

Sidney Township Board Minutes
August 7, 2023

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at the Sidney Township Hall at 3019 S Grow Road Sidney, Michigan on August 7, 2023 was called to order by Supervisor Peterman at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDENCE: Supervisor: Terry Peterman, Clerk: Carrie Wills, Treasurer: Corinda Stover; Trustee: Ray Leyrer, Trustee, Erik Benko

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to approve the agenda with two additions under New Business for Cleaning Lady and Water Runoff Problem. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes as presented from the July 3, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

CORRESPONDENCE :

Clerk:

Wills received a letter from AT&T requesting an extension to the existing Right of Way Permit that expires on December 31, 2023. The extension is to end on December 31, 2028.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to approve the extension permit that will end on December 31, 2028. Motion carried

An email message was received to let us know that the money we received and reported last month from the Local Community Stabilization Authority was a wrong amount. The overpayment amount will be deducted from the 2024 payment we should receive from the Authority.

Wills also received a letter from the Drain Commission regarding a change in the benefit factors for the weed control program on Dickerson Lake. A public hearing was held on July 20th. The township doesn't own any parcels that will be affected by the change but township residents within the weed control district will be affected.

Supervisor

MTA meeting is scheduled for August 15 at Pierson Township Hall at 6:00 P.M. Two board members will be attending.

GUEST SPEAKER:

None

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$333,069.08

Current balance in the park fund is \$45,324.25 and the Covid Relief Fund is \$131,208.44

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$26,165.64

Included in the total is another payment for Foster Swift for work done on the STR Ordinance, the second application of chloride for the Road Commission and checks for the election inspectors for the August election.

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:

Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. Leyrer has contacted Attorneys at Foster Swift in Grand Rapids to prepare and mail letters to property owners concerning the rezoning of parcels in the sewer district to waterfront lots. There was discussion about the fact that the board did not give board approval to the Planning Commission to contract with Foster Swift or to proceed with the matter of the rezoning. The issue has been discussed at two board meetings but there is nothing in the minutes to confirm that approval was granted. The Commission has made arrangements to hold a public hearing on the issue at their meeting in September.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover that the Planning Commission must get board approval on future issues before contracting for services with Foster Swift. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen was absent

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported that the ZBA will hold a public meeting on Wednesday, August 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the township hall for input from property owners in the surrounding area to 481 Nevins Road. The property owner would like to get a variance that would allow him to construct a pole barn near the property line.

Stoney Park would like to expand the trailer but must get approval from the Health Department.

Work is in being continued on the burnt home on Sidney Road and the complaint property at 1641 Holland Road.

OLD BUSINESS

Addition to Building Update

Work on the hall addition is almost complete. The window for the new office needs to be installed as well as the new toilets. The outside lights need to be adjusted for better lighting of the flag. The board discussed moving ahead with getting new folding chairs and maybe racks for the chairs.

Parks-Pavilion

Leyrer reported that there are bees in the North pavilion, in the electrical panel and in the bleachers at the ball field in the first base line. They need to be treated.

Terry is waiting for a bid to replace the North pavilion. Old picnic tables need to be repaired and 5 or 6 more tables need to be purchased.

Short-term Rental Update

Two complaints were recently received regarding STR homes. There is a cabin being rented on Ruby Road that has no electric so unsanitary conditions. Some of the rental homes are still claiming 100% homestead exemptions. No permits have yet been issued but Dale received 3 applications tonight.

Website

Some of the work on the new website has been completed. More needs to be done to update the content to be added to the site.

Cemetery

Jones Tree Removal has not yet fixed the damage done when the trees were removed earlier this year. Peterman has asked Danny Lund to fix a wash out in the west driveway created by the heavy rains. He will ask him to fix the damaged area too,

Peterman would like to hold a special meeting to work on drafting a cemetery ordinance. A meeting will be scheduled soon. Also need a copy of the guidelines.

NEW BUSINESS:

Cleaning Lady

Laura has been doing extra cleaning because of the construction mess. She has accumulated 29 extra hours so far.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to pay Laura \$435.00 for the additional hours of cleaning. Motion carried.

The board also discussed adding to the current list of cleaning requirements, an additional \$15 per hour for washing windows and using the rug cleaner machine to remove stains from the carpet.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Wills to add a provision of \$15 per hour for washing windows and cleaning the carpet. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bruce Jorgensen asked when the STR ordinance will be enforced. There are at least 6 or 8 homes on Derby Lake that should be getting permits.

Dale has been working on getting the program started but it's in limbo right now. Its hard to find a time to inspect the homes when there are no renters in the homes. Better communication between the township and the home owners would help. Dale is keeping track of applications in the order in which they are received.

Bruce suggested a short message to properties owners to advise them of the new STR Ordinance. Ask them to let the township know if they own a short term rental home or know of someone who does. He will have the lake association send out an email and will announce it at the annual meeting. If the program takes effect beginning 2024 it would give Dale time to get a head start on inspections this fall.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills