

Sidney Township  
Minutes  
June 1, 2020

Supervisor Peterman called the Sidney Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA:

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

APPROVED MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the March 2, 2020 budget meeting. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk  
None

Supervisor  
None

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

The Sheriff's Report was presented by Deputy Edwards for the last two months' activities.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Shad Morgan introduced himself to the board. He will be running in the next election for County Commissioner.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover reported that settlement was done with the Treasurer's office today and is not on the report. She asked if anyone would like to add anything to the newsletter that will go out with the tax notices. Check book balance for end of May is \$142,717.72.

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills reported that the millage report required by Equalization has been completed. She also reminded the board that the sewer rates for the Sidney Township sewer need to be reviewed to determine if the raise recommended by the SAW grant should be used.

Expenses incurred for the last three months were presented: March 24 – May 4, 2020 expenses were \$46,977.76 and for May 5 – June 1, 2020 were \$20,341.26

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

#### PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leyrer reported that the planning commission met on March 4 and discussed the by-laws. There were no changes made. Next meeting is June 3 at which time the commission will review the draft of the recreational plan and will present it to the board for approval. The plan will need to be published in the newspaper and a special meeting conducted for final approval.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen told the board that the county audit came back clean. Budget packets are out to department heads for next year's budget. They expect a drop in revenue sharing this year due to the Covid 19 shutdowns. County buildings are open to the public now with precautions in place.

#### ZONING REPORT:

Three locations were removed from the list. Dale is following up on the other locations.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

##### New Lawyer

The board has discussed retaining a different attorney to represent the township. Trent Hilding is cutting back on his services. Corinda recommended Kurt Petersen, who is a resident in the township. Jourdan Rasmussen, helped the board settle the court case involving the legal description error and works with a variety of other townships in Montcalm County. The board decided to request a quote from each of the attorneys and tabled the issue to the next meeting.

##### 2 Lawn Upkeep

Board members have been receiving complaints regarding unkempt lawns. There is an ordinance in place for such issues. A letter should be sent to the property owner and if there is no response, the board can hire someone to do the job and add the cost to the property owners tax bill.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

##### Resuming Hall Use

There are three reservations for use of the hall for June. The board discussed whether or not to reopen the hall for private use. The hall should be cleaned good after each use.

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Stover to approve resuming rental of the hall. Leyrer was opposed. Motion carried.

##### Fire Ordinance

The fire departments are thinking of a 2% increase each year to all townships in the fire district. However, a fire ordinance could be approved to start charging a fee for every fire run. Most insurance companies will cover the cost, but if not, a home owner could file a hardship application to waive the fee. The ordinance will need to be approved by each of the entities within the district. The fire department would handle the billing and collecting process. The ordinance will have to be reviewed by the planning commission and then come back to the board.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adopt an ordinance to allow for charging a fire fee. Roll call vote all yeas. Motion carried.

#### CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Donna Call told the board that she is moving out of the township and so far there has been no one to take her place on the lake association.

Bruce Jorgensen asked about the sewer district audit and the status of the township taking it over. Todd Sattler, does not want to turn the sewer administration over. The audit is not completed because of the Covid 19 shutdowns.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adjourn the meeting at 7:58.p.m.

Motion carried.

Carrie Wills

Clerk