

**WELDON TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 14, 2019  
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: Gary Sauer, Becky Sharp, Chuck Kraus, Chris Bobek.**

**Gary Sauer reports on the Board of Commissioners. He discusses The Maples, OSHA inspection, the Audit and MERS. He discusses Land Bank, Road Commission, new Elberta and Joyfield Clerks. Blaine Township will need a new clerk, as well. Veterans Memorial is having a pen sale. They will use the pavilion on Memorial Day at noon.**

**Gary Stevens discusses Scott Williams' offer to donate fertilized top soil for the Community Garden.**

**Chuck Kraus gives an update on application for historical marker for the Diamond Crossing. Thompsonville is the owner of the site, and they have already signed the application. Once it is approved, they will approach the planning commission to begin the process of getting approval for a sign. They have received many letters of support, and need a check for \$250 to the State of Michigan, for the application. The cost of the marker is \$3900, a sponsor strip being an additional \$590. C. Aldrich moves to approve a \$250 check to the State of Michigan for the sign application; S. Bobek seconds. Clerk takes roll call vote: Gary Stevens, yes; Sue Meredith, yes; Sally Bobek, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes; Ron Hitesman, yes. Motion passed.**

**Tim Figura discusses recreational marijuana law, as well as medical marijuana law. If a township does not opt out of recreational marijuana, you are considered opted in, according to LARA. The dates coming up: June 1<sup>st</sup> is the estimated date that the emergency rules for recreational marijuana will be introduced, regarding licensing of establishments. The state may be accepting applications as of December, or possibly sooner. If the township has not opted out September 1st, they will be considered opted in. If the township does not opt out, they need to zone for recreational marijuana establishments. If the township opts out now, they can make a decision later to opt in.**

**C. Aldrich moves that the board go into a closed session, pursuant to Section 8 of the Open Meeting Act, for the purpose of considering the written opinion of legal counsel, dated May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019, regarding the letter from the Community Joint Planning Commission to Weldon Township, dated April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019; S. Bobek seconds. All ayes, motion passed.**

**BOARD GOES INTO CLOSED SESSION AT 7:17**

**BOARD RETURNS TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:00**

**C. Aldrich moves to authorize legal counsel to proceed with an offer as per the Board's closed discussion; G. Stevens seconds. Clerk takes a roll call vote: Carrie Aldrich, yes; Ron Hitesman, yes; Sally Bobek, yes; Sue Meredith, yes; Gary Stevens, yes. Motion passed.**

**CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: None. S. Bobek moves to accept the agenda as presented; G. Stevens seconds. All ayes, motion passed.**

**MINUTES OF APRIL BOARD MEETING: G. Stevens moves to accept Minutes as presented; S. Meredith seconds. All ayes, motion passed.**

**TREASURER'S REPORT: S. Bobek presents Treasurer's Report. Discussion. G. Stevens moves to accept Treasurer's Report as presented; C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed.**

**GUEST/ PUBLIC INPUT (up to 5 minutes per guest): C. Bobek discusses insurance for the model airplane club, for their use of the airport facility. He gives copy to the clerk.**

**REPORTS:**

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Craig Meredith presents Zoning Administrator Report.**

**DAY USE PARK: Craig Meredith presents Day Use Park Report. Nate Gettings came to pump tank at Day Use Park. He will need to come back to pump again, as the tank was frozen solid. Mr. Meredith met with an individual at the Day Use Park who said the park is a habitat for wood turtles, and Mr. Meredith would like to make the board aware to be careful not to disturb their habitat with the walking trail. Clerk states she still needs to reimburse Mr. Meredith \$9.09.**

**GREENSPACE GRANT UPDATE: Discussion re: wood turtles**

**PLANNING COMMISSION: C. Kraus reports the Planning Commission will be submitting the final draft of the Master Plan for the Board's June meeting. There will be one more meeting of the steering committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May, at 5:30. He asks that the clerk send a thank you letter to the Goodriches for their hard work cleaning up their property after the fire.**

**LIQUOR INSPECTOR REPORT: R. Hitesman presents Liquor Inspection Report. Mountain View no longer has the Little Betsie Bistro at Crystal Mountain. Crystal Mountain will run it as a retail outlet for beer and wine, as well as other uses for the space.**

**BUDGET REPORT: C. Aldrich presents Budget Report. Discussion of election reimbursement.**

**SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: R. Hitesman discusses Green Space Grant. He met with DNR and other members of the public, as well as Kiersten Horan, and got advice on how to proceed with the Day Use Park Trail. The DNR mapped out the GPS coordinates for the township. He met with Scott Slavin, as well as Chuck Kraus. Mr. Slavin will do all of the paperwork to get the Trail Permit for the DNR. Mr. Hitesman is waiting for a quote from Gillison's Excavating. Discussion of need for tree removal. Julie Lonn asked Mr. Hitesman if the Rebekahs could purchase flowers for the flower boxes at the town hall.**

Mr. Hitesman will accept on behalf of the board. R. Hitesman met with Lisa Leedy regarding grant writing. He suggests the township consider using her services in the future. Discussion of village grant for a mural.

**CLERK COMMENTS:** Clerk discusses May election results, as well as Township Cleanup Day, set for May 18<sup>th</sup> 9-1 pm. Discussion of metal cleanup. Clerk discusses cemetery costs for cleanup in the spring. Discussion of costs for flowers and crosses. R. Hitesman moves to pay G. Stevens \$15 per cross, as he is using many of his own materials, which are not reimbursable; C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Discussion of landscaping quote. C. Meredith has not yet met with the landscaper, as discussed last month. Discussion. S. Bobek moves to go ahead with the landscaping and shutters, as quoted, for \$4126; G. Stevens seconds. Discussion of inside improvements to town hall. Discussion of modifying landscaping plan so that C. Meredith can still snowplow and keep side door clear. Clerk takes roll call vote: Ron Hitesman, yes; Sue Meredith, yes; Gary Stevens, yes; Sally Bobek, yes; Carrie Aldrich, yes. Motion passed. Becky Sharp will contact Mr. Milarch. Flat Panel Display discussion will be tabled until next month.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion of last payment to assessor J. Nuytten. Discussion of need for an assessor, ad in paper for the next two weeks. T. Loganbach sent a notice to all assessors that Weldon Township was in need. Casey Guthrie, a level IV assessor, has submitted a bid. Discussion. Discussion of MDNR Adopt a Forest Program. Three dump sites need to be cleaned up, and the DNR will provide assistance with disposal. Discussion. MTA Assessing Workshop on June 20th, S. Bobek would like to go, as well as C. Aldrich, G. Stevens and R. Hitesman. Clerk will sign board members up. Discussion of Brining Contract with Benzie County Road Commission. R. Hitesman moves to approve brining; S. Bobek seconds. All ayes, motion passed. Discussion of PAR Plan Dividend.

**BILLS:**

David Kane, Website Maintenance	60.00
Julie Lonn, Cleaning of Townhall	50.00
May 7 <sup>th</sup> election workers	925.00
Pioneer Group	158.60
MTA	34.50
Cherryland Electric Co-Op	60.14
VISA	271.47
Acentek	177.61
Benzie & Crystal Pumping Service Inc	225.00
AFLAC	281.50
Fortress Security	311.88
Personnel Concepts	11.55
Michigan Election Resources	17.95

Wade Trim	863.35
Blarney Castle Oil	498.79
Bayside Printing	290.00
Planning Commission Wages	475.00
Planning Commission Training	250.00
Craig Meredith, ZA, Lawn Care, DUP, Water reimb.	448.67
Gary Stevens, Cemetery Care, Nuisance Abatement, Reimb.	593.00
Board Salaries	3075.00
Jessica Nyutten, Assessor	<u>1120.00</u>
TOTAL	\$10,199.01

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Betsie Valley Community Center Update  
 Betsie Valley District Library Operating Statement

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**ADJOURNMENT:** S. Bobek moves to adjourn; C. Aldrich seconds. All ayes, motion passed.

**TIME:** 9:03 PM