

Sidney Township Board Minutes
November 6, 2023

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at the Sidney Township Hall at 3019 S Grow Road Sidney, Michigan on November 6, 2023 was called to order by Deputy Supervisor Main at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Deputy Supervisor: Dale Main, Clerk: Carrie Wills, Treasurer: Corinda Stover; Trustee: Ray Leyrer, Trustee, Erik Benko ABSENT: Supervisor: Terry Peterman

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 October 2, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

CORRESPONDENCE :

Clerk:

Wills received a notice that MTA is holding a class on township financing. The class covers do's and don'ts for financial policies and for how the clerk and treasurer can work together using best practices. Cost is \$125 per person if paid by November 15. She and the treasurer would like to attend.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Leyrer to approve Wills and Stover attending the class at \$125 per person. Motion carried.

Information was received from IM Safe Child Advocacy Center asking for a donation. The request will be addressed at the next budget meeting.

Supervisor

None

GUEST SPEAKER:

Brandon Stowell, Fire Chief, Sheridan Fire Authority

Brandon introduced the new deputy chief, Steve VanHolstyn. He has filed and received a \$40,000 grant approval. Brandon has drafted a 5-year plan for the fire department and a cost recovery ordinance. He is asking that all of our board members meet with the Sheridan Fire Board to discuss the authority document and see if we can come to agreement to join the Fire Authority. The board was given a copy of the document to review prior to a meeting.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$232,295.81

Current balance in the park fund is \$21,948.89 and the Covid Relief Fund is \$61,154.37.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills 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 \$40,883.90

That amount includes \$12,700 for half the cost of the new pavilion, drains at large, and cost of the dirt for the baseball field.

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

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve having Adam rent a skid steer to level the new dirt on the ball field. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Planning Commission will meet on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00P.M., at which time they will hold the public hearing for the zoning ordinance amendments.

Leyrer commented that the meeting date information on the new website is not correct. The correction will be sent to AJ.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam Petersen, County Commissioner, gave an update on county issues. The planning commission at the county level is being dissolved and transitioned into an Economic Development. Changes are being made to the officers on the solid waste committee as per new state requirements. A new roof is being put on the pavilion at McCarthy Park, a business on M46 has been annexed to the Village of Lakeview, and an employee that recently resigned from the County Clerk's office has come back. The county approved sending a resolution to the State supporting the township's right to retain local control of zoning regulations. The Township greatly appreciates their support.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported that nothing can be done about the complaint concerning loose animals on Sidney Road. The property on Lakeside Drive is looking better; the junk cars have been removed. Dale will keep an eye on their progress. The property owner with junk trailers on Hansen is going to demo the trailers. Dale will keep an eye on this one too. Nothing has been done yet at the property on Muskrat Road. Dale will send a letter and talk to animal control about the dogs that are left on the property without any one to care for them.

The junk yard on Sidney Road has been sold.

Six STR's have been approved: 3 on Derby Lake, 2 on Nevins Lake and 1 on Dickerson Lake. If permits are not issued by January 1, 2024 owners will have to stop renting.

OLD BUSINESS

Website Update

The new website is up and running at Sidneymi.gov. We are still making corrections and additions as needed. Benko asked if the site will eventually be mobile friendly as parts are not visible on a cell phone. We will ask AJ about that and ask if we can set up a .gov email address.

Addition to Building Update

The concrete will be done this week in the front of the hall. The contractor said he will fix the damaged cement on the handicap ramp for free. Two bulletin boards are still needed for the cemetery and the park.

Donate Old Stackable Chairs

Stover reported that all the folding chairs have been sold but she has had no offers to purchase the stacking chairs. She has contacted the Commission on Aging who has said they could use the chairs if we are willing to donate them.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Wills to donate the stacking chairs to the Commission on Aging. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Weed Update for 2023 Tax Roll

Stover updated the board on the assessments for weed control on Derby and Nevins Lakes. She has talked with lake association presidents for their requests for the amount of the assessments for the 2023 taxes. Derby wants to remain at \$50 for front lot owners and \$25 for back lot owners. Nevins would like to decrease theirs to \$40 for front lots and \$20 for back lots.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to use the rates as described above: Derby Lake: \$50 front lots and \$25 back lots; Nevins Lake: \$40 front lots and \$20 back lots. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Laura Engle commented on the state's legislation to take over the regulation of wind and solar power.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Benko to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills