

Sidney Township  
Minutes  
February 1, 2021  
Meeting was conducted as a virtual Zoom meeting

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

ATTENDANCE: Peterman, Wills, Welder, Leyrer ,Stover

AGENDA:

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

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the November 9, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk

Wills reported that she had received letters from township residents opposing the construction of wind turbines in Sidney Township. Letters were received from: Roxanne Niner, Kim Ostrander-Hansen, Lisa Hensley, Merle Hensley, Erik Benko, Chantelle Benko, Rebecca & Andrew Murray, Dave & Diane Christensen, Lyn Henschell, Jack & Janis Pearl, Mordekai Hansen, Laura Thompson, Jim & Lauri Zimmerman, and Tim Dudenhofer.

Wills received a letter of resignation from Marilyn Thomsen, deputy clerk effective as of November 11, 2020. Lynette Peterman has agreed to take over the position as deputy. Wills thanked Marilyn for all her help since she was appointed to the clerk position.

Supervisor

Peterman explained that this meeting was being held via Zoom. Board members and county commissioner, Adam Petersen, were attending from the township hall. The Zoom account only allows for a forty minute meeting so public comments would be limited to three minutes for each participant.

Peterman reported that the fire department is asking for a 2% increase to each townships portion paid for fire protection. Fees collected for fire as per the ordinance passed in June will be applied to the cost increase.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

None

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was received. Current checkbook balance is \$167,356.85

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

Stover suggested that we open the hall up for rentals again.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to open the hall for rentals.  
Ayes: Stover, Welder, Wills; Nays: Peterman, Leyrer Motion carried.

Peterman commented that only twenty people would be allowed in the building at one time according to state covid restrictions. Someone would have to police it to make sure the restriction was enforced.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Peterman to limit the number of people for the rental to only 20 people.  
Ayes: Peterman, Leyrer; Nays: Stover, Welder, Wills. Motion failed.

#### CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$9,169.12.

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

Wills reported that she has been looking into getting new software for accounting purposes. There are still some questions to be answered but will be ready to present at the budget meeting. She also asked to set a date of March 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. for the budget meeting and Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. for the annual meeting. Meetings were scheduled as requested.

#### PLANNING COMMISSION:

Planning Commission meets Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 by Zoom. A meeting has been scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> to meet with Attorney Jourdan Rasmussen to review the wind turbine ordinance. Two members of the planning commission and two board members will meet with Jourdan. The planning commission has requested approval to have the ordinance reviewed by a second attorney.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Leyrer to approve a review of the wind turbine ordinance by a second attorney. Motion carried.

#### COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam reported that the board of commissioners has approved hiring a jail administrator; audits will start next month, and the Health and Human Services building was named in honor of former commissioner John Johansen. He also commented that the board has no authority over the wind turbine debate.

#### ZONING REPORT:

There was no zoning report.

Stover has made inquiries to local organizations to see if there would be any help to rebuild for a burnout victim.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wind Ordinance

As previously reported, two planning commission members and two board members will meet with the attorney on February 9<sup>th</sup> to review the ordinance draft.

Because so many people have been coming forward in opposition to the wind turbines Stover suggested that we approve a moratorium to put a temporary freeze on any wind turbine activity.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Wills to approve a six-month moratorium or until we have a safe and responsible ordinance in place for wind turbines.

Ayes: Peterman, Stover, Wills, Leyrer: Welder Abstained from voting. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board of Review Resolutions

Letters were received to approve resolutions needed for 2021 Board of Reviews.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve resolution 2021-1: Resolution To Adopt Alternate Start Dates For March, 2021, July, 2021 AND December, 2021 Board Of Review. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve resolution 2021-2: Resolution to Adopt Taxpayers and Non- taxpayers To Protest in Writing, By Letter or Email For Board of Review. Motion carried.

Approval of Renewal of Liability Insurance

The proposal for the renewal of the liability insurance from MML was proposed at an increase of \$75 from last year.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve renewing the liability insurance with MML. Motion carried.

Approval of Sanitary Sewer Budget 2021-2022

A proposed budget for the Sanitary Sewer District was presented to the Sewer Advisory Committee at their last meeting and was presented to the township board for approval.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to approve the Sanitary Sewer budget as presented for 2021-2022. Motion carried.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Several comments were given regarding wind turbine leases, maps showing the locations of properties already leased to Apex, abuses to property owners opposing the leases, and how some insurance companies will refuse issuing home owners insurance where wind turbines are located.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills  
Clerk