

Sidney Township Board Minutes
July 11, 2022

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at Montcalm Community College, 2800 College Drive, Sidney, Michigan on July 11, 2022 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 with an addition under Old Business (7C) Website. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the June 6, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no citizens comments at this time

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk:

Winn Telephone Company is asking for a permit for an easement through our road right of ways. An application along with a \$500 application fee was submitted.

Motion was made by Stover and seconded by Wills to approve the easement from Winn Telephone Company for telecommunications purposes. The motion failed and the board decided to table any action until the next meeting so the board can more thoroughly review the document.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that the township received \$50,000 from the county from their covid relief funds and that the funds will be used for park improvements. Ideas for the park were: a pickle ball court, fix the driveway, new mulch for the playground area, repair the fence and build a small pavilion at the ball park. Miss Dig has been called so they can start constructing new gates for the park entries.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laura Engel

Laura remarked on the affects of recall elections and how many businesses have been boycotted and bad remarks being made about elected officials.

Todd Sattler-Sewer Rates

Todd was present to explain that there will eventually be a shortfall in the fund to pay the interest due on the bond for the Sidney Township Sewer District. More interest should have been added to the special assessment to account for the shortage and early payoffs of assessments has made the problem worse. Todd keeps enough surplus in the fund to cover at least one year's worth of payments. However, there will not be enough by 2037 to cover the payments and not enough to pay off the bond in 2050. The township will then be responsible to cover the shortage. He is suggesting we add a debt service of between \$24 to \$36 per year to cover the shortages. That total comes to about \$970 per hookup over the next 27 years and might even make it possible to pay the bond off early. The fees will be added to the operation and maintenance bills that are issued in April and October and will be billed to everyone connected to the system. He is asking the board to pass a resolution to approve the debt service. A resolution will be prepared to address at the next meeting.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$279,276.98

The \$50,000 from the county will be put in the park fund. She will keep a separate spread sheet for the park money and for the covid relief money we received from the ARPA Act.

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$23,823.95.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The public hearing for the Short-term Rental Ordinance is scheduled for September 6, 2022 which is the regular scheduled meeting date for the planning commission. The board offered to hold a special meeting earlier, in August, but Leyrer insisted that the commission was not willing to conduct the meeting any earlier.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen reported that budget talks for county offices begin Wednesday. They are reviewing requests for ARPA funds.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale updated the board on violation complaints. Dale and Terry visited some of the complaint locations. Some complaints have been resolved and others have been given letters to comply with ordinances. Letters will be sent to some property owners to maintain their lawns.

OLD BUSINESS

Local Covid Funds-Addition to Building

The plans have been completed for the addition. Contractors can get a copy from DeWitt Lumber in Blanchard and submit offers.

Trash Service

No change.

Website

Leyrer and Benko have been researching new ideas for an updated township website. Pierson Township has a very nice site which the clerk keeps updated with extra pay. Benko asked if the students at MCC could make up a new website for us. Connie from MCC will check into that for us. Cemetery information could be added and everything needs to be kept up to date

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to come before the board.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Commissioner Petersen commented that the board of commissioners will be addressing the issue of junk ordinances at their next meeting. The sheriff and building department are looking at ways to enforce them. The sheriff department should still be able to issue tickets.

Todd remarked that Civic Plus just redid the county's website. It's the same site but updated.

There will be a public shred day on July 15 at Noll Park in Crystal

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk