

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

Thursday, August 10, 2023

6:00 pm

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

MINUTES

MINUTES
Page 1 of 7
YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
August 10, 2023

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL

Staff Present: Dennis Buist, Frank Fiala, Rich Beukema, Brad Williams, Joe Shea, Sandy Marcukaitis

Visitors: 11

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

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

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

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

**MOTION TO AMEND
AGENDA**

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

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

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

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

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

- Board minutes 07/13/2023 Regular BOT meeting.
- July 2023 Accounts Payable: Checks #917530 through Check #917574 total amount \$111,772.76.
- July 31, 2023, Payroll Checks #7620 through Check #7645 = \$18,832.88 net amount; July 2023 Fed P/R withholding \$5,365.97.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

Joe Shea (Zoning Administrator)
Brad Williams (Code Enforcer)

Greg Chandler (J-Ad Graphics)

Sandy Marcukaitis (Zoning)

Kirk Heilman

Catherine Getty (County Commissioner): gave an update of what has taken place in the last month at the County level.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

None

TREASURER'S REPORT: By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- July 2023 Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham 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**

CLERK'S REPORT: By Mike Cunningham, Clerk

- August 2023 Current Invoice Journal approval as of 08/10/2023 \$36,525.50.

Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to approve the August 2023 Current Invoice Journal as of 08/10/2023 totaling \$36,525.50. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

- There will be some road Special Assessment Districts for roads coming next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recycling Committee:

- 07/20/2023 meeting. Next meeting 08/28/2023.
- Applied for a Barry County matching grant for the cost of mailing out informational postcards.
- Recycling information table was set up at the 07/29/2023 Fun Fest.

Park Committee:

- GFWC Treasures of the Trunk report: Event was held on July 29 and went very well.
 - Thanked Greg Chandler for his article in the paper.
 - 29 cars were in attendance and the Women's Club raised \$940.00 which will be used for the free lending library which is held in the Water's Edge Building.
 - Three food vendors participated.
 - Cost of the event was \$401.00 and donations were received of \$365.00.
- Residents have asked about bringing a hose and using water at the park when they reserve the pavilion. Also, the Fire Department said they would need Board approval to bring the hose with the fire truck and spray water for the Fun Fest so the Park Committee would like to know if these requests are something that the Board would agree with for the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER'S
REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE
TREASURER'S
REPORT

CLERK'S REPORT

MOTION TO APPROVE
INVOICE REGISTER

RECYCLING
COMMITTEE REPORT

PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT

- Barry County grant request was not approved.
- The parking lot project is complete.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

- No August meeting.
- Next meeting will be 09/12/2023 if needed.

Planning Commission:

- PCI July 2023 report in packet.
- July 2023 Complaint log in packet.
- Regular meeting held 07/20/2023.
 - A rezoning request and some text amendments are being brought to the Board tonight.
 - Approved a request for a sign for Tom’s Meat Market at 179 and Briggs Road.
 - Denied a request to build a gazebo in the front yard at a residence on Hermitage Point.
- Next meeting 08/17/2023.

Fire/EMS Report:

- July 2023 Fire/Emergency Medical response in packet.
- The Fire Department has had discussions about storage needs for fire equipment and election equipment and they are working on a plan for that.
- Kirk Heilman inspected the fire station roof and discovered hail damage.
 - He met with the insurance adjustor and confirmed over 99% of the roof has damage. He will be available to continue working with the adjustor to help with the process.
 - The Board will be getting bids and estimates and will move ahead with this at a future meeting.
 - Kirk Heilman confirmed that his price is good through the next meeting in September and any adjustment would be worked out with the insurance company.
 - Due to the age of the roof there has been ice buildup and rotting of boards so those will need to be replaced in order to properly install the new roof.

Water Advisory Committee:

- 08/01/2023 meeting
- GLASWA meeting 08/03/2023
 - The Board is working on the Continuing Education Class and they are nearly finished with that.
- Three out of eight wells that were tested in Section 19 were high for PFAS. There will be a meeting held next Thursday, August 17 at 11:00 AM and will get information at that time as to what this means. All residents in the area where the PFAS was found are on the water system so no one has a well that is being used.
- Missed out on the federal government grant for drinking water (arsenic removal expansion) but there may be further opportunity coming through the County or the federal government.

Veterans Memorial Committee:

- No meeting since last month.
- They will be meeting again in September to start planning for Veteran’s Day.
- Mr. VanHouten would like to step down from being the chair of the committee as well as the fire department committee, but he still plans to be on the committees. This ensures good leadership outside of Board members.

ZBA REPORT

PC REPORT

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**WATER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**VETERANS
MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE**

Board Action Items:

- The Open House was held 07/18/2023 and attended by more than 30 visitors.
- Audio system update
 - Estimates have been requested from Buist Audio Visual and Moss. One estimate has been received and we are waiting for the second one. Early indications are that the cost for an installed system will be considerably higher than the base components.
 - An estimate will be requested from Ocean Inc.
 - Seven gooseneck microphones, four wireless microphones, and up to nine ceiling mounted speakers along with associated equipment will be included.
 - The township will provide platform/wall/ceiling access for routing wires and AC power outlets if needed.
 - A decision will be needed at the 09/14/2023 Board meeting to ensure installation in 2023.

- Shed replacement update.
 - The old shed was torn down, and the debris taken to the landfill.
 - The new shed was delivered 08/09/2023.
 - Shelves will be installed, and skirting placed around the bottom to keep critters from residing under the shed.

- 08-16-020-005-10 Rezoning request

**AUDIO SYSTEM
UPDATE**

**SHED REPLACEMENT
UPDATE**

**08-16-020-005-10
REZONING REQUEST**

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adopt Ordinance 08-10-2023 2 to rezone Parcel 16-020-005-10 from the C-3 Commercial District to the RSF Residential Single-Family District. Discussion: A public hearing was held on July 20, and it has been reviewed by the township attorney. The property is not buildable the way it is currently zoned. **Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.**

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

- Zoning Ordinance Text amendments to Article II and Article XII.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adopt Ordinance No. 08-10-2023 1. Discussion: The changes recommended by the Planning Commission remove the percentage requirement for the side yard setbacks and make it a straight five feet or ten feet depending on the district. Clarified some of the language and also defined what can be allowed in a setback. **Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten; yes; Heethuis: yes.**

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

- AT & T Metro Act right of way permit extension: The current right of way permit expires at the end of this year, and this is to extend it for an additional five years.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to approve the requested AT&T Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension. **Roll Call Vote: VanHouten; yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes.**

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

**ZONING ORDINANCE
TEXT AMENDMENTS
TO ARTICLE II AND
ARTICLE XII**

**AT&T METRO RIGHT
OF WAY PERMIT
EXTENSION**

- Add Zoning Administrator to the “Appointed Personnel and Hourly Employees” wage sheet. The position was included in the budget but was not added to the salary sheet so this will correct that omission.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to approve Salary Resolution No. 06-28-2023 B Revision, adding the position of Zoning Administrator. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes.

ADD ZONING
ADMINISTRATOR
POSITION TO WAGE
SHEET

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

- Payne Lake Weed Control SAD resolution.
 - Their special assessment expires at the end of this year. The proposed amount for the next five years is 20% less than the residents are currently being assessed.
 - This is the renewal to continue collecting taxes to cover the weed control expense. The Payne Lake Board has approved this.
 - Public hearings will be held in September and October.

PAYNE LAKE WEED
CONTROL SAD
RESOLUTION

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to adopt Resolution No. 08-10-2023 2. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten; yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

- Russell Drive Access to Gun Lake
 - A letter was sent out to the residents expressing that this is a public access and that no one in the neighborhood can exclude anyone else from its use. A copy of the township ordinance was included with the letter.
 - A proposed sign was presented for Board approval.

Motion by Heethuis with support of VanHouten to approve the purchase and installation of an Access Use Rules sign in the West Gun Lake Platted Lake Access. The rules to be taken from Township Ordinance Section 18.4. Discussion: The township does not make the decision of whether or not this is public access but does have regulations since it has been declared to be public. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.

MOTION TO APPROVE
ACCESS SIGN FOR
WEST GUN LAKE
PLATTED LAKE
ACCESS (RUSSELL
DRIVE)

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

- 2023/2024 Snow Plowing: The contract was awarded for two seasons, so no action needs to be taken this year.
- Recycling Committee member appointment – Ray Schaubel

2023/2024 SNOW
PLOWING

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

RECYCLING
COMMITTEE MEMBER
APPOINTMENT

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

- Budget amendment to remove \$100,000 assigned for trails from the 2023/2024 budget.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to amend the 2023/2024 budget by

removing the \$100,000 assigned to the trails.

Discussion:

- Mr. Cunningham explained that this was added to the budget in 2015 and has been carried over since then. The amount is not indicative of the actual cost of the project and the current board has not approved a trails project. This amount will not be spent in the 2023/2024 fiscal year so there's no reason for it to be in the budget. Assigning funds for a trail project should only be done when and if the Board approves a properly planned and estimated project.
- Mr. Heethuis stated that while there are lots of trails in the township none of the trails in the game or recreation areas are handicapped accessible so that is different than what this project could be. A non-motorized ADA approved trail would be usable by many residents that can't use the existing trails. His opinion is that it should stay in the budget so that we don't lose sight of the project.
- This motion is regarding the budget, not approving building trails.
- The Park Committee has included this project as part of the five-year plan.

Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: no; Knowles: no.

Yes: 3, No: 2. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Blood drive scheduled for August 22.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Batson (Lynn Drive): Wanted to know if the Board has talked to the Drain Commissioner about doing another trench around the east side of Lynn Drive which he doesn't feel is needed.

Dave Laansma (Payne Lake Road): Had a couple of questions regarding the Park Committee report: There was no discussion on the grant that was not approved. Also wanted to know since the parking lot is done if there is a report on the final amount. With regard to the trails money, his opinion is that the money should be allocated to water issues in the township.

Robin Laansma (Payne Lake Road): Blue Zones is a private organization and does not have any influence on Yankee Springs Township.

Sandy Marcukaitis (representing the Park and Recreation): The committee has always strived to look at what is good for the whole community. As an example, there is a resident that plays wheelchair basketball in our park because he can play there as it is fenced. The water issue is important but that's specifically for the trailer park which is privately owned. The township park is for everybody.

Pat Jamison (South Bowens Mill): He appreciates that the \$100,000 was removed from the park budget. In his opinion the Park budget is too high. He would like to see the minutes from the park committee meetings.

Betsy Frigmanski (Pine Meadows Dr): Complimented Sandy and the Parks committee for the Family Fun event.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Agreed to the compliment for the park event on July 29. Also wished Mike a happy birthday and thanked Mike and his brother for tearing down the shed.

**BUDGET AMENDMENT
TO REMOVE FUNDS
ASSIGNED FOR
TRAILS**

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

VanHouten: He had a great time in Alaska but there's no place like Yankee Springs.

Cunningham: The park event was a wonderful day and well attended. All the volunteers did a good job and people had a great time.

Knowles: Good talk and it's nice to see the respect that is paid.

Heethuis: 200 people attended an event in his neighborhood and many of them had been using the pickleball courts and the park. Many people mentioned how great the event at the park was.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adjourn the meeting 7:36 PM.

Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 8/22/2023
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
August 11, 2023