

Sidney Township Board Minutes
September 12, 2022

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at the Sidney Township Hall at 3019 S Grow Road Sidney, Michigan on September 12, 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 Planning Commission to amend the short-term rental ordinance. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Paul Warren remarked that he had filed a complaint form for a resident on Muskrat Road who has not mowed the grass. The grass has still not be mowed. Other properties were added to the list of unkempt lawns. Letter will have to be sent to the owners.

Scott Heimbecker presented the board with a handout regarding the short-term rental ordinance. He is not in favor of the ordinance and remarked that there are other laws already in place to cover the issues.

Bruce Jorgensen referred to the existing zoning ordinance regarding special land uses. The properties are classified as R3 residential and only B&B's are permitted under that provision.

Scott: What is considered residential?

Richard Peters: He lives on Derby Lake and reported problems when a bachelor party was held at one of the rentals. The renters have no consideration for the lake. He feels there should be no rentals for just 1 or 2 nights.

He asked if there are any ideas for a policy other than the ordinance

Scott suggested residents call the zoning administrator or the sheriff's department with complaints.

Jason Fry is one of the rental owners. He has excellent renters.

Bruce, as lake association president at Derby Lake has received several complaints

Other Comments:

What will be considered a proper complaint?

What is an air B&B. Can the website administrator set any boundaries?

Do they need to put in a land line so that phone service is available to the renters?

Do we know who the land owners are and how can we contact them when problems arise

Rules for use of the lake should be posted on site at the rental homes along with the rental rules

Why do we need to ask for the home addresses for the renters and why do we need to keep them for two years?

Why are the inspections necessary and why is there a separate charge for the permit and the inspection?

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk:

Wills reported that its time again to select an annual pre-pay plan from Corrigan Propane. They are offering three different options.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to accept the pre-pay plan at the rate of \$2.199 per gallon. Motion carried.

Wills shared a letter from the Drain Office informing the board that work will be done on the Petersen Drain sometime in the near future.

Supervisor

Peterman apologized to Elizabeth Waldon, reporter for the Daily News, for the attitude of the Planning Commission at the public hearing. He feels she should have been treated with greater respect.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

There were no guest speakers

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$282,024.08
Spread sheets were provided for the Covid Relief Fund and the Park Fund

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 \$29,115.41
Included in the report were checks for election inspectors training and the cost of publication for the public hearing.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leyrer reported that the Natural River Zoning Requirements under DNR regulations, need to be updated. A small portion of Dickerson Creek is included in the designated area. The junk yard abuts the Dickerson Creek, but EGLE has looked at it and has not reported any problems.
Leyrer noted that an amendment to the short-term rental ordinance has been made since the public hearing. Section 6, B-5 was changed to: "Each person is required to have 40sqft per person inside or outside the dwelling. This would entail that the dwelling will be limited to the amount of people based on this number. i.e. for 100 sqft there can be 2 people." The board decided to revisit the ordinance issue at the next board meeting so there is time to review and discuss the contents of the ordinance.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen reported that the county budget and the distribution of the ARPA funds have been finalized.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale gave an update on zoning complaints. The junk yard was removed from the list, one complaint has a wrong address and another needs a signed complaint form. Some need to get ticketed.

Local Covid Funds-Addition to Building

Notices need to be mailed or advertised asking for bids for the new addition. Nothing new at this time
No change

Trash Service

No change.

Website

Leyrer has talked to two companies about creating a new township website. Jane Basom will do a bid and a presentation if asked. She will create the new website and keep it posted up to date with information provided by the board.

Park Improvements

New gates are ready and will be installed next Thursday. Gravel is needed for the driveway.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business to come before the board.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Adam asked if the township hall would be considered a short-term rental.

Joe West: The hall is only rented for a few hours not for overnight

A property owner stated he has two properties as rentals. They have made major improvements to the homes and doesn't feel they should be penalized like other zoning violations.

One rental home was pinpointed as having numerous problems.

Why don't you target just the problem sites and not all of them?

Are there other ordinances that will cover some of the issues?

There will be more rental homes coming so something needs to be in place before it gets worse.

If you call the police about the disturbances, they will tell you they are too busy to check it out.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills

Clerk