

**WELDON TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

**July 9, 2024
Tuesday
7:00PM (tentative)**

The meeting was called to order by C. Aldrich, Supervisor at 7:35PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

GUESTS: Vicki Schwartz, Jim Franke, Laura Ward, Chuck Kraus, Kellye Jelemensky, John Jelemensky, Becky Sharp, Karyn Thorr, Kirk Davidson, Cindy Smith, John Melcher, Robert Aldrich, Tim Cypher, Jon Stimson, Doug Mansfield, Gary Sauer, Chris Meredith.

CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Clerk asked to add \$50 to Bills to reimburse Treasurer for a per diem. S. Bobek made the motion to approve the agenda with the change. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: S. Williams made the motion to approve the June 11, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes, S. Meredith seconded. All ayes. S. Bobek made the motion to approve the June 8, 2024 Election Commission Meeting Minutes. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT: S. Williams made the motion to approve Treasurer's report. F. Griffin seconded. All ayes.

GUEST INPUT: Laura Ward, AA Group, would like to plant a tree or flowering bush or purchase a bird bath to be put in the Community Garden in memory of Ron Hitesman. The AA group appreciates their being able to meet here on Saturday mornings. Discussion. It was decided to go with a bird bath. C. Kraus was asked if there are any specifics he'd like to see when picking out the bird bath. Laura will research it and let Sue Meredith what she finds out. G. Sauer, Commissioner, gave an update on County business. The BCRC had seven employees walk out on strike. Three were fired and four were given a 20-day suspension. The County Commissioners awarded a bid to Gourdie Fraser to do the paving and culverts on the BVT from Beulah to Case Rd. DNR has asked Joyfield Township to allow them to put a freezer in the Township Hall to store deer heads in. July 5th Attorney General Nessel of Michigan met with the commissioners regarding the opioid money they were given by the State. It is being spent to hire a Social Worker/Deputy and on Centra Wellness. July 4th there were two water rescues on Lake Michigan. 24 hr. Road Patrol is going well. The BCRC is looking for a bond to help with the new building. Chuck Kraus

handed out a copy of his oral presentation to the Board regarding the Crystal Commons Project.

Reports:

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Tim Cypher, Zoning Admin, stated that he received communication from legal counsel for the owner of the Weldon Rd violation. Present owner plans to applying for a Bed and Breakfast permit and turn the property over to his son. Plan is for his son to live there and manage it. No application has been received yet--maybe next week.

DAY USE PARK: on file.

PLANNING COMMISSION: C. Kraus stated that the Planning Commission had their meeting on July 1st. Short Term Rentals ordinance was discussed. Legislature is still considering STR's. Day Use Park maintenance was discussed. Many issues with the walkway and brush etc.

FIRE DEPT: Village financial report on file.

LIQUOR INSPECTOR REPORT: on file.

NUISANCE REPORT: Pat Schaffer presented a written report for June and July. He has had two complaints on the same place at Lindy Rd and Fourth St. He has taken pictures. He will contact the owner. P. Schaffer will be gone in August but will leave a report for the August meeting.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: on file. BOR will be July 16th at 6:00PM.

BUDGET REPORT: No amendment needed.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: C. Aldrich read her report. In it she touched on the success of the Summerfest. Pat Cotant/DNR told her to go ahead and remove the tree hanging over the trail at the DUP. She will contact a company to do the tree removal. She has received one blight complaint. She reviewed the PILOT plan and the Crystal Commons Project.

CLERK COMMENTS: Ace Seal Right will be at the DUP on July 10th to do the crack and seal. Water sensors need to be installed soon. Draft of our yearly audit has been received.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: S. Bobek has completed the L4029. Clerk requested a copy. Village water hookup—Hall/Daycare Center-discussed again. Village had stated that it was the responsibility of the property owner to have separated at their expense. Tabled. Short Term Rentals Ordinance-Chuck Kraus spoke on this earlier. Carpet for the Hall was discussed-tabled.

NEW BUSINESS: DUP maintenance was discussed. Supervisor will contact someone to take down the tree hanging over the trail. Wood chips vs stones was discussed to be put on the trail. Discussion. The subject of grants was raised. If we do that, S. Bobek agreed to do the reporting for it. Roundup for the weeds on the trail was discussed. DNR should be contacted regarding this due to wetlands/river. S. Meredith will be unlocking and locking the Township Hall on Saturday mornings for the AA Group. Crystal Commons Project and PILOT program discussed. S. Williams wants them to pay taxes instead of the PILOT. Discussion. Other Board members felt it is a good thing for the community. S. Williams said he is speaking for the other people who don't want it. Discussion. S. Bobek made the motion to approve with conditions based on the Findings of Fact, the Crystal Commons PUD application for a Special Use Permit including support for the PILOT program being proposed and that it be reviewed by legal. F. Griffin seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken: C. Aldrich, yea, S. Bobek, yea, S. Williams, nay, S. Meredith, yea, F. Griffin, yea. Motion passed 4 yeas to 1 nay. PILOT program discussed. S. Bobek made the motion to approve the PILOT at 4% for 30 years. F. Griffin seconded. Roll call vote taken: C. Aldrich, yea, S. Bobek, yea, S. Williams, nay, S. Meredith, yea, F. Griffin, yea. Motion passed 4 yeas to 1 nay. F. Griffin motioned to approve the Tax Exemption Ordinance subject to legal review. S. Bobek seconded. Roll call vote taken: C. Aldrich, yea, S. Bobek, yea, S. Williams, nay, S. Meredith, yea, F. Griffin, yea. Motion passed 4 yeas to 1 nay. Clerk will send paperwork to Tim Cypher for review by legal. Planning Commission vacancy discussed. An ad will be placed in the paper. Discussion on items needed for the TARP area. S. Bobek made a motion to use ARPA money to pay for an Upright Fountain, Water Bottle Filler, and Pet Fountain for approximately \$6000. S. Williams seconded. Roll call taken: C. Aldrich, yea, S. Bobek, yea, S. Williams, yea, S. Meredith, yea, F. Griffin, yea. Motion passed 5 yea – 0 nays. DUP picnic table and benches need repair or replacing. Discussion. S. Meredith said milkweeds are growing outside the Hall fire exit door. Can they be removed? Discussion. Decided to leave them there. Mulberry tree on the rear SW corner of the Hall needs to be trimmed. C. Aldrich will contact a company to do that.

BILLS: July 9, 2024
Checks Between Meetings

Mika Meyers Attorneys	\$332.00
Cherryland Electric-June Actual	\$76.88
Republic Service	\$167.41
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Township Board Pay	\$4166.66
PC Wage-July Meeting	\$325.00
Assessor	\$1678.08
Tim Cypher-Zoning Admin	\$900.00
Julie Lonn-Hall Cleaning	\$50.00
Pat Schaeffer-Nuisance	\$400.00

Sue Meredith-Liq Inspec 2 months	\$416.67
Chris Meredith-DUP/Hall/Cemetery	\$370.00
Chris Meredith-reimburse-DUP expenses	\$30.85
Acentek	\$244.42
Cherryland Electric	\$80.54
Fran Griffin-Reimburse MTA Meeting/Mileage	\$187.75
Becky Sharp-reimburse flowers f/window boxes	\$219.04
AFLAC	\$239.40
ATI Consulting	\$63.00
Benzie County Treasurer	\$13.44
Pioneer Group	\$122.55
VISA	\$378.91
S. Bobek-per diem Pub Accy Test/Elec Mtg	\$50.00
C. Aldrich-per diem Pub Accy Test/Elec Mtg	\$50.00
S. Meredith-per diem Prelim Accy Test	\$100.00
S. Bobek-per diem-Library Board-July	\$50.00
S. Bobek-per diem-Library Board-June	\$50.00
TOTAL.....	\$10,762.60

APPROVAL OF BILLS: S. Bobek motioned to pay the Bills. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE: BVDL Minutes, Conservation Resource Alliance newsletter, FEMA webinars, Par Plan Newsletter

PUBLIC COMMENTS: C. MacInnes thanked the Board for their approval of the Crystal Commons Project. K. Jelemensky spoke of the Zoning Enabling Act. Advised the Board that she has a letter of intent for a referendum for a special election regarding the Crystal Commons. Karyn Thorr thanked the Board for their decision on the Crystal Commons. S. Williams asked about the Haze Rd abutments that were to be removed by the BCRC a couple of years ago. The money the Township receives to pay for this kind of thing gets taken away every three years. Gary Sauer will check on it with the BCRC. C. Kraus, TARP, appreciates the Township support for the program. They are waiting on grants.

ADJOURNMENT: S. Bobek motioned to adjourn. S. Williams seconded. All ayes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:14PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Fran Griffin

Weldon Township Clerk