

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting**

Thursday, November 10, 2022

6:00 pm

**Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333**

MINUTES

MINUTES
Page 1 of 7
YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Deb Mousseau, Dave VanHouten, Larry Knowles, Rob Heethuis, Mike Cunningham (All Present)

Staff Present: Greg Purcell, Dennis Buist, Rich Beukema

Visitors: 13

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to accept the agenda. Roll Call Vote:
Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Board minutes 10/13/2022 Regular BOT Meeting and 10/21/2022 Special Meeting.
- October 2022 Accounts Payable: Checks #917077 through Check #917128 total amount \$175,028.01.
- October 31, 2022 Payroll Checks #7391 through Check #7413 = \$13,606.01 net amount; October 2022 Fed P/R withholding \$3,699.23.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote:
Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Vivian Conner, County Commissioner: gave an overview of the County activities over the past month. Also reviewed information on possible bonuses to be paid to county employees and requested input on this matter from the YST board.

Tony Groves: semi-retired from Progressive AE

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

Sally Smith (Beatrice Drive): served as an election inspector at the 2nd precinct and she wanted

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT

to compliment Mike Cunningham, and everyone involved on what a great job they did and said everything went very smoothly,

COBB LAKE WEED CONTROL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRIC 37B PUBLIC HEARING

**COBB LAKE WEED
CONTROL SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT
DISTRICT 37B PUBLIC
HEARING**

Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to open the public hearing. Roll Call

Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

Information Presentation:

- Public hearing notice was published in the Sun & News on 10/22 and 10/29 and notices were mailed to the parcel owners.
- Lakefront parcels will be assessed at 1.0 share (\$62.31 per year) and backlot parcels will be assessed at .8 share (\$49.84 per year).
- Tonight's meeting is only to approve the tax roll and not the plans and cost for the weed control as that was covered at the last meeting.
- To preserve the right of a resident to go to the Michigan Tax Tribunal to appeal being included in this assessment, written notice must be presented to the Board by the end of the meeting tonight.

Public Comment:

- Robin Nyenhuis (152 Lakeview Dr.): In the past the Cobb Lake Association found someone to do the weed control when it was needed. Now the company is saying this is what is being done and you must pay for it. She feels it is taking the choice away from the residents.
- Ryan O'Neill Haugh (132 Lakeview Dr.): Asked about the relationship between the Township Board and the Cobb Lake Association. Mr. Cunningham explained that the lake association is a voluntary association that exists to do whatever the lake residents want done but it does not have the power to make assessments, etc. Since the members are residents of Yankee Springs Township, the township is making the assessment on behalf of the lake residents to pay for the weed control. Mr. Haugh asked some additional questions about weed control and Mr. Cunningham responded.
- Tony Groves: His company oversees the work that is done and has been operating at a surplus. He anticipates that will likely continue.
- Kim Lozano (president of the Cobb Lake Association): He communicated with the residents about the assessment and its purpose and the fact that it has been happening for several years. Most of the residents he talked to were in favor of the program and feel that it is a small price to pay to have one of the cleanest lakes in the state. The water quality is checked regularly and reported to the state. His understanding that the time for the 20% objection has already passed. The association is a 501c3 operating on behalf of the lake and has no legal authority whatsoever. The association did approve the continuation of the weed control program.

Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to close the public hearing. Roll Call

Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Mr. Cunningham explained that the special assessment law allows the associations to get things done and apportions the cost according to the benefit to each person. It lets

them take care of things without waiting for the government to do it.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adopt Resolution 11-10-22 confirming the assessment roll as submitted for the Cobb Lake Aquatic Plant Control Special Assessment District No. 37B. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT: By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- October 2022 Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.
 - Revenue sharing was larger than what was expected.
 - Reviewed the changes that were made to the Restricted/Assigned funds to present a more realistic picture.
 - Discussed the CD interest rates that are available and if a change should be made to the township's investment policy to allow using credit unions.

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Audit review was completed in October. A line-item change was suggested (that has a zero effect on any balances).

Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to accept Resolution No. 11-10-22-1 to amend the following three (3) Yankee Springs Township General Fund 101 Budget Line Items by debiting 905-991.000 for \$53,500, as well as, debiting 905-994.000 for \$14,500 and crediting 265-986.000 for \$68,000. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

CLERK'S REPORT: By Mike Cunningham, Clerk

- November 2022 Current Invoice Register as of 11/10/2022 is \$163,020.26.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve payment. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- November 8, 2022, General Election update:
 - Election related operations were moved to the Fire Station on Monday due to the internet service being out at the township hall. Service was restored late Monday.
 - Thanks to the firemen and department for making the station available for use for Precinct 2 and for the absent voter counting board.
 - Thanks to the election inspectors and voters for making the election go smoothly.

MINUTES

Page 3 of 7

YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2022

**MOTION TO ADOPT
RESOLUTION 11-10-22
REGARDING COBB
LAKE WEED
CONTROL SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT**

**TREASURER'S
REPORT**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
TREASURER'S
REPORT**

**MOTION TO ADOPT
RESOLUTION NO. 11-
10-22-1 REGARDING
BUDGET AMENDMENT**

CLERK'S REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
INVOICE REGISTER**

ELECTION UPDATE

- Copies of the tabulator tapes are on the website and results were posted on the door on election night. Results were given to the County on election night.
- Shared a comparison of voter participation this year with the November 2018 mid-term election. While the percentages were about the same, there are more registered voters now and more people voted.

MINUTES
Page 4 of 7
YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2022

**RECYCLING
COMMITTEE REPORT**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recycling Committee:

- 10/31/2022 meeting.
 - The committee reviewed the committee structure document.
 - Barry County and EGLE grant availability were reviewed with Rachel Frantz from Barry County Solid Waste Oversight.
 - The committee applied for an EGLE grant but have not heard the result yet.
 - Next meeting is scheduled for 11/14/2022 at the township hall.

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Park Committee:

- Parking lot expansion project update:
 - Work started the week of 10/17. Sidewalks are in and the gravel is in.
 - Paving is scheduled (base coat at least) for 11/18. Whether the finish coat is done at that time will depend on the weather.
 - On 10/21/2022 a special BOT meeting was held and an increase of \$9,900 was approved to provide a proper (sand) base under the parking lot.
 - The total cost of the project including engineering is \$131,735.
- Prein & Newhof trail estimate had been \$2.1 million going from the state park all the way to McDonalds on M179.
- The Parks group decided to consider a smaller option of going from the County Park to the State land. Prein & Newhof was asked for a new estimate. The invoice from P & N for creating a new estimate is \$705.
- The new estimate will be reviewed at the December meeting. It is under \$500,000. The DNR wants to meet with M-DOT and see if there's grants available to pay for the project.
- Discussion also needs to take place regarding the status of the project.

**MOTION TO PAY
INVOICE TO PREIN &
NEWHOF**

Motion by VanHouten with support from Cunningham to pay the bill to Prein & Newhof for \$705. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

ZBA REPORT

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- Next regular meeting was moved to 11/18/2022.
- The decision regarding the 8" variance from the 5' setback, has been appealed to the Circuit Court and at this point the issue has been turned over to the Township's insurance company.

PC REPORT

Planning Commission:

- PCI October 2022 report in packet.
- October 2022 Complaint log in packet.
- Next meeting 11/17/2022 there will be hearings on a few items: the zoning ordinance text

amendment for the ZBA, changing the setback text to include a table, changes to the Chief Noonday corridor setbacks, and changes to the private road standards.

- 10/20/2022 Regular Meeting was held.
 - The PC formed a subcommittee to look at side yard setbacks and what is allowed.
 - The PC asked Rebecca Harvey to draft changes to the outbuilding size ordinance to be reviewed at next week's meeting as well.
 - Set up a CIP committee of five members.

Fire/EMS Report:

- October 2022 Fire/Emergency Medical response report came in late today.
- New fire truck update:
 - Letter from the Fire Department Apparatus Committee recommended purchasing from Spencer Manufacturing due to price and local service. Price is \$754,954 (November price).
 - The committee is recommending approval of \$800,000 to cover costs of upgrading some tools, fitting them onto the new machine, and some miscellaneous equipment.
 - They will provide further details on the extra items and have a fire truck at the special meeting so that the Board can see what they are being asked to approve.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to set Tuesday, 11/22/2022 at 10:00 AM as the date and time for a special meeting to discuss in detail and possibly approve the purchase of a new fire truck. Discussion: The 22nd at 9:00 AM is the next scheduled office renovation progress meeting (not a public meeting). No schedule conflict is expected. A final decision on the fire truck is expected to be made at that meeting as well as a decision on how the payment will be made. It doesn't appear that a deal will be made with the City of Wayland for a discounted price. **Roll Call Vote:** *VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes.*

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- The Fire Service Contract has not been finalized for board review yet.
- Brush Truck opportunity: free from the DNR so the cost would be for insurance and upkeep. The fire department would like to use this truck for "off road" and keep the current truck for road use as it is in nicer condition.
 - If YST decides they do not want it, it will be passed on to another fire department.
 - The Board would like to know what costs will be incurred to use it before the decision is made. That information is being gathered.

Water Advisory Committee:

- The Advisory board did not meet yet this month. Next meeting will be 11/14/2022.
- A tour of the water system is scheduled for Monday, 11/14/2022 4:30 PM at the well house and the Advisory Board will be meeting after that.

Veterans Memorial Committee:

- The ceremony will be tomorrow, Veterans Day, at 11:00 AM.
- After the program there will be a half-mile walk for those interested at the Yankee Springs Township Park
- A silent auction will also be held to sell an original painting that was donated to the Veterans Memorial. Funds raised from the auction will go to the fund for the Veterans Memorial.

MINUTES

Page 5 of 7

YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
November 10, 2022

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**MOTION TO SET DATE
FOR SPECIAL
MEETING REGARDING
PURCHASE OF NEW
FIRE TRUCK**

**WATER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**VETERANS
MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE**

Board Action Items:

- Office/Hall Renovation Project update:
 - Progress meeting was held 10/25/2022 and next one will be 11/22/2022.
 - Project is falling a little behind because the windows and doors have been delayed.
 - The hall will need to be completely emptied before the hall renovation phase starts.
 - November 11 was the original date for the electrical switchover but was then changed to November 14. There has been an equipment delay and a new date has not been scheduled. The hall will be open on Monday the 14th.
 - Exterior is nearly complete.
 - Electrical, drywall, and HVAC are also nearly complete.
 - The only current cost increase was to paint the existing block wall on the outside of the Hall to match the siding on the new office for \$643.
 - Base is ready for the new hall HVAC.

- Shalinda final plat approval

**OFFICE RENOVATION
PROJECT UPDATE****MOTION TO APPROVE
FINAL PLAT OF
SHALINDA**

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to approve the Final Plat of Shalinda and authorize the Clerk to sign the Certificate of Municipal Approval. Discussion: PCI has verified that the required approvals have been received from the Road Commission and the Drain Commission. **Roll Call Vote:** *Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes.*

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- 12944 Valley Dr. junk complaint enforcement:
 - The homeowner has been asked to clean up junk cars, etc., in the back of the property and it has not been done.
 - A court order has been obtained so the homeowner now has 45 days to clean up or the township will have it cleaned up and the cost will be charged to the property owner on his taxes.

**MOTION TO SUPPORT
CODE ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER TO FOLLOW
THROUGH ON COURT
ORDER REGARDING
JUNK REMOVAL**

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten that we support the code enforcement officer in following through on the court order and the township will pay the cost to have the stuff removed if the owner doesn't, with the full expectation that the township will get the money back from the owner through the tax system. **Roll Call Vote:** *Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes.*

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- 08-16-020-013-00 Rezoning:
 - The property goes back quite a way, and the prospective owner wants to rezone just the northern 680 feet of the property.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to adopt Ordinance 11-10-2022 rezoning the north 680 feet x the parcel width of parcel 08-16-020-013-00 from RA to C-3, with the remaining part of the parcel to remain zoned as RA. **Roll Call Vote:** *Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes.*

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO ADOPT
ORDINANCE TO
REZONE PARCEL
#08-16-020-013-00**

- Planning & Zoning Administrator search committee update: Ready to put an ad in the newspaper and a letter will also be sent out to all township residents with the job description and information.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve up to \$1,500 for a township mailing advertising/informing township residents of the job opening for a Planning & Zoning

Administrator. Discussion: Should we attempt to get email addresses from residents so that future information can be sent out electronically? This was discussed, but was not decided, and will not be done with this mailing. **Roll Call Vote:** *Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.*

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Training Fire Hydrant project update: It is supposed to be done by the beginning of December. Mr. VanHouten will be following up.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Tax bills are going out on December 1. Precinct 1 went very well and thanks to Mike, Barb, and Marge for all their work behind the scenes. It was very stressful with the power outage. Great job done by Mike, Barb, Marge, and all the staff.

VanHouten: He was impressed with how fast the line went and how smooth everything went during the election. Heard nothing but good things about what a good job Yankee Springs did.

Knowles: Everyone was treated well and appreciate all the hard work of everyone involved. Also thanked Dave and everybody involved with that for putting together the Veterans Day ceremony.

Heethuis: What a great job on the election and what a great team. The support from our community is remarkable.

Cunningham: Accepted the thanks on behalf of the election inspectors and Marge and Deb McKenna and Deb Mousseau, thanks for the appreciation for the election work. We would be lost without Marge. Marge is training Deb McKenna and that is going well. It's a great team and everyone works together well. We welcome new people in, training is available, and it is special that our neighbors are the ones conducting the election and wouldn't want to do it any other way.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 pm.
Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 12/19/2022
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary

November 13, 2022

MOTION TO APPROVE
COST OF
ADVERTISING JOB
OPENING FOR
PLANNING & ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT