

**WELDON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
February 14, 2017
MINUTES
Tuesday
7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER:
TIME: 7:00 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ATTENDANCE: **Board**
Ron Hitesman, Supervisor X Carrie Aldrich Clerk X ; Sally Bobek, Treasurer X ; Sue Meredith, Trustee X ; Gary Stevens, Trustee X .

GUESTS: Chris Bobek discusses fencing for the community garden. Discussion. Craig Meredith will bring the survey of the township property next month, to decide how large the fence should be, taking the setback into consideration.

Jessica Carland, Mobility Manager for Benzie Bus, discusses services offered by Benzie Bus. Benzie Bus is looking for feedback on how they can better service residents in this area. Discussion.

Gary Sauer, from the Benzie County Board of Commissioners gives report regarding local issues. Remodeling of dental offices are finished, offices are now open. They are partnering with Manistee County and working on getting a new medical examiner. Autopsies will be performed at Jowett Funeral Home, unless it is related to a crime, in which case those autopsies will be performed in Big Rapids. Regarding The Maples, the state inspector for CMS wrote a letter stating that, with the changes made to the Fire Safety Code in October 2016, they redid the evaluation, and The Maples has exceeded all of the requirements.

CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: C. Aldrich wishes to add discussion of special hearing on withdrawing from the JPC to new business. In new business as well, the Board needs to discuss budget hearing and budget workshop. In the bills, clerk needs to add a \$25 check to the Newbergs to refund half of their hall rental fee. R. Hitesman moves to accept changes as presented; G. Stevens seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

MINUTES OF JANUARY BOARD MEETING: R. Hitesman moves to approve Minutes; G. Stevens supports motion. All ayes, motion passed.

MINUTES OF JANUARY SPECIAL MEETING: R. Hitesman moves to accept Minutes of January Special Meeting; C. Aldrich seconds. Discussion. All ayes, motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: S. Bobek presents Treasurer's Report. Discussion of \$1 fees being submitted by mortgage companies when they ask for an additional tax bill.

Treasurer has asked mortgage companies to stop paying that fee. People have emailed or sent information to the previous treasurer's home address. Discussion. As regards to the fire department disbursement, treasurer and clerk met with Baird, Cotter & Bishop, and Mary Wixson from the Village of Thompsonville. For 2014 and 2015, the Village was underpaid. We do owe them additional money for fire protection. That money will come out of the General Fund. Discussion. C. Aldrich moves to accept treasurer's report as presented; R. Hitesman seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

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

Mike Fruge' asks what percentage of the taxes from Crystal Mountain is to Weldon Township. He would like to see a monthly blight report. Discussion. Clerk states if there is a pending blight issue, she will add that report to the list of monthly reports received at the board meeting.

Rick Smith speaks regarding blight questions. Clerk can make blight officer past reports available if someone emails her to set up a time to review them.

John Schorr discusses nuisance blight ordinance.

Becky Sharp questions whether board met with attorney to go over the pros and cons of staying in the JPC. Treasurer will provide her with a copy of that list.

Kent Stevens discusses how long board will take to decide whether to stay in the JPC. Discussion.

Rick Smith asks why the board is considering leaving the Joint Planning Commission. Discussion.

John Schorr discusses The Maples with Gary Sauer.

REPORTS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: C. Meredith presents Zoning Administrator Report. He has received a Natural Rivers Permit for the Weber Group on Webber Road to put in a pole barn. In Weldon Township, a sign violation notice was delivered to Iron Fish Distillery. The sign was in the road right-of-way, without permission from the Road Commission or Crystal Mountain. The sign has been removed. There is a hearing on March 7th regarding a violation by Mark Pellegrino, for putting in a raised platform and removing trees. There is a stop work order on Mr. Johnson, on Lincoln Avenue, for a room he was adding on the back of his house. Since the date of the report, there has been a sign violation for Archer's T-Ville Country Store. He needs to deliver the sign approval from the State of Michigan to Mr. Meredith. He has also placed a second sign up, and Mr. Meredith will contact him regarding that sign.

JPC: S. Bobek reports the JPC has two meetings coming up. There is a public special meeting on March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the Reynolds property, the Mountain View Motel and the campground area, and then their regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on March 2nd. On April 6th, there is a meeting to go over amendments to the ordinance, which she has provided to the board. Also provided to the board is the JPC annual report and the proposed budget and budget analysis. She asks that the board not vote to approve the

budget until there is further discussion regarding how often the board needs to meet, and some other budget categories could be lowered. There also should be discussion regarding how the cost for funding JPC is decided.

LIQUOR INSPECTOR REPORT: R. Hitesman delivers liquor inspector report. He reported on an incident he saw at Crystal Mountain, which was resolved while he was at the premises, regarding an inebriated person at the bar.

BUDGET: C. Aldrich presents budget report. Payroll item 6560 will be corrected by clerk, with the help of Baird, Cotter & Bishop, as it is incorrectly set up in Quickbooks.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: R. Hitesman has met four times in the past month with the supervisors of Colfax and the Village of Thompsonville, regarding the blight issue. All three entities will try to have basically the same blight ordinance, with small difference specific to their entity. Discussion. Colfax will continue with their blight enforcement officer, the Village will employ Chris Bobek as their blight enforcement officer. Discussion.

CLERK COMMENTS: C. Aldrich discusses adjusting budget from the contingency fund. The cemetery is \$458.53 over budget. Clerk proposes moving \$550 from contingency to cover cemetery expenses through the end of the fiscal year. S. Bobek moves to move \$550 from the contingency fund to the cemetery fund; G. Stevens seconds. Roll call vote: Gary Stevens, aye; Sue Meredith, aye; Sally Bobek, yes; Ron Hitesman, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes. Motion passed. C. Aldrich reports the township board audit cost was \$280 more than projected. C. Aldrich moves to move \$280 from contingency fund to the township board audit category; G. Stevens seconds. Roll call vote: Sally Bobek, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes; Ron Hitesman, yes; Sue Meredith, yes; Gary Stevens, yes. Motion passed. The category Township Board Legal Services is \$458 over what was budgeted, and more costs may be incurred. Discussion. S. Bobek moves to move \$1,000 from the contingency fund to the legal services fund to cover overages and any future costs; G. Stevens seconds. Roll call vote: Ron Hitesman, yes; Sue Meredith, yes; Gary Stevens, yes; Sally Bobek, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes. Motion passed. Clerk discusses medical marijuana workshop. The board members are signed up for March 21st from 6-9 PM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Civil Infraction Ordinance discussed. R. Hitesman moves to approve the Civil Infraction Ordinance as presented; S. Bobek seconds. No discussion. All ayes, motion passed. Civil Infraction Ordinance 2017-01 has been adopted. Clerk will put it in the paper. S. Bobek discusses laptop purchase for the treasurer. She would like to purchase a laptop for under \$500. Discussion. G. Stevens moves to allow treasurer to spend up to \$500 for a laptop; S. Meredith seconds. Roll call vote: Ron Hitesman, yes; Sally Bobek, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes; Gary Stevens, yes; Sue Meredith, yes. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

One assessor resume has been submitted, and the board has received inquiries by other people. The board will table discussion until next month, and the clerk will continue to run ads for the position in the Record Patriot.

C. Aldrich discusses lease for the Day Use Park. The township does need to provide insurance for the Day Use Park, under the lease. Discussion. Clerk will check with township insurance carrier to make sure the Day Use Park is covered under the insurance. Lost Lake Improvement has provided a quote for a new front door, in the amount of \$846.15. Discussion. G. Stevens moves to accept bid by Lost Lake Improvement; C. Aldrich seconds. Roll call vote: Sue Meredith, yes; Ron Hitesman, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes; Sally Bobek, yes; Gary Stevens, yes. Motion passed.

Copy of Colfax Township Blight Ordinance presented.

Hold Harmless Agreements suggested by township insurance company. Discussion. C. Aldrich moves to adopt first Hold Harmless Agreement as presented; S. Bobek seconds. Discussion of adding “Effective as of” to the agreement. All ayes, motion passed.

Discussion of MTA class in Mt. Pleasant March 29th, 2017.

C. Aldrich discusses need to set up a budget workshop and a budget hearing before general meeting in March. Budget Hearing will be March 14th at 6:30 PM. Budget workshop will be set up on Monday, February 27th, 2017, at 6:00 PM.

Discussion of special hearing held February 9th, 2017, to receive public input regarding whether Weldon Township should remain in the Joint Planning Commission. C. Aldrich presents statistics from the meeting: 28 people attended that signed in, though more people came and did not sign in. Twelve people expressed the opinion that Weldon Township should remain within the JPC. Seven people expressed an opinion that Weldon Township should withdraw from the JPC. The board received 23 letters, 22 of which expressed the thought that Weldon Township should remain within the Joint Planning Commission, and one letter dealing solely with blight. Discussion. The board will set up a special meeting for Friday, February 17, 2017, at 7:00 PM. Discussion. Ron Evitts points out that it wasn’t until the third year of the JPC budget that the entities began paying a percentage share. Discussion. C. Meredith speaks regarding a referendum vote that property owners have the option to explore. Discussion. Becky Sharp asks the board to think of all of the tax payers and her wish that Weldon Township work with their neighbors. Scott Williams speaks about difficulties with the JPC. Discussion. Mr. Fruge’ questions the makeup of JPC and whether Weldon Township could have more control on the JPC board.

Discussion. Discussion of how meetings are noticed to the community.

CURRENT BILLS:

Craig Meredith, snowplowing & Day Use Park	315.00
Dave Kane, Monthly Website Fee	60.00
Julie Lonn	12.50
AcenTek	234.34
AFLAC	281.50
Cherryland Electric CoOp	12.31
Personnel Concepts, OSHA Poster	12.92
Dawn Olney, Benzie County Clerk	2.40
Sally Bobek, Reimbursement	11.65
Ron Hitesman, Mileage	116.64
Blarney Castle Oil Co.	453.95
Pioneer Group	119.63
Municipal Underwriters of Michigan	3,659.00

Municipal Retirement Systems	200.00
RAM Plumbing Service	139.67
VISA	1,116.92
Village of Thompsonville Fire Department	9,179.39
Deedee Newberg	25.00
Carol Merrill, Assessor	1,120.00
Board Salaries	<u>2,285.69</u>
TOTAL	\$21,423.49

G. Stevens moves to pay the bills; S. Bobek seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

BACN invitation to volunteer

Benzie County Road Commission Minutes January 12, 2017

Betsie Valley District Library Minutes December 13, 2016

PUBLIC COMMENT: Chuck Kraus gives board document stating his comments regarding the Weldon Township Board withdrawing from the Joint Planning Commission, which he read at the Special Hearing held on February 9th, 2017.

Rob Aldrich discusses free community garden plots available for the spring.

Craig Meredith questions garbage receptacle being placed at Day Use Park. Discussion.

Ms. Randolph speaks regarding her experience with dealing with permits and harassment with the zoning administrator and other persons in the area. Discussion of garbage on Haze Road.

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

TIME: 9:04 PM