

**WELDON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2023
Tuesday
7:00PM**

The meeting was called to order by R. Hitesman, Supervisor, at 7:00PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ATTENDANCE: Ron Hitesman, Supervisor X; Fran Griffin, Clerk X; Sally Bobek, Treasurer X; Sue Meredith, Trustee X; Scott Williams, Trustee X.

GUESTS: Becky Sharp, C. Kraus, Gary Sauer, Vicki Schwartz, Patrick Schaeffer, Deb Franke

CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: S. Bobek made the motion to approve the agenda as presented. S. Meredith seconded. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: S. Bobek motioned to approve the August 8, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT: F. Griffin motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report. R. Hitesman seconded. All ayes.

GUEST INPUT (up to 3 minutes per guest): G. Sauer, Commissioner, gave updates on Probate Judge appointment, County business, BCRC, BVT, Benzie Health Dept updates, Homestead Elementary School opening, Village of Thompsonville Clerk resigned, Village Fire Dept received a \$30,000 grant for turnout equip etc. We should expect an email from County Administrator Zeits regarding Headlee reset. A meeting about this will be held October 30 at 5:30PM. Gilmore Township Clerk resigned. S. Bobek asked what is being done with the dangerous intersection of Weldon and Lindy Roads. Discussion.

REPORTS:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: on file. Discussion. Board would like Mr. Cypher to attend our meetings.

DAY USE PARK: on file. R. Hitesman has contacted the DNR regarding the roof separation on the restroom and the condition of the toilet fixture. No reply yet. S. Williams asked about the weed whacking of the actual trail at the DUP. Discussion. Board approved asking Dennis Smith if he would remove the padlock on the t-paper holder in the restroom. S. Williams asked why the Cemetery gate was locked. It was explained that the fence and gate were installed at G. Stevens request a couple of years ago to keep people from driving into the cemetery and partying in the back and tearing up the cemetery grounds. The lock on the gate is there to prevent this from happening. There is an opening in the fence for walk-ins. Discussion.

PLANNING COMMISSION: C. Kraus reported the next meeting of the Planning Commission is October 2nd. Community Garden is doing well. Daycare center has used it and its vegetables. Crystal Commons is still in the hands of the Michigan Aeronautics. The BVT was mentioned in the MTA Focus magazine this month. Benzie County may be looking at a Director of Parks and Recreation.

LIQUOR INSPECTOR REPORT: on file

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: on file

BUDGET REPORT: Budget amendment needed for the overage in brining this year. Request to move \$1020 from Contingency 890-000 to Road Maintenance 523-000. S. Bobek made the motion to amend the budget as requested. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: No reply from DNR regarding repairs at the DUP yet.

CLERK COMMENTS: The AV Ballot Box has been installed thanks to Chris Bobek. EPS has installed the surveillance camera required by Prop 2 for the AV Box. Need to have the roof over the entryway sealed so the rain/snow/ice will not leak onto the Ballot Box and the Box needs to be sealed/caulked. S. Bobek volunteered Chris Bobek to do it. Cleanup Day is this Saturday 9/16 from 9a-1p. Clerk brought up the increased cost of brining and cleanup days this past year. Brining cost in 2022 was almost \$13,000. In 2023 it was just over \$19,000. Cleanup Days in 2022 was \$6469 total for both days. This year the FIRST cleanup day was \$5170. Suggestion made by the Clerk to take this into consideration when working on next year's budget in February/March 2024. Maybe we should consider only having one brining and one cleanup day. Clerk asked the Board if ok to be paid per diem and mileage for the County Clerk's meeting called for the Township Clerks on 9/6 and the BOE on 9/8 that she attended. County Clerk also will be scheduling more Township Clerk meetings for updates coming thru slowly from the State and BOE. Another Township Clerk meeting has been scheduled for 9/15. S. Bobek motion to pay the Clerk the per diem and mileage for the two meeting 9/6 and 9/8 and for future Clerk meetings including the MTA Retreat the end of September in Harbor Springs. R. Hitesman seconded. All ayes. Clerk made the Board aware that starting with 2024 elections we are required to have 9-day early voting at least 8 hours a day prior to the actual Election Day. That 9-day staffing amounts to \$4065 in wages only for 3 (minimum) inspectors. This does not include the actual Election Day. State legislature has not decided on the date for the Presidential Primary. It will either be 2/27/24 or 3/12/2024.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Village water hookup—Hall/Daycare Center—Discussion-tabled. S. Williams will put the House Plaque up. Nuisance Officer-discussion with Pat Schaeffer. Showed him what was budgeted for pay. He will look over and get back to us.

NEW BUSINESS: Tim Figura, attorney, is joining a law firm in Manistee, Mika Meyers Attorneys, and has asked us if we would like to retain him as our attorney. R. Hitesman made the motion to retain Mr. Figura as our attorney. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

Crystal Mountain is requesting a Fireworks Permit for December 31, 2023. All the required paperwork has been presented. R. Hitesman made the motion to approve the fireworks permit for Crystal Mountain. F. Griffin seconded. All ayes.

BILLS: September 12, 2023

BETWEEN MEETINGS:

EFPTS31 quarterly taxes 941	actual \$827.06 (est \$800)
Cherryland Electric (Aug bill)	actual \$68.45 (est \$70)

****Above check/payments were approved as estimates at the last meeting. Amounts not included in this month's total.**

EFPTS32 quarterly taxes 941	\$799.88
Board Pay	\$3625.00
Assessor	\$1540.00
Julie Lonn	\$50.00
Cypher Group-Zoning	\$875.00
Acentek	\$176.13
Cherryland Electric-September	\$71.32
VISA	\$1246.97
AFLAC	\$286.07
Chris Meredith-lawn/DUP/Cemetery	\$330.00
Benzie Treasurer	\$27.88
Spectrum Printers	\$116.93
Figura Law	\$96.00
Benzie County Road Comm	\$9776.71
EPC Security	\$2378.00
EPS Security-Serv Agreement	\$65.16
Chris Bobek	\$250.00
Pioneer Press	\$172.50
Fran Griffin-Mileage reimburse	\$68.91
Michigan Labor Law Posters	\$105.47
US Postal Service-Box 548 Rent	\$72.00
Total.....	\$ 22,129.93

S. Bobek made the motion to pay the bills. S. Meredith seconded. All ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE: BVDL Board Minutes, Housing North newsletters, Networks Northwest report on Benzie Transportation Plan

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Deb Franke asked about Cleanup Day if it was ok to bring another trailer load for a neighbor. Discussion. It was okayed. She also asked about what is being done at the Weldon and Lindy Road intersection. Drivers are not reading the STOP signs. Discussion.

ADJOURNMENT: S. Bobek made the motion to adjourn. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57PM

Respectfully submitted:

**Fran Griffin
Weldon Township Clerk**