

**WELDON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
September 13, 2016
PROPOSED MINUTES
Tuesday
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE:

Board

Ron Hitesman, Supervisor X Carrie Aldrich Clerk X; Sheryl Baker, Treasurer X; Sue Meredith, Trustee X; Gary Stevens, Trustee X.

GUESTS: Robert Aldrich, Chris Bobek, Sally Bobek, Becky Sharp, Catherine Fruge', Mike Fruge', Fran Griffin, Gary Sauer, Chuck Saer

CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Carrie Aldrich, clerk, chairing the meeting. R. Hitesman not able to attend beginning of meeting. C. Aldrich proposes to have JPC submit their report at the end of the meeting, and to add two bills to the bills to be paid, one for an additional cemetery cutting, and one from Cherryland Electric. S. Baker moves to accept the changes to the agenda; S. Meredith seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

MINUTES OF AUGUST BOARD MEETING: G. Stevens moves to accept Minutes as presented; S. Baker seconds. No discussion. All ayes, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: S. Baker presents Treasurer's Report. Discussion of discrepancy of \$346.00 deposit on treasurer's report with \$346.07 deposit on bank statement. Correction of Treasurer's Report made. G. Stevens moves to accept the Treasurer's Report, with the correction; C. Aldrich seconds. No discussion. All ayes, motion passed. S. Meredith discusses including a CD interest report in the Treasurer's Report in the future. Discussion. S. Meredith will arrange for a monthly interest statement from the Honor Bank for the CD, so that can be included in the Treasurer's Report.

GUEST/ PUBLIC INPUT (up to 5 minutes per guest)

Robert Aldrich discusses idea of starting a community garden in Weldon Township. He asks for permission to use property behind the town hall to begin the community garden. Once he has property to use, he will begin fund raising for tools and seeds, and possibly get fundraising from his company for the project. Discussion of need for a written agreement for a hold harmless language and rules, and a Community Garden Policy to be possibly adopted, sent by Mr. Figura. Discussion. S. Meredith moves to allow Rob Aldrich to work on the property behind the town hall for a community garden; S. Baker seconds. No

discussion. All ayes, motion passed. R. Hitesman enters and takes over chairing the meeting.

Becky Sharp speaks regarding blight and property negligence. Discussion.

Mike Fruge' speaks regarding a formal complaint he's made regarding blight. Discussion.

Gary Sauer discusses public hearing on budget for Board of Commissioners. September 28 at Ramsdell Theatre at 7:00 p.m. is a State Revenue Sharing informational meeting. Work on Veterans Memorial has begun. November 11th, Veterans Day, there will be a ceremony at 2:00 p.m. Sue Meredith requests an update on The Maples. Discussion. (50;00)

REPORTS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: C. Meredith has issued a permit to Roger and Cindy Wiegers for an Amish-style cabin, 16' x 48', on 4" x 6" runners. Robert Kjolhede on Joyfield Road has been issued a permit for a house with a two-car attached garage and a pole barn. JPC had an after-the-fact meeting for a permit for an antenna placed on a ski lift at Crystal Mountain. That antenna will cover the area in case of emergencies for 911. Production Industries has given no correspondence to Weldon Township. Mr. Meredith is attempting to contact Craig Haney regarding a travel trailer on his property on Wolfe Rd. Mr. Meredith is attempting to speak with the company providing broadband to the Village of Thompsonville regarding a permit they need to apply for. Mr. Meredith finalized the land division out by the cemetery for Joy Meachum. They may be looking for a tax rebate from the Village of Thompsonville or Weldon Township, since it appears the Meachum family has paid taxes for property on the east side of second street that, back in 1951, was never on their tax information. Mr. Meredith also reported regarding the Village of Thompsonville and Colfax Township. Mr. Meredith requests Weldon Township send him to a webinar on land divisions, for \$55. Discussion. G. Stevens moves to allow C. Meredith to attend the webinar on land divisions; C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

LIQUOR INSPECTOR REPORT: R. Hitesman reports on liquor inspections for the month.

BUDGET: C. Aldrich presents budget report. Money will be moved from the contingency fund to cover the overage in the cemetery fund before the end of the fiscal year. C. Aldrich will discuss correction for budget line 6560, Payroll Expenses, with the auditors. G. Stevens moves to accept the budget report as presented; S. Baker seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

NUISANCE ABATEMENT REPORT: C. Bobek presents nuisance abatement report. A complaint was made the previous day regarding a property on Dair Mill Rd. Mr. Hitesman will speak with the property owner. Discussion. A barn has collapsed on Lindy Road, but the property owner is working on cleaning it up.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: R. Hitesman reports on a letter sent to Mark Magee, drafted by the township attorney, referencing the campground and the Transient Activity Ordinance. Mr. Magee responded by mail. Discussion. Clerk will contact township attorney to ask whether Mr. Magee's letter represents an actual FOIA request, and if so, how the township should respond. C. Meredith says the airport should be required to get a transient activities permit as well, even though they operate on village property. Discussion. G. Stevens states that private events, such as weddings and reunions, do not require a transient activities permit. R. Hitesman moves to have clerk contact Mr. Figura regarding Mr. Magee's letter; G. Stevens seconds. All ayes, motion passed. C. Bobek would like the record to show that Mr. Magee's was hand-delivered a copy of the ordinance, and that he was aware of the rules of the transient activities ordinance.

R. Hitesman discussed guard rails with the road commission. The road commission would allow Weldon Township to put guard rails in on Lindy Road, at a cost of \$30,- to \$33,000. Discussion.

CLERK COMMENTS: C. Aldrich spoke with MTA, and Baird Cotter and Bishop. The township is fine to raise the income of contract employees, to offset the taxes now taken out of the previous contract employees wages. Clerk still needs to talk to Tom Lipinski about becoming an employee of the township, rather than an independent contractor. R. Hitesman moves to raise salaries of the hourly-rated employees to cover the cost of taxes taken from their paycheck, so that they receive their previous contracted hourly rate; C. Aldrich seconds. Clerk takes the roll call vote: Gary Stevens, abstains; Sue Meredith, aye; Ron Hitesman, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes; Sheryl Baker, yes. Motion has passed.

C. Aldrich asked MTA if it was appropriate for Weldon Township to purchase a plaque for the Veterans Memorial. Catherine Mulhaupt from MTA says that the township may indeed pay for a plaque to go in the Veterans Memorial.

The new phone lines are in, by Acentek. There is one line in for the township, with an automated message that will direct the caller to their party. General questions will go to the clerk.

Clerk has received her new laptop, but needs Microsoft Office 2016 Business at a cost of \$99/year. That \$99/year will cover five computers. Clerk is requesting the township purchase her a copy of Microsoft Office 2016 for her laptop. Discussion. S. Meredith moves to allow clerk to purchase software; R. Hitesman seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

Clerk reports on the cemetery public meeting. Approximately 15 people came, hot dogs and iced tea were served. Discussion. One strong opinion that appeared at the meeting was that an xray should be done of the cemetery, and markers should be placed where bodies were buried, out of respect. Clerk did not receive the initial grant she applied for; S. Bobek has applied for another grant, and clerk will continue to apply for grants as well. Clerk would like to put together a survey to go into the winter tax bill, and have surveymonkey.com used for an online survey, as well. The cost for surveymonkey is \$25/month. Discussion. S. Baker moves to allow a survey to be placed into the winter taxes and the use of surveymonkey.com, S. Meredith seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Clerk presents letter to Ema Francis, Logo Contest winner, for the Board's signature. Picture to be taken after board meeting. Announcement to be put on website and in paper.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Weldon amending Transient Activities Ordinance to include bond posting. Discussion. R. Hitesman moves to have Figura Law Firm to create language amending the Transient Activities Ordinance, C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

Board discusses Civil Infractions Ordinance created by Figura Law Firm. Tabled to be discussed at next meeting.

Discussion November Treasurer training for treasurer. C. Aldrich moves that, whomever the treasurer is in November 2016, that they take the Treasurer's Guide to Tax Collection training from MTA, R. Hitesman seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

CURRENT BILLS:

Julie Lonn, 1 ¼ hr. Cleaning of Twp Hall	12.50
David Kane, Monthly Website Maintenance	60.00
Gary Stevens, Cemetery Maintenance	90.00
Craig Meredith, Day Use Park, Twp Mowing	275.00
US Postal Service, PO Box Annual Fee	44.00
Sheryl Baker, Postage Reimbursement	18.80
Richard Figura	526.50
The Pioneer Group	542.00
Election Workers	72.00
Dustin's Computer Repair	145.00
Chris Bobek, Nuisance Abatement Officer	200.00
AcenTek	131.27
Transworld Network	13.40
AFLAC, August Payment	286.05
VISA	204.85
Dawn Olney, Benzie County Election Closeout	353.84
D&W Mechanical	262.50
Bayside Printing	29.96
GBS, Inc.	265.07
Tom Lipinski	102.78
Emma Francis	100.00
Carol Merrill, Assessor	1120.00
Board Salaries	<u>2105.69</u>
TOTAL	\$6,961.21

S. Meredith questions bill from Pioneer Group for advertising Cemetery Township Meeting. She feels it is a very high expense. Clerk asked Pioneer Group for same size announcement as logo contest ad, but feels it came out bigger in the paper, and the cost was higher. S. Meredith reviews bill. Discussion. G. Stevens moves to pay the bills, C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

**BCRC regarding Haze Road/Red Creek. Clerk will not put information on website.
Budget Statement from Thompsonville Fire Department. Discussion.
Networks Northwest Survey regarding Broadband
Email from Alliance for Economic Success regarding Broadband
Minutes of County Road Commission July 28, 2016
Minutes of County Road Commission August 11, 2016
Betsie Valley District Library Board Meeting Minutes July 12, 2016**

JPC REPORT: S. Meredith reports that Chris Jones has submitted her resignation, effective at the last meeting. S. Bobek sat as the alternative. Chris Bobek is interested in sitting on the JPC as Weldon Township's representative. S. Baker moves to disband the JPC. R. Hitesman modifies the motion to allow the supervisor to contact Mr. Figura to find out what it would entail and how much it would cost Weldon Township to disband from the JPC. Clerk questions what it would affect to disband from the JPC, and that Mr. Figura should be consulted on the consequence to Weldon Township should they decide to withdraw from the JPC. Clerk and Supervisor will draft a request to Mr. Figura regarding this matter. Discussion. S. Baker withdraws her motion. R. Hitesman makes the motion to look into the feasibility and cost of withdrawing from the JPC with Mr. Figura, C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed. S. Meredith states that there is no issue of conflict with Chris Bobek being Weldon's representative to the Joint Planning Commission, to replace Chris Jones, G. Stevens seconds. All ayes, motion passed. Discussion.

S. Meredith reports there is a meeting at the town hall, with Mark Eidelson, on Saturday, September 22, on updating the masterplan and possibly amending the zoning ordinance.

PUBLIC COMMENT: C. Saer speaks regarding the fire department report, and she has not received anything further regarding their monthly report. Discussion regarding neighborhood watch signs and meetings. Discussion. Mr. Evitts remarks that the cemetery looks really nice. Discussion. S. Meredith presents Smart Steps to Lawful Expenditures, from Catherine Mulhaupt at MTA.

ADJOURNMENT: G. Stevens moves to adjourn; S. Baker seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

TIME 9:20 PM