

Sidney Township
Minutes
April 5, 2021

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

ATTENDANCE: Supervisor Terry Peterman; Clerk Carrie Wills; Treasurer Corinda Stover; Trustees Jed Welder and Ray Leyrer

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Wills 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 March 1, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

CLERK

Wills reported that she has received a packet from Point Broadband regarding their easements for internet service. The easements are already there but a state law called METRO requires that they be renewed. The board approved Supervisor Peterman signing the documents.

SUPERVISOR

Peterman explained that this meeting was being held in person as restrictions have been lifted for public meetings but is also being offered via Zoom.

He also reported that the Road Commission has provided about thirty loads of dirt for the township park from the work they were doing on Derby Road. Jed offered to level it out at no charge to the township. The board thanked Jed for his generous offer.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

None

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was received. Current checkbook balance is \$193,226.75

Stover reported we don't expect any cuts in revenue sharing and hall rentals is picking up.

Sheridan fire is looking at purchasing a new truck. Sidney township's portion will be about \$45,000 to \$50,000 to come from the fire bond fund. She also commented that the sign in front of the hall has been falling apart. Repairs were made but may still need more work if the bolts don't hold it up.

Stover told people in attendance that she has the vouchers for taking loads of junk to the dump site. Interested residents can see her after the meeting to get the vouchers.

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

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CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$12,840.01. Bills for publishing the board or review notice in the newspaper three times, cost for supplies for assessment notices and payment of the workers' comp premium were included in the total.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Planning Commission met Wednesday, March 3 at 7:00 by Zoom. Next regular meeting is scheduled for June 2nd. Additional special meeting dates will be addressed under New Business. The Master Plan needs to be updated. Bids have been received for improvements to the park as required by the park grant. The Commission would like to know if they should continue pursuing the grant funding and how much we are willing to spend. Is there enough to be worth getting matching funds from the grant?

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam Petersen, County Commissioner (present via Zoom)

Adam reported that the audit was extended for one month and Ryan Villet has been hired as an assistant prosecutor

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported there were no new permits issued. He will check on the complaint for Carlson Road. Now that there is no longer a contract with the sheriff department, Dale will need to issue zoning tickets. Terry will go with Dale when needed and Dale will check with the sheriff department to find out how to fill out the tickets correctly.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wind Ordinance

Nothing to report because of the moratorium freeze approved by the board at the February 1, 2021 meeting

February 1 Meeting

Leyrer remarked that the approved motion to have a second attorney review the proposed ordinance for wind energy did not include approval for a review by a second attorney for the proposed solar ordinance.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to approve having the proposed solar ordinance reviewed by a second attorney. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Planning Commission Meetings

Leyrer requested that the board approve two special meetings for the Planning Commission before the regular meeting in June. A meeting in April so the Commission can finalize the proposed ordinances for both solar and wind and the Public Hearing in May for both ordinances. Then at the June meeting the Commission can make any final changes and get ready to present the ordinances to the Board the following month. The special meetings will be held in the park on a Saturday or the following Sunday in case of rain.

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A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to approve two additional special meetings to be held in the park at noon on a Saturday or Sunday in case of rain. Motion carried.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Michelle asked how many people are allowed for hall rentals.

Patti Shindecker thanked the planning commission and the board for the work on the ordinances

Dave Buckner remarked that the planning commission has steps that need to be followed in finalizing the ordinances.

Wendy Winters asked for clarification on the comment about kids using the internet service.

Corinda explained that she was concerned that other people using the same internet company could be online causing problems in the lag in the connection for the February meeting. The internet runs slower when lots of people are trying to use it at the same time. They were not using the township's access just online with the same internet provider.

Erik Belko presented the board with a report that he had researched and compiled concerning the actual net annual financial impact wind energy would have on Montcalm County.

Albert Jongewaard rebutted the report. He has never seen a county lose money from allowing wind turbines. He said the presentation on wind energy that aired on an earlier date is available on their website as well as the questions and answers submitted at the presentation.

A Pine Township resident commented that there are several cases in front of the Tax Tribunal right now trying to get the tax amounts lowered. She asked if she could get a copy of the safety report for handling emergencies when they occur.

Joe Hansen would also like a copy.

Albert responded that they have operation manuals that he can provide that should cover what they are looking for.

Others were adamant that safety manuals are not the same as the operation manuals.

Patti asked about set backs. She said that 1000 feet is within the danger zone. Also they said they would not build near lakes but at the Maple Valley they were told they would be at least 1320 feet from lakes.

Robert Scott thanked the Planning Commission for purposing a good ordinance. Apex has leased several acres that are near lakes. He doesn't feel they can be trusted as they keep changing their comments and answers

Craig Bucholtz offered the use of a portable PA system to use at the meetings in the park.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 p.m.. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk