

Sidney Township Board Minutes
September 11, 2023

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at the Sidney Township Hall at 3019 S Grow Road Sidney, Michigan on September 11, 2023 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, Trustee, Erik Benko

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes as presented from the August 7, 2023 meeting and the August 29, 2023 special meeting. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

CORRESPONDENCE :

Clerk:

Wills received information from Alto Gas with an offer for new customers that can be locked in until April 2024. The board approved having Wills compare the pricing from Alto with the current prices from Corrigan.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that Danny Lund has brought in the dirt to fix the driveway in the cemetery that was washed out. The board would like to have him look at the area damaged by the company that removed some trees last spring and get a quote for fixing the damage.

The North pavilion in the park has been removed but the concrete still needs to be hauled away.

GUEST SPEAKER:

None

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$308,010.87
Current balance in the park fund is \$45,324.75 and the Covid Relief Fund is \$71,736.30. Recent purchases for the hall that will be deducted from that amount \$3415.75.

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 \$85,752.96
That total includes payment to the Road Commission for the third chloride application and work done on Muskrat Road.

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 met on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 7:00P.M.

Leyrer asked if the planning commission members have to be sworn in. The commission approved amending the zoning ordinance to include "12,000 sq ft w/public sewer system" to the lot sizes for AP Agricultural Preservation, R-1 Rural Residential, and R-3 Waterfront Residential. A public hearing will be held on December 5, 2023, the same day as the next regular scheduled meeting. The attorney will draft the notice to be published in the newspaper fifteen days prior to the hearing. After the hearing the draft will be sent to the County Planning Commission, if it has not been decommissioned. They have thirty days to respond and the amendment is sent on to the township board for approval. In other action, the commission appointed Dave Cooper as chairperson, Shawn Wheat as co-chair, Michelle Merritt as secretary. At the December meeting they will be reviewing the by-laws for the Commission.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the new appointments of officers. Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam Petersen, county commissioner, reported that the county budget was approved. The clerk has almost completed her move from the Administration Building to the Court Complex. The deputy treasurer is retiring and interviews are being held for her replacement. The Planning Commission will soon be dissolved maybe by the end of the month.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported that the number of permits issued has increased. He has received six applications for STR inspections. We need to draft a certificate to present to the STR owner or manager when the inspection has been approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Website Update

Pictures will soon be available to put on the website. We would like to add a link to the Road Commission and the Stanton and Sheridan Fire Departments. We need to ask if they are keeping the old website updated and see if we can get email addresses with the .gov domain.

Addition to Building Update

All the new folding chairs have been purchased so now we need to sell the old ones. The new printer and outdoor bulletin boards have been ordered. We still need to get floor mats for the front and side doors.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to purchase a chair rack for the new chairs at a cost of \$554 plus shipping. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to purchase one 3x5 mat and one 4x10 mat. Motion carried.

Tim Scott, an electrician, was called in to inspect electrical problems at the township hall. He suggested we install LED lights at a cost of \$1784. He also found that we contact an HVAC person to look at the air conditioner and the wiring for the furnace.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Wills to have the LED lights installed at the cost of \$1784 and purchase a battery backup for the treasurer's computer at a cost not to exceed \$200. Motion carried.

A quote of \$1500 was received from Pethers concrete for the cement needed for the front of the hall. A quote is expected from Ralph Masonry and Concrete and Wills will contact Denny's Cement Work for another.

Park Update

Demolition of the pavilion is completed and builders can now be scheduled to construct the new one. We are still waiting for concrete bids. The net is in for the ball park but still need to get the dirt for the ball field. The dugout needs repairs and the old building being used for storage needs to be removed and replace with a new storage shed. An electrician will be needed as the electric meters are attached to the building.

Cemetery

The final draft of the Cemetery Ordinance was presented to board members prior to the meeting.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Benko to approve the final draft of the Sidney Township Cemetery Ordinance #2023-02.

Roll call vote: Stover-yes, Wills-yes, Peterman-yes, Leyrer-yes, Benko-yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

BSA Tax Software Upgrade

BSA is asking all township treasurers to approve new tax software for \$8000 so that future data can be stored on the cloud instead of on a server. There will be an annual charge for storing the data.

Bids for Cleaning Position

Laura Thompson has submitted her letter of resignation from her cleaning position. She has had a change in her employment and will be done by September 30. The board thanked Laura for a job well done and especially cleaning up during the construction time. Notice for bids for the opening will be posted on the sign in front of the hall and on the website.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Stover to accept the letter of resignation from Laura Thompson. Motion carried.

Resolution for Maintaining Local Control of Zoning Ordinances

The board recently learned that the State wants to take over control of township zoning issues such as Short-term Rentals, Industrial Wind Turbines and Industrial Solar Farms, and sand and gravel mining. Legislation is in the works for taking control of the wind and solar issues. Benko has been keeping up to date on the topic and has prepared a resolution to support retaining local control of these zoning issues.

A motion was made by Benko and seconded by Leyrer to approve the resolution to maintain local control of zoning issues and to forward a copy of the resolution to state officials.

Roll call vote: Stover-yes, Wills-yes, Peterman-yes, Leyrer-yes, Benko-yes. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Cooper reported that the property on Lakeside Drive between Nevins and Derby Roads has several junk cars and other trash and debris on the property.

People asked if a pickle ball court would be put in the park. Leyrer will contact Pierson Township for information on the cost and specs for a court. The court size was said to be 20x44. We aren't sure there is a space big enough in the park to put one.

Tim Hodges reported that a fifth-wheel camper is parked in the road right-of-way on Muskrat Road, people are parking cars in the road, and garbage is being piled in the road. He also told the board about three tubes that run under the road are plugged. No work has been done on the part of Muskrat Road for many years. Peterman told him we will make that the top priority for next year's road repairs.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills