

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

Thursday, February 10, 2022

6:00 pm

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

MINUTES

**MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
February 10, 2022**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Supervisor Heethuis offered condolences on behalf of the board to the families of Don Jansma and Paul Heystek on their recent passing.

Roll Call:

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

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

Visitors: 14

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by VanHouten with support from Cunningham to add to the agenda to have the Board approve having PCI to do the writeups for the PC and the ZBA. Roll Call Vote:
Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes.

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

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

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

- Board minutes 1/13/2022 Regular BOT meeting, 1/20/2022 Special Meeting, 1/26/2022 Joint Meeting.
- January 2022 Accounts Payable: Checks #916698 through #916739; total amount: \$180,384.95.
- January 31, 2022 Payroll Checks #7167 through Check #7189 = \$12,706.13 net amount; January 2022 Fed P/R withholding \$3,162.11.

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

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

ADDITION TO AGENDA

**MOTION TO APPROVE
AGENDA**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Greg Chandler

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

Gloria Medendorp: She read the minutes online and sees that Shalinda Drive was back on the agenda. It is her opinion that it was approved and should have been resolved long before this. Whatever was approved before should be kept in force so the development can be finished and rehashing everything is just a waste of time.

Stacy McCarthy: He is at the meeting in support of the Shalinda development and is in agreement with the arguments of Ms. Medendorp. In his opinion the delays are not in the investor's area of fault but rather the conditions under which they have had to operate. He feels the community is sorely in need of the housing and the Board should issue the extension.

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER'S REPORT: By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

TREASURER'S REPORT

- January 2022 Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.
- Fire/EMS Millage Renewal
 - Should have the motion to be voted on at the March meeting which is well ahead of the deadline for the August ballot.

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

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

CLERK'S REPORT: By Mike Cunningham, Clerk

CLERK'S REPORT

- February 2022 Current Invoice Register as of 2/10/2022: \$25,749.70

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

**MOTION TO APPROVE
INVOICE REGISTER**

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

- Henika Library Update
 - The attorney for the library will send draft to the township lawyer and then the resolutions will be brought to Yankee Springs Township, Wayland Township, and the City of Wayland for approval.
 - It looks like it will be on the ballot in August 2022.
- There will be a May 3, 2022 election
 - Delton Kellogg Schools will have a vote on the Headlee override.
 - The county clerk is considering having it consolidated with Orangeville Township's election.
- Eligibility for status as a Charter Township notification/notice

- The state census triggers the state to notify Yankee Springs Township that the township can become a charter township if so desired.
- The township is required to post notification and the rights of the residents to oppose or agree with it.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Recycling Committee:

**RECYCLING
COMMITTEE REPORT**

- Meetings held 1/25/2022 and 2/08/2022.
- Continuing to look at what is being done at other townships in the County as well as Wayland Township and Leighton Township since they are nearby.
- For the current services, the hauler that is being used is the most economical.
- A security camera is going to be placed under the portico to record ballot box activity which will also allow tracking of the usage of the recycling area.

Park Committee:

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

- The township pays \$2,000 per season to the Gun Lake Women’s Club maintain the berms in the park.
- They have approached the Board to ask for consideration of raising that stipend.

Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to up the stipend another \$1,000 to \$3,000. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.

**MOTION TO INCREASE
PAYMENT TO GLWC**

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

- Budget surplus carryover request by the Park Committee was reviewed.
 - A new budget is set each year based on the plans for that year and it is voted on by the Board.
 - The Board could assign the funds to cover the parking lot expansion or the Board could vote to go ahead and do the project.
 - The cost is \$100,000 so if a grant of \$50,000 is received the \$50,000 from the Board would be matching to allow them to go ahead with the project.
 - Discussion took place as to whether the park facilities should be improved first or should the parking lot expansion be done first.
 - The committee has set the parking lot expansion as their first priority.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham to assign \$50,000 to the Parks Committee fund as a matching possibility for a grant to do the parking lot. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes.

**MOTION TO ASSIGN
FUNDS TO THE PARKS
COMMITTEE FOR
PARKING LOT
EXPANSION**

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

Zoning Board of Appeals:

ZBA REPORT

- February 8 meeting had two requests: One at 11066 Hastings Point and that was approved for a height variance on a garage addition. The second request was for 2876 Beatrice which was a bit more confusing but we did approve a variance for a railing on the deck for safety purposes.
- At the Joint meeting it was discussed to have PCI perform all the staff reports for the ZBA and PC and Rebecca would be called on as needed for ordinance changes and

master planning.

- PC Chair Shana Bush will notify Rebecca if she is needed at the PC meetings.

Planning Commission:

- PCI January report attached.
- January 20, 2022 Regular Meeting was held.
 - Heard a request for a SEU to allow an addition to an accessory building on Hastings Point which was granted.
 - Applicant will return for a guest quarter permit.
 - The Planning Commission finalized its Capital Improvement Plan and presented that to the Board of Trustees at the joint meeting.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles that we formally accept receipt of the CIP from the Planning Commission. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes.

- Officers were selected for 2022: Shana Bush, Chair; Karen Page-Kennedy, Vice Chair; Frank Fiala; Secretary
- January 2022 Complaint Report.

Fire/EMS Report:

- January 2022 Fire/Emergency Medical responses.
- All the fire apparatus has been serviced and the annual maintenance completed.
- Firefighters will be undergoing their annual ice rescue training this month.
- Millage renewal will be on the August ballot.
- There is a subcommittee working on the future purchase of the new fire truck, expecting that they are at least 6 months away from ordering it.
- Rough estimate is that the cost will be about \$725,000.

Water Advisory Committee:

- February 1, 2022 meeting.
- Water tower will be pressure washed in April or May and the Advisory Board wondered if the Board would like them to invite the press out when that happens.
- Also asking the Board of Trustees if they want a public hearing to discuss the findings of the rate study.
 - If there is to be an increase the idea is that it would go into effect July 1 (based on the fiscal year).
 - The Advisory Board will make a recommendation and the Board of Trustees will make the decision.
 - The Board of Trustees will schedule a meeting for a Wednesday in May.
- Well testing – four of the eight property owners have responded to the request. Additional contact needs to be made with the other four.
- GLASWA 2/3/2022.
 - There was discussion at that meeting regarding the alley on Oakleigh Dr.
 - As of now the GLASWA board demanded a work stoppage until the sewer is moved.

Veterans Memorial Committee:

- No meeting last month.
- Will plan to meet in March to start planning for Memorial Day.
- Appreciates that Dan Miller is keeping the area around the memorial snowplowed and has commented that people are coming out to visit the memorial.

MINUTES

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YS Board of Trustees –
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February 10, 2022

**PLANNING
COMMISSION REPORT**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
RECEIPT OF CIP FROM
PLANNING
COMMISSION**

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**WATER ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL
COMMITTEE REPORT**

ARPA FUNDS UPDATE

OFFICE RENOVATION
PROJECT UPDATE

SHALINDA PLAT
EXTENSION
APPLICATION

MOTION TO APPROVE
EXTENSION OF THE
SHALINDA PLAT

Board Action Items:

- ARPA funds update:
 - First Informational meeting was held February 2.
 - Information was presented about ARPA funds and to let residents know what input has already been received.
 - Residents can come in or call or email at any time with suggestions, not only at a meeting.
 - Additional meetings will be held in May and possibly July if needed.
- Office Renovation Project
 - Second design review meeting was held January 20th.
 - Talked a fair amount about insulation methods and HVAC equipment.
 - Also discussed using a general contractor versus a design-build model.
 - Continued discussion on the timing of the hall portion due to election and meeting availability.
 - The next meeting will be scheduled February 23 at 1:30 PM.
- Shalinda Plat application for extension

Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham to go into closed session to briefly review memo received from attorney today. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

Board entered closed session at 6:51 PM.

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten that we come back to open meeting at 7:21 PM. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau that we approve the extension of the final preliminary plat of the Shalinda subdivision. Discussion: At this point it seems to be in the best interest of the township, and the neighborhood that it be completed. This decision is reached after discussion and recommendation of the township attorneys.

Amended motion:

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau that we approve the extension of the final preliminary plat of the Shalinda subdivision through December 31, 2022. Roll call vote: Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: no.

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

- Water ordinance revision was passed months ago and there are some mandatory requirements that the Water Board wants to eliminate.
 - Eliminate section 126.904 which makes it mandatory to connect a new home that's on our system.
 - Eliminate section 126.905 which requires connection of existing, improved properties to the system under certain circumstances such as the need to put in a new well.

- 126.906 deals with connecting deadlines – not needed if the other sections are eliminated.
- 126.907 enforcement – not needed if other sections are eliminated.

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to eliminate sections 126.904, section 126.905, section 126.906, and section 126.907. Discussion: VanHouten expressed his opinion that if the system is available and you're well goes bad, hooking up to the system is what should be done. **Roll Call Vote:** VanHouten: no; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.

MOTION TO AMEND
WATER ORDINANCE

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

- MTA Premium Pass – having the premium pass saves on individual training and the more training that is done, the bigger the savings.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to sign up for the premium pass again this year. **Roll Call Vote:** Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

MOTION TO APPROVE
MTA PREMIUM PASS

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

- Cemetery Tree Removal proposal
 - The cemetery sexton has indicated that there are some trees in Coman Cemetery, Bowerman Cemetery, Yankee Springs Cemetery that need to be removed
 - Quote received from Wickham Cemetery Care for \$4,500.00 for the work.

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to accept the proposal from Wickham Cemetery Care for a total of \$4,500 for tree removal and cleanup at the township cemeteries. **Roll Call Vote:** Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Cunningham: yes.

MOTION TO ACCEPT
PROPOSAL FROM
WICKHAM CEMETERY
CARE FOR TREE
REMOVAL AND
CLEANUP

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

- 11393 Oakleigh Dr. complaint to vacate public alley.
 - The alley is not used so a request was made to vacate it.
 - It has been discovered that there is a sewer there that was not recorded.
 - PCI issued a stop work order indicating that the garage or sewer must be relocated.
 - No action can be taken until the Board hears back from GLASWA and their attorney.
- 12245 W M-179 Highway (SW corner of M-179 and Parker)
 - Carl Miskotten owns the property and he wants to have the easement or right of way eliminated.
 - He is petitioning his neighbors and informing the Board of his actions.
 - The Township doesn't have the power to make a decision on this.

11393 OAKLEIGH DR
COMPLAINT TO
VACATE PUBLIC
ALLEY

12245 W M-179
HIGHWAY
INFORMATION

- Prioritize PC 2022 tasks
 - Each board member provided their suggestions for priority of tasks which determined the following prioritized list:
 - 1 - Zoning fees review and update.
 - 2 - Private road standards and zoning districts

PRIORITIZATION OF
PLANNING
COMMISSION TASKS
FOR 2022

- 3 - Revise/update PC and ZBA forms
- 4 - Township anti-littering/dumping ordinance that includes township owned properties
- 5 - Look at solar energy standards
- 6 - Timely preparation of Capital Improvement Plan Review
- 7 - Look at wind energy standards
- 8 - Parks & Recreation Trails Plan with Township Committee
 - o Knowles suggested adding to the list regulating State Park boat traffic but the Board felt they were only prioritizing the list before them at this time.
- Blood drives will be held at the Fire Station from 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM on April 5, June 29, and August 31.
- Winterfest is coming up on Saturday, Feb. 19 – lots of activities at Gun Lake and around the area.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT:

Cunningham: We had a good meeting and got through a bunch of stuff. We did take up one issue we need to follow up on with the ordinance so we don't have a mess in the future.

Knowles: Get ready to have more problems. Not very happy about the Gun Lake state park problem but it was a good meeting.

VanHouten: Asked if there was any response to the ad for volunteers on the committees (there was none). He wondered what other board members thought about inviting young people (Scouts, Student Council, etc.) to meetings to get them involved with local politics.

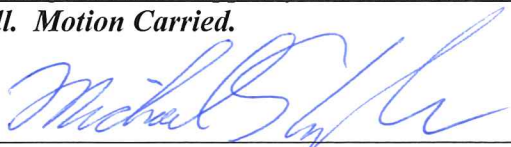
Mousseau: Happy Birthday almost to Dave VanHouten. Taxes are due February 28.

Heethuis: Compliments to the Board as we looked at some tough situations and made some tough decisions tonight but that's what we're elected to do.

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to adjourn meeting at 7:49 PM.
Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 3/14/2022
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
February 11, 2022