

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 13, 2023

6:00 pm

Yankee Springs Township Hall
234 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

MINUTES

MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
July 13, 2023

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

Staff Present: Rich Beukema

Visitors: 9

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to add all items in red text to the agenda.

Discussion: The fire department units, the cemetery spaces, and the grant application were added. **Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

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

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

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

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

- Board minutes 06/08/2023 Regular BOT meeting, 06/14/2023 Special Budget meeting, and 06/28/2023 Budget Public Hearing meeting.
- June 2023 Accounts Payable: Checks #917477 through Check #917529 total amount \$196,143.84.
- June 30, 2023, Payroll Checks #7599 through Check #7619 = \$16,892.56 net amount; June 2023 Fed P/R withholding \$4,792.33; 2nd quarter 2023 State withholding \$2,848.62.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Greg Chandler (J-Ad Graphics)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

Pat Jamison (S. Bowens Mill): Commented on the Budget, Blues Zones, Hall use & ARPA Funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER’S REPORT: By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- June 2023 Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.
- ARPA funds that were not used need to be reallocated by the end of 2023.
- Revenue sharing from the state is being increased due to the State of Michigan budget.

**TREASURER’S
REPORT**

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Roll

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

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE
TREASURER’S
REPORT**

CLERK’S REPORT: By Mike Cunningham, Clerk

- July 2023 Current Invoice Journal approval as of 07/13/2023 \$96,562.42.

CLERK’S REPORT

Motion by Knowles with support from VanHouten to approve the July 2023 Current Invoice

Journal as of 07/13/2023 totaling \$96,562.42. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes.

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE
INVOICE REGISTER**

- Elections update:
 - No August election.
 - We will know by August if there will be an election held in November.
 - Details on Prop 22, 9 days of early voting:
 - The 2024 Presidential Primary will be the first election where it is mandatory for the township to have early voting days as well as voting on election day. Yankee Springs will perform our own early voting days here in the township.
 - Absentee ballot tabulation is allowed with populations over 5,000 during the early voting period. We plan to tabulate absentee ballots during the early voting period.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recycling Committee:

- Next meeting 07/18/2023. We are going to have a motion to appoint a new member to the committee during tonight’s action items.

**RECYCLING
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Park Committee:

- Parking lot project update: Paving is complete, and bumpers will be installed soon.
- Project costs:
 - \$100,000 original estimate
 - \$106,534.50 contract (lowest bid)
 - \$9,900 change order for sand base
 - \$3,250 change order for bumpers (not installed yet)
 - \$2,877 sprinkler cost

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

- \$29,445.02 engineering cost (so far)
- Estimated final cost \$152,006.52 (plus possibly additional engineering cost)
- There was unfortunately some damage done to the parking lot from someone setting off fireworks there.
- GFWC Treasures of the Trunk Saturday, 07/29/2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:30 PM.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- No June meeting.
- Regular meeting 07/11/2023
 - One request to allow an existing permanent dock structure to remain. Permanent docks are not allowed so it was denied.
- Next meeting will be 08/08/2023 if needed.

ZBA REPORT

Planning Commission:

- PCI June 2023 report in packet.
- June 2023 Complaint log in packet.
- Regular meeting held 06/15/2023.
 - Planning commission heard a request for Phase II of the M179 car park and it was approved.
 - Denied a home business of mobile home sales at 12878 Cobb Lake Road.
 - Tabled a discussion of a proposed chart and table for the ordinance that will describe area height placement setback, so that will be talked about at the next meeting.
 - A subcommittee is being formed to review the short-term rental ordinance.
- Next meeting 07/20/2023.

PC REPORT

Fire/EMS Report:

- June 2023 Fire/Emergency Medical response in packet.
- Reviewed a quote for the cost of uniforms at the last meeting.
- A letter for the 2023 Michigan Fire Equipment Grant was submitted that may net up to \$10,000.
- The Gun Lake Tribe will be establishing their own fire department.
- There has been discussions about a possible fire district
- \$2,674 was raised at the Fire Department Breakfast.
- The township continues to have a shortage of first responders and are open to ideas on how to change that.
- Seeking approval from the Board to have an insurance adjustor look at the roof to determine if there was any hail damage. The Board has no objection to that being done.
- EMS meeting was held 07/12/2023.
 - Bob Hess is resigning effective September 2 and will remain as a consultant until the end of the year.
 - Brenda Mays is the current assistant and Medical Manager and will become the new General Manager and Kathy Velthouse will become the new Medical Manager.

FIRE/EMS REPORT

Water Advisory Committee:

- 07/11/2023 meeting
- GLASWA meeting 07/06/2023.
 - Water usage has spiked in June and the system is reaching 75% capacity. At 80% usage EGLE will be looking at having it increased so we need to start preparing for that eventuality.
 - The wells at the Misak landfill were tested by EGLE and that area is being

WATER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPORT

upgraded to a known PFAS site. The area is surrounded by our water system which is tested yearly and always passes. The people in this area do not have wells.

Veterans Memorial Committee:

- No meeting since last month.

VETERANS
MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE

Board Action Items:

- Office/Hall Renovation Project update:
 - The new fireproof file cabinet for the assessor’s office was received 06/28/2023.
 - Minor repairs/adjustments are being made as we became aware of them.
 - An audio system is being researched.
 - Open House Date set for 7/18/2023 from 6 PM-8 PM.
- Shed replacement update
 - It has been determined that the old shed cannot be removed in one piece.
 - The new price for removal by tearing the old shed down is \$1,250.
 - We will tear down the old shed and take the debris to the landfill ourselves to keep the cost within the \$7,000 the board approved.
 - Installation is expected to be complete in July.
- Allocate remaining ARPA funds
 - Approximately \$11,600 funds are remaining and need to be reallocated.
 - Mrs. Mousseau made a recommendation that those funds be used for the parking lot project at the park so that money doesn’t come out of the general fund.

OFFICE RENOVATION
PROJECT UPDATE

SHED REPLACEMENT
UPDATE

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to re-obligate all of the remaining ARPA funds to the park parking lot project. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; VanHouten; No; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes.

Yes: 4, No: 1. **MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION TO
REALLOCATE
REMAINING ARPA
FUNDS

- Fire Department uniforms: It has been discussed for quite a while that having uniforms would build pride and camaraderie for the members.
- The quote covers the cost of uniforms for 19 fire fighters.
- The patches on the uniforms will be Yankee Springs Township, not Wayland.

Motion by VanHouten with support from Cunningham to approve \$11,649.20 for the purchase of uniforms for the Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE
PURCHASE OF
UNIFORMS FOR FIRE
DEPARTMENT

- Township policy for the purchase of cemetery spaces limits the number of spaces to four unless additional spaces are approved by the township board.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to approve the sale of a total of six spaces in Coman Cemetery for Al Bouma. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes;

Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes.

MOTION TO APPROVE
SALE OF (6) SPACES IN
COMAN CEMETERY

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

- McKeown Farmland and Open Space Preservation Program application
 - Copies of the application have been sent to the Barry County Planning Commission and the Conservation District.
 - The township board must approve the application before it goes to the state for final approval.
 - The application seeks to restrict development of 40.1 acres of a 70.7-acre parcel for a period of ten years.
 - If approved by the state, the applicant can apply for tax credits.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to approve the McKeown application for farmland agreement. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

- 11440 Bowens Mill Road Parcel split

Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to approve PSD 23-06-01 for Parcel 16-008-013-10 per the Zoning Administrator's analysis and recommendation. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes.

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

- 2023 Newsletter was mailed out to all residents by July 1st and has had positive feedback. The cost was \$1,775.42 (under the \$2,000 approved).
- Blood drive scheduled August 22 at the Fire Station.
- The recycling committee consists of four members. The approved committee structure allows up to six members.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Heethuis to appoint Christina Neeson to the Yankee Springs Township Recycling Committee. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

- Tri Del Sol race will be held at Camp Manitou-Lin this Sunday, July 16th. Traffic/runners/bikers on the roads in the morning – should be done by noon.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pat Jamison (S. Bowens Mill): Commented on ARPA Funds/park parking lot & Water system/water quality.

Dave Laansma (Payne Lake Rd): Commented on the Park parking lot overrun.

BOARD COMMENT:

**MOTION TO APPROVE
MCKEOWN
APPLICATION FOR
FARMLAND
AGREEMENT**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
PSD 23-06-01 FOR
PARCEL 16-008-013-10**

**MOTION TO APPOINT
CHRISTINA NEESON
TO THE RECYCLING
COMMITTEE**

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

Cunningham: On the website there is information about how every board member can be contacted and they are available to talk to about issues that can't be answered during the meetings. Members are available before and after meetings so there are a lot of opportunities to talk with the board members and the planning and zoning people and he would encourage everyone to do that to get a more thorough explanation.

Knowles: Agreed with Mike's comment. Thanks for the work to put together the meeting.

Mousseau: Open House on Tuesday. We need to move some tables tonight.

VanHouten: Thanked the Board on behalf of the fire department for their support. They will be very happy.

Heethuis: The Hall has been buzzing with activity the last few weeks and a lot going on with Zoning. It's really busy and everyone's hard work is appreciated.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm.

Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 8/17/2023
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
July 16, 2023