

Sidney Township Board Minutes
June 6, 2022

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at Sidney Township Hall, 3019 S Grow Road, Sidney, Michigan on June 6, 2022 was called to order by Supervisor Peterman at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDENCE: Supervisor: Terry Peterman, Clerk: Carrie Wills, Treasurer: Corinda Stover, Trustees: Ray Leyrer, Erik Benko

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the May 2, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments at this time

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk:

Wills explained the reason why the ballots could not be recounted for the school election. The unused ballots which were found in a box the morning after the election had been omitted from the ballot container. She had her deputy assist her that day to open the container and put in the unused ballots. The container was then resealed and new tags were used. The numbers on the new tags did not match the numbers in the epoll book submitted on the night of the election so the canvassers could not count the ballots. There were 49 votes for the school election. That mistake will not ever be made again.

A FOIA request was received from the law firm of Loomis, Ewert, Parsley, Davis & Gotting in Lansing. They were requesting copies of any permits, applications for permits or permit renewals for telecommunications suppliers. I sent them copies of the agreements with Point Broadband and Charter Communications.

Wills also received a letter from Consumers Energy asking if the township would want to install a smart thermostat. The new thermostat should lower our cost for electric especially during high energy days. There is no charge and we can get a \$75 incentive. There was no interest in pursuing it.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that the new playground equipment has been installed at the park and he has made several repairs. There is still much work to be done and we appreciate that people have offered to help with painting etc. The county will be disbursing \$50,000 from their Covid Relief funds to each entity of government. It can be used for anything the entity needs; ours has been designated for improvements to the park.

Peterman reported he has been working on marking off lots in the new section of the cemetery. The cemetery driveway has been repaired with gravel.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laura Engel

Laura talked about the recall election and the rumor she has heard that a recall may be started on two other board members. She asked that people forget about doing any more recalls and let the township get back to working together for the good of the people.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$260,821.66

The number of requests to rent the hall has gone up. The office will be closed next week as she will be on the East Coast trip with high school students. She has had a request from a township citizen for her daughter to put up a lemonade stand on the corner by the township hall. The board has no problem with that but suggested other locations might be better.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Leyrer to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$38,899.81. Some expenses included in the report were for two new ballot containers on wheels and two payments to the Road Commission for work done on Holland Lake Road. The question was asked as to when the paving would be done on Island Drive. Peterman will check with the Road Commission.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to approve the Clerk's report and pay the monthly expenses. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leyrer asked for updates on the status of fixing the ordinances on the website. The board discussed the idea of hiring a consultant to keep the website updated and organized. Benko will check with MCC for references. Leyrer reported that a letter had been received from Attorney Rasmussen apologizing for discussing the short-term ordinance with clerk Wills prior to the Planning Commission's approval of the ordinance. The Planning Commission met on June 1st at which time there were some corrections made to the draft of the short-term rental ordinance. Leyrer said the Commission approved holding a public hearing for the ordinance at its next meeting on September 7, 2022. Peterman offered to approve additional special meetings if the commission would meet and get the ordinance done as it has been taking too long to get it approved. Leyrer responded that there is no hurry now; renters are in no hurry to get the ordinance in place. The board questioned when they would be able to view the draft. Leyrer responded that it would be presented at the public hearing. The board would suggest presenting the draft to the public prior to the hearing so they have time to review it. The commission is under the impression that the draft is not supposed to be reviewed until the time of the hearing.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen was not present

ZONING REPORT:

Dale updated the board on violation complaints. A ticket will be issued to the property owner on W Colby Road if the property is not cleaned up; the burnout on Sidney Road has until August to get things done; a vacant home on W Stanton Road has not been mowed; Rosa Lake has an unpermitted cabin being rented out; one of the complaints on Muskrat has an incorrect address so it will be removed from the list; and a letter was sent to the Miller Road property. A new complaint was received about a home on Dickerson Lake Drive that has pigs. The board discussed sending letters to property owners who have not maintained their lawns and if not complied to, having our contractor do the mowing and bill it to the owners.

OLD BUSINESS

Local Covid Funds-Addition to Building

Stover presented the board with a list of the items we want included in the bids for the addition to the building. There were no changes to the list. The plans will be sent to the architecture for certification. Leyrer asked about the electric sign in front of the hall. We still need to research what kinds of signs are available and the cost for each.

Trash Service

No change.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to come before the board.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Margaret Cook lives on Nevins Lake. Her neighbor has chickens and a rooster. The rooster crows all day long from 5 o'clock in the morning. There is an ordinance against farm animals that are too loud. The chickens run loose. Peterman will check on it. They could call the police to report the noise violation.

Dave Overholt asked when the Road Commission would start mowing along the roads. Dale saw them mowing today so they have just started. Dave also asked for permission to use the park for the annual benefit for the fire department that will be held sometime in August. He will let us know the date when it is decided. The board approved

Colleen Venema asked if we can find out what they were testing for when they laid a cable along the side of Grow Road from Wise Road to Muskrat Road. It was marked with red flags but everything is gone now. She also wanted to make it known that they were not the people responsible for filing a complaint on an ordinance violation for Lodholtz.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk