

Sidney Township Board Minutes
April 3, 2023

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at the Sidney Township Hall at 3019 S Grow Road Sidney, Michigan on April 3, 2023 was called to order by Supervisor Peterman at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: 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 as presented from the March 6, 2023 board meeting, the March 20, 2025 budget hearing, and the March 25, 2023 annual meeting. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Laura Engel thanked the board for doing our research on the fire contract before deciding whether or not to sign the contract.

Amy Thomas, 911 director, explained the 911 proposal that will be on the May ballot. They are asking for an increase of \$.35 per phone for the next five years.

CORRESPONDENCE :

Clerk:

Wills reported that a representative from AD Security was at the hall to do an estimate of what it would cost to install 4 security cameras with recording and backup capabilities. Cameras are now required by the state to monitor ballot drop boxes. The quote has not yet been received.

At the budget meeting, the Board approved hiring Shumaker Technology Group for the new website. Stover and Wills have a zoom meeting scheduled for Wednesday to start the development.

MTA is offering a Cemetery Management and Administration class in Mt Pleasant on June 21. Cost is \$100 per person and \$34.50 for a book. Peterman and Wills would like to attend.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to approve paying the cost of \$234.50 for Peterman and Wills to attend the class Cemetery Management and Administration. Motion carried.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that some of the trees in the cemetery have been cut down. Clean up has not been done yet.

He has received several calls in response to the article in the Daily News regarding the Planning Commission.

Peterman asked Bruce King if he would give the board a quote for the necessary repairs to the pavilion in the park.

GUEST SPEAKER:

None

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$359,374.84

Covid Relief Fund has a balance of \$192,063.23 and the Park Fund has a balance of \$47,158.33

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$.19,783.77

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 reported that the planning commission met on March 7th. He feels we should amend the Short-term rentals (STRs) ordinance to address a limit of how many rentals should be allowed in the township and especially around the lakes. A public hearing will be needed to make that amendment. The subject has been discussed with Foster Swift in Grand Rapids. They will help with the amendment for \$275 an hour.

The information is needed by May 1st so public hearings can be held at 6:00 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting. Other public hearings will be held that same evening one for amending the Zoning Ordinance to include the STR's as approved uses for homes in the waterfront district and another hearing for removing Jeff Lodholtz from the Planning Commission.

*******Note: Jeff Lodholtz resigned from the Planning Commission after the board meeting. The attorney has advised that no public hearing is needed to amend the STR ordinance but there are other steps to follow to make that amendment. The public hearing to approve an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance can not be held until the STR ordinance is finalized. There will be no public hearings scheduled prior to the May 1 board meeting.**

A resolution was presented to confirm the raises approved in the new budget for Planning Commission members; from \$75 to \$100 per meeting for the chairperson and from \$50 to \$75 per meeting for the other four members.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Benko to approve the resolution approving pay increases for the Planning Commission members. Motion carried. (See attached)

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Stover to appoint the following people to the Planning Commission: Michelle Merritt, Dave Cooper, and Shawn Wheat. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen reported that work will begin on the next year's budget, Covid money was given to the Greenville Senior Center to improve the parking lot and money from marijuana revenue will be disbursed to drug court and municipalities that have marijuana facilities.

ZONING REPORT:

Zoning Administrator, Dale Main, gave an update of the status of the reported zoning complaints. The number of issued permits is up. The property on M66 has been sold.

OLD BUSINESS

Local Covid Funds-Addition to Building

Horn Construction has started construction of the new addition. Construction is on hold while waiting for the doors, windows and siding.

NEW BUSINESS:

County Recycling in May (See Flyer)

The county is sponsoring two recycling projects; one for tires and electronics on May 6 and one on May 20 for household hazardous waste.

Fire Agreement

A one-year agreement with the Sheridan Fire Department has been prepared. The agreement will give the township fire protection with the Sheridan Fire Department for one more year and give the board time to work with the Sheridan Fire authority on an agreement for the terms of the contract.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Benko to approve signing the Fire Agreement with the Sheridan Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: all voted yes. Motion carried.

MTA Meeting

MTA dinner will be April 18 at 6:00 at the Settlement Church in Gowen. All board members wish to attend.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jennifer questioned the decision to put a limit on how many airb&b's would be allowed in the county. She would like to have the proposed language available to review prior to the public hearing.

The Road Commission has asked if the township can find funding to complete some additional road contracts.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Carrie Wills