

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

**Thursday, July 8, 2021**

**6:00 pm**

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

**MINUTES**

**FINAL MINUTES**  
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YS Board of Trustees –  
Regular Meeting  
July 8, 2021

In-Person Meeting

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

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

**Staff Present:** Sandy Marcukaitis, Frank Fiala, Dennis Buist, Karen Page-Kennedy, Rich Beukema

**Visitors:** 6

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

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

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

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Board Minutes: 6/10/2021 BOT Meeting, 6/15/2021 Special BOT Budget Workshop Meeting and 6/22/2021 Special BOT Budget Public Hearing Meeting
- June Accounts Payable: Checks #916386 through #916429; total amount: \$74,561.42.
- June 30, 2021 Payroll Checks #7016 through #7037 = \$13,214.54 net amount. June 2021 Fed P/R withholding \$3,485.62.

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

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

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**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

**Greg Chandler; J-Ad Graphics**

**County Commissioner Vivian Connor** - Gave a brief update of activities at the county. A copy of the Commissioners Report is attached the minutes.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Limit 3 minutes)

**Rachel Frantz:** New Recycling Coordinator for Barry County. She is coordinating the hazardous waste pickup in September and is available to help with the township's recycling needs.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- June 2021 Financial Statement and Investment report were reviewed.

**Motion by Mousseau with support from Heethuis to approve the Yankee Springs Township's acceptance of funding from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) and request of payment from the State of Michigan.** Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

**Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to approve Supervisor Rob Heethuis' signature as the Authorized official of Yankee Springs Township for any application of funding from Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).** Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.

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

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham to accept Treasurer's Report as presented.** Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

- Township did apply for ARPA funds today, July 8.
- Summer Tax Bills were mailed July 1, 2021.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT FUNDING FROM CLFRF**

**MOTION TO APPROVE HEETHUIS AS AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL FOR FUNDING FROM CLFRF**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT TREASURER'S REPORT**

CLERK'S REPORT

**CLERK'S REPORT:** By Mike Cunningham, Clerk

- The current invoice register through 7/7/21 is \$89,695.66.

**Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to approve the current invoice register.**

**Roll Call Vote:** Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

- Barry County rescinded their state of emergency which allowed virtual meetings.
- Yankee Springs Township has kept their state of emergency order in place and it will expire at the end of 2021.
- The recommendation by the attorney was that meetings should all (BOT, PC & ZBA) be in person or virtual rather than a combination.

PARK COMMITTEE  
REPORT

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Park Committee**

- Court conditions - Pickleball, tennis and basketball courts all have cracks which need to be repaired. This was done two years ago and the vendor who did the repair work is coming out to evaluate.
- Park maintenance position - no one has applied for the position at the \$12.50 per hour pay rate.

**Motion by Cunningham with support from Heethuis to approve offering the next highest rate**

**\$14.42 per hour for this park work.** Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

- Status update on the items approved for purchase at the April 8 BOT meeting:
  - Soccer nets are up and the fields are lined.
  - Bases are going to be put in for the softball field.
- Status update on the Music and Yoga events.
  - Yoga classes will start Monday, July 12 at 6:00 PM for six weeks.
  - Saturday, July 17 there will be a music event in the park: Mike Key performing at 7:00 PM.
- Park plan presentation.
  - Major additions being discussed include additional parking, restrooms, adding a basketball court, converting existing basketball court to two additional pickleball courts, storage shed, improvements to baseball and soccer fields, information kiosk, and cornhole court.

MOTION TO APPROVE  
INCREASE OF PAY  
RATE FOR PARK  
MAINTENANCE  
POSITION

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham to approve up to \$1,000 for Fleis & Vandenbrink to update the park plan.** Discussion: The current basketball court would be converted to two pickleball courts and a new basketball court constructed. Also discussed whether there might be a dog park included. **Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

- Women's Group is going to be installing a "little library" at the park.

#### **Zoning Board of Appeals Report**

- June 8 meeting: approved a request for set back relief on Sunrise Court.

#### **Planning Commission Report**

- June 2021 Report and Complaint Log attached to minutes.
- June 17 meeting: approved an SEU for an accessory building on Oakleigh.
- Discussions are continuing on private roads.

#### **Fire/EMS Committee**

- June 2021 Yankee Springs Township Fire/Emergency Medical Responses - in packet. 74 fire calls for 2021 compared to 46 last year. Medical responses are very similar to last year.
- Joe Miller stepped down as fire chief and appointed Jim Stoddard as Interim Chief until a new fire chief is appointed.
- Fire Station termite issue. Fire station employees have repaired the damage and an inspection has been done by Griffin. Damaged area was repaired.
- Griffin gave a quote of \$1,558 for a year with a warranty against further damage.
- Another strategy is to purchase a product called Terminate and install that ourselves for a cost of approximately \$200.
- Recommendation by VanHouten was to use the Terminate product and monitor for further issues.

**Motion by VanHouten with support from Mousseau to use the Terminate product to avoid further termite infestation.** Discussion: The Griffin option is pricey but would include additional inspection to be sure there aren't any further problems. Using the Terminate product does give an indication if termite activity is detected. There is not a lot of area at risk within the fire station as much of it is concrete.

**Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

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**MOTION TO APPROVE  
PAYING FLEIS &  
VANDENBRINK TO  
UPDATE PARK PLAN**

**ZBA REPORT**

**PC REPORT**

**FIRE/EMS REPORT**

**MOTION TO APPROVE  
ACTION TO AVOID  
FURTHER TERMITE  
INFESTATION**

MOTION TO APPROVE  
UPDATE OF THE  
WATER SYSTEM  
WELLHEAD  
PROTECTION PLAN  
DRAFT MINUTES

VETERANS  
COMMITTEE REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE  
RENEWAL OF  
ASSESSOR CONTRACT

**Water Advisory Committee**

- The cost to update the water system wellhead would be \$10,000 with \$5,000 coming from the state (EGLE grant) and \$5,000 from Yankee Springs Township water system.
- This protects the aquifer from things that can filter into the water table.
- This is the recommendation of the Water Advisory Board.

*Motion by Knowles with support from VanHouten to spend \$5,000 with \$5,000 coming from the state grant to update the water system wellhead protection plan. Roll Call Vote:*

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

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

**Veterans Committee Report**

- Progress update - Flagpole has been installed and the limestone cap is on and needs to be caulked.
- Concrete sidewalk and engraved bricks have been completed.
- Final grading and hydro seeding should be done next week.
- Sandblasting has been promised by the middle of August; may be sooner.
- Looking at a dedication ceremony to possibly be held on Labor Day.
- Gness Masonry and B&R Excavating made very generous donations and this was much appreciated.

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS:**

- Assessor Contract renewal
  - Current contract with Dan Scheuerman has expired.
  - Budget includes a 3% increase

*Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to approve a new two-year contract at \$3870.07/month which comes out to \$46,440.84 per year.* Discussion: Scheuerman also

receives \$235 per month for providing some onsite computer assistance. **Roll Call Vote:**

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

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

- Review the virtual training per diem details approved at the 6/15 budget meeting.
  - Board approved a motion on 6/15 to include Planning Commission members, ZBA members, Water Advisory members, and Board of Review members to be paid the per diem for training regardless of virtual or in person.
  - When the salary resolutions were approved on 6/22 the Water Advisory members were not included.
  - Heethuis suggested that the township contact the attorney to get input on this and bring it up again at the August meeting.

- It was agreed to table this matter until the August meeting.
- MTA Principles of Governance: The MTA encourages all townships to adopt their standard principles as an official policy of the township board.

**Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt the MTA Principles of Governance.** Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

- PFAS discussion: Abandoned wells in the water system that were tested in 2019 did have PFAS so EGLE is recommending that further investigation should be done.
- Two wells have been selected from outside the water system to be tested to make sure the aquifer is not contaminated out farther.
- EGLE will be doing some of this testing in 2022 in Yankee Springs but are suggesting that we test a couple of the wells in the meantime.
- This would be an expense to the Township since it is outside the water system.

**Motion by Knowles with support from Cunningham to approve up to \$800 to test two wells outside the water system for PFAS.** Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes.

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

- Office Renovation Project update: Haven't received new drawings yet so will be planning on an update at the next meeting.
- Blood drive: Last blood drive was successful and another blood drive is scheduled for August 25, 2021.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Limit 3 minutes)

None

**BOARD COMMENT:**

**VanHouten:** Looking forward to hearing the recommendations of the renovation committee and Fleis and VandenBrink.

**Knowles:** Very pleased with all the hard work and things that are getting done at the cemetery and the Veterans Memorial.

**Cunningham:** It's good to see things getting done. This was the first time we had to table something until a next meeting. Robbins Cemetery is marked and lots are now being sold.

**MOTION TO ADOPT  
MTA PRINCIPLES OF  
GOVERNANCE**

**MOTION TO TEST TWO  
WELLS OUTSIDE OF  
THE WATER SYSTEM**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**BOARD COMMENT**

BOARD COMMENT

**Mousseau:** Pancake breakfast was very successful on Saturday and we should recognize Joe Miller's service.

**Heethuis:** Recognized Nancy Near for working 25 years for the Township and her retirement in June. She was a very valuable part of the office staff. The board has a plaque to present to her in appreciation for all she has done for Yankee Springs. Also thanked Don Williamson for the work on the Veterans Memorial and congratulated Larry Knowles for catching a 22" walleye.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to adjourn meeting at 7:23 PM.*  
*Approved by all. Motion Carried.*

ADJOURNMENT

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted by:  
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary  
July 10, 2021