

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

**Virtual only (Zoom) Meeting  
Thursday, February 11, 2021  
6:00 pm**

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

**MINUTES**

FINAL MINUTES  
Page 1 of 6  
YS BOT – Regular  
Mtg.  
February 11, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**Roll Call:** Present: Cunningham at Township Hall, Heethuis at Lisa Lane, Mousseau at Heritage Bay Dr., Knowles at Beatrice Ave. VanHouten at Rock Dr.

**Staff Present:** John Frigmanski, Frank Fiala, Sandy Marcukaitis, Lee Kooistra, Alice Jansma, Karen Kennedy

**Visitors:** 8 via ZOOM

**ZOOM HOST:** John R. Smith at Florida residence

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

- Add a board action item to create a township newsletter
- Approval of rezoning that was submitted by the Planning Commission
- Putting buoys into Gun Lake
- Add discussion for a procedure to invite planner and/or attorney to ZBA or PC meetings

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

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

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

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Board Minutes: 1/14/21; 1/27/21 Joint Meeting BOT, PC & ZBA; 2/8/21 Special Meeting  
January Accounts Payable: Checks #916191 through #916233; total amount: \$174,544.82  
January 29, 2021 Payroll Checks # 6913 through #6933 =\$12,617.20 net amount

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

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:**

**Catherine Getty** – County Commissioner. Shared information on the Board appointments that

PLEDGE  
INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/  
CHANGES TO  
AGENDA

APPROVAL OF  
CONSENT AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGE-  
MENT OF VISITORS:

have been made and some updates on COVID vaccinations in the county.

**Allison Troyer Wiswell** – Blue Zones. Thanked the board for allowing her to be at the meeting. Gave an overview and history of Blue Zones and shared some of their goals and progress to date.

**Andru Jevicks** – Michigan DNR

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

**Andru Jevicks:** Expressed his appreciation of Allison presenting the Blue Zone information. Would like to see the State Park programs be in partnership with them regarding trails. Also shared that State Park use has increased over the last year.

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

- Reviewed receipts and disbursements for the month of January and gave updated balances.
- A \$5,000 grant was received for the election.

**Motion by Van Houten with support from Knowles to accept Treasurer's Report as presented.**

**Roll Call Vote:** *Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.*  
Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED.**

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

- February 2021 current invoice register as of 2/5/21 for a total of \$19,667.26.
- PCI January 2021 Report
- January 2021 Complaint Log
- FOIA request
- Participated in the Road Commission virtual meeting 2/2/21 3:00 PM
- Township portion of 11/3/2020 Election Risk Limiting Audit done 1/18 & 1/19/21
- School Board election contract agreements for 2021-2024 signed and sent to Barry and Allegan counties
- Asking for approval to bid out 2021 Township landscaping services so that a bid can be awarded at the March meeting

**Motion by Knowles with support from Mousseau to bid out the landscaping services for the**

**Township for 2021.** **Roll Call Vote:** *Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.*

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

Discussion: Board had discussion on the effect of aggregate capitalized property values on taxes and permit fees.

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Knowles to accept Clerk's Report as presented.** **Roll**

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

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- **Park Committee:**  
Committee met and had some discussion on soccer fields, Blue Zone, trails, picnic tables,

electricity to the pavilion, playground caretaker, etc.

- **ZBA Report**

Appointments were made at the special meeting on 2/8/21. Regular seat is going to be filled by John Jerkatis, Mike Boyson will continue as the first alternate until 2022, and the second alternate was awarded to Bill Stoub. ZBA also handled one setback variance request which was approved.

- **PC Report**

- Appointment was made at the special meeting on 2/8/21 after two interviews were conducted by Rob Heethuis and Larry Knowles. Lee Kooistra was recommended and unanimously approved by the Board to fill the position. Larry Knowles requested that the Planning Commission and the ZBA set up a group to make a procedure for inviting the professional planner and attorney to meetings.

*Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to allow Knowles to form a committee of himself, Frank, Sandy, and Jake to recommend a policy for inviting the professional planner or attorney attend meetings and bring that to the Township Board meeting in March. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes;*

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

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

- Knowles presented the following items from the Planning Commission meeting
  - Officer elections were held.
  - Public hearing will be held next Thursday on the gravel mining and non-conforming uses ordinances.
  - Also looking for Board input on the PC redoing the Subdivision ordinances. It was not included in the list of priorities but is something that has been worked on over the last few years and should have been included.

- **Fire/EMS report**

January 2021 Yankee Springs Township Fire/Emergency Medical Responses

- **Water Advisory report**

GLASWA report for January 2021

Motion regarding  
policy for professional  
attendance at meetings

**BOARD ACTION  
ITEMS**

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS:**

- Resolution to adopt the resolution for the Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test for 2021. This is a standard resolution that is done each year and utilizes the standard federal guidelines.

*Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Resolution 2-1-2021 Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.*

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

- Pickleball update: Per the decision at the last meeting the attorney sent a letter to the Pickleball Group and the response that was received from that Group is attached. VanHouten added that the custody, management, and control of the park is vested with the Township and the group did not want the Township to manage this project for them. Heethuis said it will be up to the Group to come back to the Township if they want to

Motion to adopt  
Resolution 2-1-2021

address further.

- PC priorities: The nine topics that were presented by the Planning Commission have been prioritized as follows by the Board members. Each member ranked individually, and this is a result of those rankings. This is not a mandate but guidance as requested.
  1. Amendment to Nonconforming structures
  2. Short-term rentals and nuisance ordinance
  3. Lakeside set back 25' averaging formula
  4. Discuss, review and implement a new ordinance for gravel mining
  5. Private road standards and zoning districts
  6. Review the M179 corridor plan
  7. Timely preparation of capital improvement plan review
  8. Gun Lake overuse and funneling
  9. Look at solar and wind energy standards

- Short Term Rental – Update and Plan. Planning Commission will put together a recommendation on the short-term rental policy and the Board will look at the nuisance ordinance.

*Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to charge the planning commission with looking at the zoning for short-term rentals and developing a recommendation to bring back to the Board. The second part of that would be to have a group look at the nuisance ordinance and bring a recommendation to the Board whether changes need to be made.* Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

Motion regarding  
Short-Term Rentals

- Robbins Cemetery road bidding: Two bids were received in September 2020. The \$3,750 bid from Arnsman needed to be reviewed and they have not followed up to do so. B&R agreed to honor their \$17,900 bid.

*Motion by Knowles with support from Cunningham to accept the bid from B&R dated September 3, 2020.* Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes.

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

Motion to accept bid  
for Robbin Cemetery  
road

- FOIA Coordinator: Every township must have an appointed person in charge of the Freedom of Information Act.

*Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to appoint Mike Cunningham as the FOIA coordinator.* Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

Motion to appoint a  
FOIA coordinator

- Blood Drive at the Township Hall or Fire Station (no actual date set yet)

*Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles to move forward with a Blood Drive at the Township Hall.* Motion was rescinded by Mousseau with support from Knowles.

*Motion by Mousseau with support from Knowles that the Board allow a blood drive to take place at either the Township Hall or the Fire Station.* Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes.

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

Motion regarding  
Blood Drive

- Yankee Springs Township 2021 Spring Cleanup. Last year’s cleanup took place during the month of May. Heethuis will coordinate the event and set up the date, etc.  
Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to move forward with coordinating the Spring Cleanup. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.  
Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion regarding  
Spring Clean Up

- Installation, Removal and Storage of buoys for Gun Lake  
Motion by Knowles with support from Cunningham to have Heethuis work with Chad Kraai, Orangeville Trustee to work with Matteson Marine to develop a proposal for handling Gun Lake buoy installation and removal. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.  
Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion regarding Gun  
Lake Buoys

- Adopting Ordinance 2-11-2021 to approve the Rezoning action taken by the Planning Commission (legal description and ordinance attached). It will be published in the paper and goes into effect 8 days after publication.  
Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to adopt Ordinance 2-11-2021 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes.  
Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion to adopt  
Resolution 2-11-2021

- Township Newsletter: The idea is to produce one in the spring and one in the fall and send to the Yankee Springs citizens. Discussion as to whether it should be put on the website or published and sent out to the citizens.  
Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to have Sandy go ahead with getting a cost estimate and a final approval can be made once the cost has been determined. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes.  
Yes: 5, No: 0. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion regarding  
Township Newsletter

OLD BUSINESS

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

**Greg Purcell:** Mentioned that in the past the Board asked residents for their priorities of what needs to be done in the Township and would be a good idea to get that input as part of the newsletter.

**Sandy Marcukaitis:** asked about where the road was going in at the cemetery. Larry Knowles said he would send the drawing to her. Agrees with Greg Purcell about the survey but thinks it would need to be done at a later time.

**John Smith:** Leighton Township sends out a newsletter with the tax bills. Sandy said they didn’t do it that way in the past because so many of the tax bills go to the mortgage company rather than to the resident.

**Frank Fiala:** suggested the newsletter be done once a year with a survey because it is a lot of work to do that twice a year. Appreciated the information that was brought by Allison with the Blue Zone program.

**BOARD COMMENT:**

BOARD COMMENT

**Knowles:** Long meeting but a lot got done.

**Mousseau:** Expressed that Rob is doing a great job and appreciates his direction. Would like to add the reformation of a committee for the Township renovation to the next meeting agenda. Shared pictures of the township assessor's office and that it is difficult to function in there. Thanked John R. for the zoom hosting and shared that Dave VanHouten has a birthday tomorrow.

**VanHouten:** Also thanked John R. for his work on the Zoom hosting. The board voted in August 2018 to move funds to the Veterans Memorial. It has not been transferred and he feels it needs to be done.

**Cunningham:** Public comment is for the public to comment and is not a debate. The board should not respond to questions asked in public comment. There are procedures that need to be followed for both public comment and board comment.

**Heethuis:** A lot of ground was covered tonight. Looking forward to next meetings and discussions.


**ADJOURNMENT:**

ADJOURNMENT

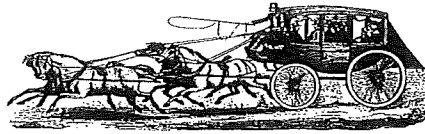
*Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Approved by all.*  
*Motion Carried.*

Respectfully submitted:  
Betsy Frigmanski  
Recording Secretary 2/15/21

Date 3/11/2021

Approved   
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

*Full audio recording of this meeting has been downloaded to the township office computer system on 2/12/2021.*



# **Yankee Springs Township**

284 N. BRIGGS ROAD- MIDDLEVILLE, MICHIGAN 49333  
269-795-9091 / FAX 269-795-2388

Clerk  
[mikec@yankeespringstwp.org](mailto:mikec@yankeespringstwp.org)

## **YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP of BARRY COUNTY**

**RESOLUTION NO. 02-01-2021**

### **POVERTY EXEMPTION INCOME GUIDELINES & ASSET TEST**

**WHEREAS**, the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Supervisor and Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Board is required by Section 7u, of the General Property Tax Act, Public Act 206 of 1893 (MCL 211 7u), to adopt guidelines for poverty exemptions;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** pursuant to MCL 211 7u, that the Yankee Springs Township, Barry County, adopts the following guidelines for the Supervisor and Board of Review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns, filed in the current or immediate preceding year.

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

1. Be an owner of and occupy as a homestead the property for which an exemption is requested.
2. File a claim with the Supervisor or Board of Review, accompanied by Federal and State income tax returns for all persons residing in the homestead, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year.
3. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of photo identification, if requested.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested, if requested.
5. Meet the current Federal poverty income guidelines, as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget.
6. Meet the asset levels set by the Yankee Springs Township Board on file.

**BE IS ALSO RESOLVED** that the Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and Federal Guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and Federal guidelines and these are communicated in writing to the claimant.

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member \_\_\_\_\_, and supported by Board Member \_\_\_\_\_,

YEAS:

Nays:

Absent:

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted – Resolution No. 02-01-2021

Supervisor Robben L. Heethuis \_\_\_\_\_

#### CERTIFICATE

The undersigned as Clerk of the Yankee Springs Township hereby certifies the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted by the Township Board of Yankee Springs Township at a regular meeting held on February 11, 2021 at which meeting a quorum was present; that said meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael S. Cunningham  
Yankee Springs Township  
284 N. Briggs Road  
Middleville, Michigan 49333  
269-795-9091



February 2, 2021

Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber, & Kaufman, PC  
Attorneys At Law  
470 W. Centre, Suite A  
Portage, MI 49024-5362

Re: Yankee Springs Township Park Pickleball Courts

Dear Catherine P Kaufman,

Due to the Yankee Springs Township Board's unwillingness to personally discuss with us the donation of 4 additional pickleball courts to be constructed in the Yankee Spring Township Park, we are no longer looking at this location for our new courts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Phyllis J. Wordhouse".

Phyllis J. Wordhouse  
Promote Pickleball Team  
2364 Vista Point Drive,  
Wayland, MI 49348

cc: Emailed to Mike Cunningham

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP  
BARRY COUNTY**

**ORDINANCE NO. 02-11-2021**

**ADOPTED: 02/11/2021**

**EFFECTIVE: EIGHT DAYS FOLLOWING  
PUBLICATION AFTER ADOPTION**

An Ordinance to amend the Yankee Springs Township Zoning Ordinance (including the zoning map) by rezoning certain property located in Land Section 18 from C-3, Commercial District to RR, Rural Residential District, to repeal all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith and to establish the effective date of said Ordinance.

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP  
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

**ORDAINS:**

**SECTION I**  
**REZONING OF PROPERTY IN LAND SECTION 18**

The Zoning Map as incorporated by reference in the Yankee Springs Township Zoning Ordinance is hereby amended by rezoning a vacant 1 acre parcel on the north side of Cobb Lake Road at Loew Drive (a private road) from C-3 Commercial District zoning classification to RR Rural Residential District zoning classification. The tax ID number is 16-018-011-30 and is more particularly described as:

PT NW 1/4 SEC 18 T3N R10W DESC AS COM W 1/4 COR SD SEC; TH N  
89\*44'37" E 495.00' TO POB; TH N 00\*04'11" W 264.00'; TH N 89\*44'37" " E 165.00';  
TH S 00\*04'11" E 264.00'; TH S 89\*44'37" W 165.00' TO POB. SUBJ TO ESMTS OF  
RECORD

The official Yankee Springs Township Zoning Map, as incorporated in the Township Zoning Ordinance, is hereby amended to reflect the "RR" Rural Residential Single Family District zoning classification for the described real property.

**SECTION II**  
**SEVERABILITY**

Should any provision or part of the within Ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the same shall not affect the enforceability of the balance of this Ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION III**  
**REPEAL**

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION IV**  
**EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Ordinance shall take effect eight days following publication after adoption.

Michael Cunningham, Clerk  
Yankee Springs Township

NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION

TOWNSHIP OF YANKEE SPRINGS  
BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO: THE RESIDENTS AND PROPERTY OWNERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF YANKEE SPRINGS, BARRY COUNTY, MICHIGAN, AND ANY OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following is a summary of Ordinance No.02-11-2021 which was adopted by the Yankee Springs Township Board at a regular meeting held on February 11, 2021.

ORDINANCE \_\_\_\_\_ – ORDINANCE TO REZONE PROPERTY IN LAND SECTION 18

SECTION I                      REZONING OF PROPERTY IN LAND SECTION 18

The zoning map is amended to show a vacant 1.0 parcel located on the north side of Cobb Lake Road at Loew Drive (private road), Section 18, being rezoned from C-3, Commercial zoning district to RR, Rural Residential Single Family zoning district. The tax parcel number is 16-018-011-30.

SECTION II                      SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable.

SECTION III                      REPEAL. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION IV                      EFFECTIVE DATE. This Ordinance shall take effect eight days after publication after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance has been posted in the Office of the Township Clerk at the address set forth below and that a copy of the Ordinance may be purchased or inspected at the office of the Township Clerk during regular business hours of regular working days following the date of this publication.

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP  
Michael Cunningham, Clerk  
284 N. Briggs Road  
Middleville, MI 49333  
(269) 795-9091