a \$5795 up front; doc management, file storage, deeds; OpusZenta Found OpusXenta that Blomstrom had sent to us and found to be a better all in one package without the mapping charges and allows us to import our own maps; record keeper, ownership management, inventory control, calendar, work permits and potential if we would like to offer services for flowers and vases it can be used as a potential revenue stream; allowing us to grow into a software without extra charges; \$2400 one time fee and \$2400 annual for a total of \$4800; also add ons for accepting credits card payments. Foley stated she like the Opus the best because it gave better flexibility and options especially work orders and mix of communication; Motion made by Hyde to purchase OpusXenta cemetery software not exceeding \$5000; Seconded by Hansen; Motion Carries **Zoning Administrator:** Busy August; roof over a porch, 2 pole barns, 1 new house; 1 cottage addition with garage on the back of Pirch Lake; barn addition. New citation books came in.

County Commissioner: No updates and Adam not present.

Fire Department: 8 fire runs; structure fire, motor vehicle accidents, vehicle fire, down power line and disregard; August training water supply, pumper to pumper relay, hydrants; Sept training policy review, PPE gear and tool inspections; Truck pull Special Olympics, cornhole tournament after the pull and Aero Med; Sept 30th truck pull at noon; requested for calendar update so no double booking; Donated vehicle to use for extraction or whatever is needed for training; signed the title to Montcalm township and asks the board if we need to approve or receive the donation; Tabled to get the VIN number; lawn mower in the shop for repairs; stair climb for 9/11 and 3 members participated in the event along with the Chaplin at the Whitecaps ballpark; one gentleman will be attending the academy in the fall. Cliff went to Lansing to represent Outmans district for the 9/11 ceremony.

Trustees: Hansen and Cousineau nothing to report

Clerk: Busy month, 80% trained for the elections; cemeteries being worked on; all ordinances scanned over to Palmer and Blomstrom.

Public Comment for Committee and Individual Reports:

Pam Hemmes: was at truck pull last year and enjoyed her time, perpetual care wont cover dumpsters.

Public Comment for Old Business: No Public Comments

Old Business:

- **Campbell Auditing CPA** – Still waiting for final report to come back and left under old business to ensure the public is notified when this comes back.
- **Baseball field update:** Richele Lentz; trying to get fence up by the end of the year.

Public Comment for New Business: No Public Comments

New Business:

- **Consideration for continuation of solar moratorium (Ordinance 22-2) through March 13, 2024:** Expires today and PC is working the Solar ordinance the board needs to consider extending the Solar Moratorium for a another 6 months to March 13, 2024; Hansen asked if this is the 3rd extension, Blomstrom made the motion to continue of solar moratorium (Ordinance 22-2) through March 13, 2024; Foley Seconded; No discussion; Motion Caries
- **Grant received from State of Michigan - \$10,000 – fire department (for previous expenditures after August 1, 2022 until present):** Cliff to use on previous bunker gear purchased; Cliff to verify exactly; Blomstrom made a motion to accept the grant from the State of Michigan for up to \$10k for the Fire Department in pursuant to a grant opportunity; Seconded by Hyde; Motion Carries

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- **Opening inquiry into transfer of funds to road boards of the lake associations:** Blomstrom in contact with Twp. Lawyer, in lieu of the audit we want to be sure we are handling the money properly, disseminating it properly, tracked. Paperwork was dropped off the other day as to what money was going for; Hyde is going to be requesting receipts and asking for further documentation of how it was spent; Lawyer is to review if we need to make motions to take monies out of the general fund; is acceptable to do the receipt method and verifying where the money is going; trying to get ahead of any new budget problems.
- **Reauthorization of road contract #23142 for \$15,578:** We received a Road Invoice bill for 23142 for \$17,135.80 ; originally approved for \$15,578; some overages for material to complete the job; but for all the road projects as a whole we are under for this fiscal year; Blomstrom to make a motion to approve paying invoice #23142 for \$17135.80; Seconded by Hyde; Motion Carries
- **Code Enforcement – outsourcing:** Looking at options for how busy Mike is with permits looking to see what a code enforcement company would cost; they know the ordinances and they go out prepare the letters and citations and handle the court; with new budget year to look at costs; what other townships are doing and if its financially feasible.
- **Consideration to contract Nelson Construction up to \$7000 to replace wooden siding on township hall using CIP funds:** Walking around building and see the bottom curling up and could cause other damages; looking at the budget we have the money in the CIP and should get that done before winter; disbursement check from DTE; Blomstrom made a motion to move forward for the Nelson Construction residing and repairs not to exceed \$7000, invoice #97; Seconded by Cousineau; Hansen to coordinate; Motion Carries
- **Current ordinance reorganization:** Ordinance reorganization; Found one ordinance that was also a resolution; There was a compensation commission, then another ordinance that repealed it; This winter looking at the police power ordinances; and restore the ordinance book in working order; Ordinance company is expensive so if we can do it on our own and save money; Talks of disorderly from a Misdemeanor to Civil infraction; Clerk scanned and organized everything so its workable; Zoning ordinance passed or properly posted back in the day.
- **From the Fire discussion for accepting donation of a vehicle:** Blomstrom made motion to accept a donation of a 2005 GMC Envoy Denali vin 1GKET66M956197768 registered to Elizabeth Kalsch; Seconded by Cousineau; Motion Carries

Overall Public Comment:

Pam Hemmes: like to talk about a resolution that was drawn up and is going around the county; reading an email that talks about political leaders in Lansing are looking to introduce a bill that would remove local control governing Green energy ordinances; encouraging the board to take a stand and possibly passing a resolution firmly standing against this ploy by wind and solar lobbyists that have already heard a firm no from the people; not just about wind and solar, its also about gravel pits, short term rentals taking control of local control; printed the resolution and distributed to the board; Sidney has already passed this.

Dick Krantz: asks if Supervisor talk with road commission to ask availability of what road gravel is which is partly the reason the state is trying to do something about it; only one gravel company in the county currently.

Chuck Growl: Treasurer of the Holiday Beach association(Perch Lake); several years ago the twp gave it up because they didn't want to mess with it; its been maintained in the past and questions on how we need to be able to maintain it; trying to sit down with the supervisor, lawyers and accountants to ensure we are giving the correct information; Last meeting voted to increase the dues due to cost of gravel etc, Blomstrom to meet with the lawyer and determine next steps.

Adjournment: Hyde made motion to adjourn; Hansen supported; Motion carries.