

Sidney Township Board Minutes
June 3, 2024

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at the Sidney Township Hall at 3019 S Grow Road Sidney, Michigan on June 3, 2024 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 amended to add Tom Ginster under Guest Speaker. Motion carried

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2024 board meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk

Wills received a letter from the Drain Commission informing the township that spraying to control brush and woody debris would be done in the Denmark Drain. They are not spraying to kill vegetation and grasses and the chemicals are approved by EGLE.

Information was received from Consumers Energy regarding installing natural gas to the township hall. The gas main extension project needs at least 18 applicants to move forward. The cost would be a \$200 connection fee and \$10,647 for a main contribution which can be financed at \$123.94 per month for 120 months. We will need to contact a contractor to evaluate our appliances for conversion costs.

The board decided to table this issue for now and check to see if it is worth the expense.

Supervisor

Peterman reported that a complaint had been made that the Road Commission has not done a chloride treatment on the dirt part of Nevins Road. As of this date it has not yet been done. Peterman has discussed it with the Road Commission.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Tom Ginster, Candidate for County Prosecuting Attorney.

Tom introduced himself and gave an overview of his past experiences and why he is interested in the Prosecuting Attorney position.

Shawn Adams, Dickerson Lake Sewer Committee

Shawn updated the board on the status of the project to connect Dickerson Lake homes to the sewer system in Stanton. The petition for signatures was based on acreage and a separate signature of the property owner was given for each parcel owned by that owner. They have been receiving signatures since 2019 and he has been diligent about making sure those signatures are still valid property owners. Clifford Lake has shown an interest in also connecting to the sewer system. At this time, Clifford has had no feasibility study done. Shawn confirmed that a new study is not needed for Dickerson Lake. There is nothing they need from this board right now as they are still waiting to hear from Douglass Township as to whether or not they will approve the project.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover presented the Treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance as of May 31, 2024 is \$369,901.94.

Current balance in the park fund is \$4,903.87 and the Covid Relief Fund is \$36,873.29.

Stover reported that the office will not be open next Monday as she will be on the East Coast Trip

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 \$17,463.21

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:

The planning commission meets again tomorrow evening June 4 at 7 p.m.

Leyrer told the board that a concern regarding riparian rights on Derby Lake was brought to his attention. There is a new owner on a parcel commonly know as the point that was previously used as an STR. The new owner is unhappy with other people using a part of his lake frontage for swimming and a place to hang out. He has found broken glass and other debris from the people that use the frontage. According to the Riparian Law, a boat is allowed to be on the waters surrounding the property but as soon as a person comes in contact with the lake floor, he is violating the Riparian Rights Law. The new owner is intending to put his dock on that side of the property to prevent others from using the beach.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Adam Petersen updated the board on current county business. The Commission on Aging has decided to dissolve that board. The Veteran's Affair office has purchased a new car used for transporting Veterans. District Court has applied for a grant for a Veteran's Court. The board has agreed to lower the rate of the county millage for next year.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale made one STR inspection on Pearl Lake. That makes a total of 11 STR's in the Township. The new house on Lakeside Drive is not being used as an STR and the new owner of the property on the point will not be using that home for an STR.

Joe Kohn was present. He is the owner of the barn that is in question regarding its use as a rental venue. He assured the board that they are not working under the liquor license of the Sidney Bar as was stated in the last board minutes. His personal bar inside the barn is locked up and covered when the venue is in use. Dale updated Joe on what he is required to do to get the venue up to code: permits, health department inspection, update the assessment value etc.

The owner of the property at 2600 Muskrat does not answer phone calls and no one is on the property. Dale has sent him a \$100 ticket. A letter was sent to 4995 W Colby Rd requesting a ten day respond. Letters were sent to 1641 W Hansen Rd and the property with the junk trailer on Nevins Road. A letter will be sent to 2772 S Derby Rd regarding the goats on that property and Dale will check with the Lebecks regarding a new trailer that was moved in to that property. Dale has received information in regards to a property who wants to start a chicken farm on his 40 acres. Twenty acres of the farm will be fenced in for the chickens. The owner of the poultry is from out of state but he has been certified through the state so we cannot limit the number of chickens being raised

FIRE DEPARTMENTS:

There were no reports for the Fire Departments

OLD BUSINESS

Cell Phones

Wills had provided board members with copies of quotes for purchasing six new cell phones prior to the meeting. She feels that the Spectrum plan is the best and the hall can be connected to their internet service when it comes available in this area.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Leyrer to approve getting six cell phones (for board members and the zoning administrator) from Spectrum. Each will be provided a separate number and is to be used for business purposes. The phone in the township hall will be discontinued once the website has been updated and the new numbers are in place. Motion carried.

Addition/Park Update

The picnic tables were delivered to the park. Two of them will later be moved to the township hall. A bid for \$11,000 to replace the furnace and the air conditioner was received. We should get two more quotes to choose from. The issue with replacing or fixing the shed in the park at the ball field has not been determined.

NEW BUSINESS

Auditor

Quotes were received from four different auditors. Copies were forwarded to the board members prior to the meeting. A couple of the firms work with other townships to perform their audits. Wills feels that Douglas Wohlburg, CPA from Grandville Michigan would be a good choice.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Leyrer to contract with Doug Wohlburg, CPA to perform the audit and file the F-65 report with the state. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bruce Jorgensen commented on the good work of mowing and trimming that Andersen's Lawn Care is doing at the cemetery.

Laura Engle mentioned the solar farm that is going in in Bushnell Township. We have an ordinance in place that requires an area of 150 acres.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Carrie Wills
Sidney Twp Clerk