

Sidney Township
Minutes
June 7, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Supervisor Terry Peterman, Clerk Carrie Wills, Trustees Ray Leyrer and Jed Welder

ABSENT: Treasurer Corinda Stover

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve the agenda with the addition of Laura Engels as Guest Speaker. Motion carried.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the May 3rd meeting as presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the May 17th special meeting as presented Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk:

Wills reported that Charter Communications is requesting a renewal of their franchise agreement. Currently, the township is not charging a franchise fee but that under state law a fee of 0 to 5% is allowable. The board agreed to continue charging 0% fee.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that the cemetery has a driveway that needs some gravel. He will get estimates for the cost.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laura Engels

Laura read a statement of rebuttal to a couple of comments that were made at the public hearing regarding the wind mill ordinance.

Todd Sattler, Drain Commissioner

Todd explained that the special assessment money for the Sidney sewer that has been in question has been located. The money was all there but had been put in an account for pooled cash and not in the correct account for the special assessment. The county has corrected the problem and included enough money to cover the lost interest. The sewer advisory committee met last week and is recommending that he pay down \$326,000 on the bond. That will still leave a sufficient fund balance to make the extra interest payment in December

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Leyrer to approve paying \$326,000 down on the sewer bond. Roll call vote: Welder, Leyrer, Wills and Peterman all voted yes. Motion carried.

Todd further reported that according to the sewer ordinance a 10% penalty is added to O&M bills that are not paid within 60 days from the billing date. He would like to start adding the penalty correctly as per the ordinance and in addition add a 1% per month interest fee until the bill is paid or turned over and added to the winter tax roll. The board will address the issue at the next regular meeting giving them time to research before making their decision whether or not to approve the interest and how the ordinance would need to be amended to add the interest requirement.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

In Stover's absence, the treasurer's report was presented by Wills. The checkbook balance as of May 30, 2021 is \$191,829.91.

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Total expenses were \$57,481.63 which included payment to the road commission for first application of chloride and maintenance on three road projects.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to accept the clerk's report and approve paying the bills as presented. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leyrer reported that the public hearing for the wind and solar ordinances was held as was the June planning commission regular meeting. The commission approved passing the ordinances on to the township board for their decision. There are a few corrections for typing and some language changes needed regarding the berm that will be addressed by the board before they make their decision.

The planning commission meets again in September 1, 2021.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam confirmed what Todd said about the county correcting the sewer funds. He commented on the revenue from marijuana tax, budget packets are out to the departments, and three sheriff department employees have recently retired.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported that he issued seven permits in the last month and updated the board on the progress of the zoning complaint sites.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wind & Solar Ordinances

Both ordinances have been submitted to the County Controller's Office. They will forward the ordinances to the County Planning Commission members for review. Comments from the commission must be received within 30 days at which time the Township Board can vote on adoption of the ordinances. Adam remarked that the county planning commission will be scheduling a meeting to review the ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Robert Scott gave the board handouts regarding comments and corrections he would recommend for the wind and solar ordinances.

Bruce Jorgensen remarked that Todd is doing a great job and said he agrees with the 1% interest fee being considered for the sewer O&M

Michelle Damaska asked if the board wants the planning commission to continue working on making repairs to the park. There is work needed to repair the roof on one of the pavilions and playground equipment needs attention. There have been volunteers for helping with painting etc. There is only about \$6400 in the park fund to work with.

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Wills to authorize Michelle to get bids for minor repairs to the park. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the board, a motion was made by Welder and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 p.m. Motion carried.

**Carrie Wills
Clerk**