

Sidney Township Board Minutes
February 7, 2022
Corrected March 7, 2022

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at Sidney Township Hall, 3019 S Grow Road, Sidney, Michigan on February 7, 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 ,Trustee: Ray Leyrer ABSENT: Trustee, Jed Welder

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the agenda with an addition under Old Business to redo the motion to pay Leyrer for Planning Commission meetings and under New Business an addition to discuss filling the vacated cleaning position. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2022 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk:

Wills reported that she received a notice from the State that the township's population is now over 2000 so we have the option to change to a charter township. A notice was required to be published in the newspaper twice and that has been done. Three options were given:

1. Adopt by majority vote a resolution opposed to incorporation as a charter township.
2. Adopt by majority vote a resolution of intent to approve incorporation as a charter township
3. Adopt by majority vote a resolution to place on the election ballot the question of incorporation as a charter township.

The board tabled the issue so the members have time to review the pros and cons of becoming a charter township.

A form was received from Adam on which the township can request funds from the county to be used for our park. We need to get estimates for the cost of the improvements we want to make to the park so we know the amount of funds we wish to request. The form will be submitted once the estimates are tallied.

Wills read aloud a letter received from, Coleen Venema concerning vandalism to pro-wind signs and false statements being made about leased properties.

Supervisor

Supervisor Peterman commented on the recent accusation that board members were in violation of the Open Meetings Act because four of the five board members attended a planning commission meeting. He has discussed the issue with MTA and was assured that board members do have a right to attend those meetings as citizens of the township.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laura Engel

Laura gave an historical reminder of how life was before electricity was brought into the county and expressed that in the future we will need to depend on wind and solar for electrical needs.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$213,776.39.
Winter taxes are due by February 14 to pay without penalties

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 \$12,257.46.

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

Wills reported that a meeting date needs to be set for the budget hearing and annual meeting. The date was scheduled for March 14 at 5:30 p.m. with both meetings being held that same evening.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

A special meeting was held on Wednesday, February 1, 2022 to work on the Short-Term Rental Ordinance. A draft of the ordinance has been sent to Attorney Jordan Rasmussen. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2022. Hopefully the draft will be back from the attorney by then. Leyrer reported that Deb Wolf who is the alternate commission member would like to resign her position so that position needs to be filled.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Adam Petersen gave an update on county business. A preliminary audit has been started. Staff is being hired, bringing it back up to prior numbers. The Road Commission is planning to build a new garage.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale was not able to attend the meeting so there was no report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rescind and Redo Motion for Leyrer's Planning Commission Pay

Wills asked to rescind the motion she made at the January meeting to pay Leyrer for Planning Commission meetings as it was not legal to have Leyrer second the motion.

Wills made a new motion to pay Leyrer for the Planning Commission meetings he attends because they are not to be included in the amount of his salary as trustee. Stover reluctantly seconded the motion, as she feels he is being double paid because he also gets salary. Motion carried.

Local Covid Funds-Addition to Building

Mr. Tissue dropped off copies of the plans for the addition as we discussed them with him. We need to get changes penciled in and returned to him so he can get us a bid.

Trash Service

Stover has been keeping a list of people interested in contracting for township wide trash pickup. So far eight people have shown an interest.

SCBA Air Packs

The issue of purchasing air packs for the fire departments, which was discussed at previous meetings, was again addressed. The air packs can be purchased at a cheaper rate from a different company. There are currently 20 packs in use and 10 of them are outdated. The departments are asking for 10 packs for each of the two departments, so a total of 20 packs. Funds for the packs would come from the fire bond: \$12,329.21 for Sheridan and \$14,980.49 for Stanton. Leyrer would like to see a predicted time line for replacement of the older air packs.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to approve purchase of 20 of the air packs. Roll call vote: Stover, Leyrer, Wills and Peterman all ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cleaning Position

Pat has resigned her cleaning position. We need to take applications to hire someone to replace her. A copy of the contract is available on the website. The hall is cleaned twice a month and checked weekly for trash pickup. Windows are cleaned at least twice a year. A notice for the position should be posted on the website and on the sign in front of the township hall.

New Sign

Terry would like to get bids on the cost of a new digital type sign for in front of the hall. The one we have is no longer safe and is in need of repairs.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

What is the purpose for next month's planning commission meeting? March is a regularly scheduled meeting. If the ordinance draft is back the commission can review it. The commission can then take the next steps needed before bringing it to the board for approval.

Joe Hansen had questions about the hall addition as he might know someone interested in putting in a bid.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk