

Burr Oak Township Board Meeting Minutes April 8th, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Gould, R. Baker, K. Wickey, T. Cronkhite, G. Letts.

VISITORS: G. Pierucki, T. Conklin, A. Good, J. Smallwood, J. Harter, N. Good, S. Falkenstein, G. Persing, Ma. Avery, Mi Avery, J. Geibe, K. Geibe

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made by Baker and supported by Wickey to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Correction to minutes made of Tim Peterson appointment to Board of Review not Planning Commission. A motion was made by Baker and supported by Wickey to approve the April meeting minutes. Motion passed.

VISITOR COMMENTS:

R. Baker and J. Smallwood spoke regarding a proposed amendment to change bookkeeping for the Fire Department from the responsibility of the Village Office over to the Township Office. Motion to support the amendment made by Letts and supported by Wickey. Motion passed.

N. Good asked about fencing in the cemetery. Letts & Baker stated the Township is in the process of receiving quotes for fencing and stump grinding. N. Good stated he would like to work with them to help figure out a fencing solution.

A. Good inquired about getting an individual to be allowed to do the maintenance at the Township Library. Letts addressed the issue and stated the Township is responsible for the maintenance and in the future they will find someone to fix everything that is needed. A. Good expressed the need for someone that is not the Sexton due to that individual being cemetery maintenance and having a lot to do already.

J. Harter introduced himself at the meeting and announced he is running against the incumbent in this next election for St. Joseph County Drain Commissioner.

A. Good asked about a 3.2% increase for the library budget. Cronkhite stated that the increase would have needed to be included in the library's proposed 2024-2025 budget that was submitted in March.

S. Falkenstein introduced himself and stated he would like to be involved to help in the Township. Letts took Falkenstein's number to contact him about openings and involvement.

G. Persing spoke about the neighbor's chicken barn. Neighbor is running a generator 24/7 and G. Persing states it is loud. Letts stated he has contacted the Township Attorney and the Attorney instructed him that G, Persing would need to talk to the

Director of Michigan's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for all complaints and concerns. Cronkhite stated she is willing to give the neighbor, Mr. Yoder, a call to inquire about use of solar power and tree planting to muffle the sounds of the generator running.

T. Conklin spoke about a new 911 tower being put up soon and to be placed near either Cade Lake or Plum Lake. They will start placing it around June this year.

BUDGET SESSION HEARING: Motion made by Letts and supported by Cronkhite to approve the Budget Agenda. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Budget Session Hearing Minutes on April 3rd, 2023 and to place them on file made by Baker and supported by Wickey. Motion passed.

This is the second hearing of the proposed budget for 2024-2025. Motion to approve Budget for 2024-2025 was made by Baker and supported by Letts. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence that Biotech will be spraying fields in the area. Correspondence from Ron Nickels to ask if a dumpster would be placed at the trailer park for Cleanup day. He has a daughter there that has pieces of a trailer that needs to be disposed of.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The following account balances were reported; Checking \$4,344.64 and MM \$139,206.99. A motion was made by Cronkhite and supported by Baker to receive the report and place it on file. Motion passed.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: None.

CLEAN-UP DAY: Gould confirmed the date of April 20, 2024 for scheduled clean up day.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: Letts stated he is handling the organization of the Memorial Day Service. It is scheduled for MAY 27, 2024 at 1pm.

CEMETERY: Sanborn Cemetery has some stumps that need grinding and Toby Cemetery fence is in need of cleaning since it is green with algae.

ZBA MEETING UPDATE: The ZBA Meeting is canceled for 4/9/24, due to no requests for a meeting. From the Master Plan Meeting on 3/28/2024, Wickey and Peterson are working on the Township Master Plan that will go into the complete St. Joseph County Master Plan as a whole.

FIRE DEPARTMENT: The equipment grant for \$10,000 that Gould applied for was received. The equipment that was requested has already been purchased prior to receiving the grant money. Gould asked for approval to use \$6,500 of the grant money for a new Fire Department office and to pay \$10 per person for public CPR classes. A motion was made by Cronkhite and supported by Baker. Motion passed.

The Fire Department Fundraiser is set for April 26, 2024 from 4pm-8pm at the Amish Youth Center on Nottawa Rd.

AMBULANCE COMMITTEE: MedFlight is taking the place of LifeCare for Emergency Life Flight needs. The Fire Department is training with MedFlight currently.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: A motion was made by Baker and supported by Wickey to pay the bills amounting to \$14,116.76. A roll call vote was taken; all members voted to approve. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.