

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES- Regular Meeting

Virtual only (Zoom) Meeting

Thursday, March 11, 2021

6:00 pm

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

MINUTES

MINUTES
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YS BOT – Regular
Mtg.
March 11, 2021

Meeting called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

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

Visitors: 9 via ZOOM

ZOOM HOST: John R. Smith at Florida residence

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

- Updated invoice register to be used for the clerk's report – dated 3/11 total \$35,153.19
- Suggestion to eliminate first public comment period and keep the second period at the end of the meeting

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to accept the changes to the agenda.

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

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

Board Minutes: 2/11/21 BOT Meeting

February Accounts Payable: Checks #916234 through #916261; total amount: \$30,065.40.

February 26, 2021 Payroll Checks # 6934 through #6951 = \$12,300.39 net amount. Federal payroll withholding \$3,273.92.

Motion by Mousseau with support from Cunningham to approve consent agenda as presented.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:

Catherine Getty – County Commissioner. There were a large number of visitors at the last County Commissioner's meeting speaking about the hardships and limitations on restaurants and small businesses. There has not yet been any action taken to give the relief that the public has requested.

PLEDGE
INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/
CHANGES TO
AGENDA

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA

ACKNOWLEDGE-
MENT OF VISITORS:

TREASURER'S
REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT: By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- Deposited a \$5,000 Grant check today for chevrons for the Fire Department (will be included in the March report)
- Reviewed February 2021 Financial Statement and Investment Report
- Have almost completed the receipts for property taxes
- Restricted and assigned balances total is \$1,747,324.50

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

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

CLERK'S REPORT

CLERK'S REPORT: by Mike Cunningham, Clerk

- March 2021 current invoice register as of 3/11/2021 for a total of \$35,153.19.

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

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

COMMITTEE
REPORTS

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Park Committee**
Gazebo Electrical – A budget estimate for three outlets has been requested. It has not been received at this time.
- **ZBA Report**
One case of a side yard setback variance on Crystal Way was approved.
- **PC Report**
 - PCI February 2021 Report
 - February 2021 Complaint Log
 - Procedure for contacting Planner - The subcommittee met and the suggestion is that the chairperson of each committee would request the attendance of the planner from Larry Knowles and that decision would be made between Larry and the chairperson of the committee. That is a Board decision to be made.
- **Fire/EMS report**
 - February 2021 Yankee Springs Township Fire/Emergency Medical Responses
 - A date is being set for a committee meeting.
 - The township is approaching the end of the first 5-year contract with Wayland and the automatic renewal of three years will go into effect April 1st.
- **Water Advisory report**
 - Water Advisory Committee met and prepared some items that will be added to the Board of Trustees agenda for the April meeting.
 - GLASWA report for February 2021

BOARD ACTION
ITEMS

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

- Blood Drive at the Fire Station Update. April 28th 2:30 PM- 6:30 PM

- Newsletter Update and Action. \$887 estimated for newsletter and mailing. There is a 3/22 deadline for articles for April mailing and this is going forward.
- Buoy update – Board is close to an agreement with Kyle Ribble and an agreement with The other townships to pay for Kyle’s services. It is expected to have an agreement to approve at next meeting.
- 2021 Landscaping Bid Opening
 - 3 bids were received: Gun Lake Lawncare, DK Landscape, and Ground Up.
 - Cunningham proposed to scan bids to each of the board members for analysis so that a decision can be made at the April meeting.
- Yankee Springs Township 2021 Spring Cleanup: on hold right now due to COVID-19 restrictions on the DNR activity.
- Hall Renovation Project.
 - The Board will assign \$300,000 for the project. This amount is a starting point based on the November 2019 meeting with the municipal bond company, but can be adjusted at any time.

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to assign an amount of \$300,000 to the renovation project. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

MOTION TO ASSIGN FUNDS FOR THE TOWNSHIP HALL RENOVATION

- Suggestion by Cunningham to set up a committee of these six townships Employees: (Mousseau, Jansma, VanderMeyden, Scheurman, Cunningham, and Marcukaitis) along with an equal number of non-employee Township residents. He suggests a sub-committee of two township employees (not part of the six on the committee) to choose from the public applicants. VanHouten suggested that an ad in the paper specifically request citizen volunteers to include a space planner, interior designer, IT and systems specialist, etc. to ensure good input into what is needed and perhaps less members from the Township employees.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to look into setting up this committee and advertising for committee members. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: no; Cunningham: yes.

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

MOTION TO SET UP COMMITTEE FOR TOWNSHIP HALL RENOVATION

- Subcommittee to analyze the Road Commission agreement
 - Knowles and VanHouten met with Frank Fiala about going to the Road Commission to discuss the dollar amount provided by the Township and where it is to be used among other topics.

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to appoint Dave VanHouten and Larry Knowles and Frank Fiala to form a subcommittee to work with the Barry County Road Commission. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

MOTION TO FORM A SUB-COMMITTEE TO WORK WITH THE ROAD COMMISSION

- Act on the Planning Commission’s recommendation for a revised Non-Conforming Use ordinance

Motion by Cunningham with support from Mousseau to adopt the Non-Conforming Use Ordinance No. 3-1-21 as presented by the Planning Commission. Board discussion: This would be an amendment to Section 1, Article 16.

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

**MOTION TO ADOPT
NON-CONFIRMING
USE ORDINANCE**

- Act on the PC recommendation for a replacement to the current Gravel Mining ordinance

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to adopt the Gravel Mining Ordinance No. 3-2-21 as presented by the Planning Commission. **Roll Call Vote:** *Heethuis: yes;*

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

**MOTION TO ADOPT
A REPLACEMENT
GRAVEL MINING
ORDINANCE**

- Act on a recommendation from sub-committee for a revised Anti-Noise ordinance.

Motion by VanHouten with support from Knowles to adopt the Anti-Noise Ordinance No. 3-3-21. Board discussion: Revisions made after discussions with the township attorney, the sheriff and the Michigan state police. Final recommended ordinance was forwarded to Board Members on March 11 to be voted upon at this meeting.

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

**MOTION TO ADOPT
A REVISED ANTI-
NOISE ORDINANCE**

- Act on a recommendation from the PC for a short -term rentals ordinance.

Motion by VanHouten with support from Knowles to adopt the Short-Term Rental Ordinance No. 3-4-21. Board discussion: Cunningham mentioned he would have preferred to see the planning commission take the stance of handling short-term rentals as a home business. Heethuis

shared the process that was followed and felt that the commission followed proper procedure in making their recommendation. The planner and the attorney were consulted and made their recommendations. **Roll Call Vote:** *Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: no.*

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

**MOTION TO ADOPT
A SHORT-TERM
RENTAL
ORDINANCE**

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Diane Gaertner: asked about how to read the actual wording of the ordinances that were passed tonight. She had some questions on the ordinances but thinks they will be answered if she’s able to read them. Commented that she thought the board missed approving the consent agenda.

John Frigmanski: The newsletter is an ideal opportunity to ask for volunteers from the community. Also questioned regarding the bids if the dollar amounts should have been read into the minutes for transparency.

Don Davis: First meeting he has attended since November and complimented the board on the process that was followed.

Ray Eister: thanked the Board for their efforts in the community.

Karen Kennedy: appreciated the Board for the way they work and thanked for their efforts.

Frank Fiala: Barry County oversees the operation of the landfill and recycling and they have two dates for the hazardous waste disposal at the Barry County Fairgrounds. May 8 is the first date set.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Thanked John Smith for hosting and thanked Mike Cunningham for extra hours put in repairing the ceiling and taking care of the roof and other items. It has been 547 days since there was carpet in the office.

VanHouten: Need to get back to work on establishing the Veterans Committee.

Knowles: Lee Kooistra did a lot of work on collecting data for the short-term rental ordinance and it was appreciated.

Cunningham: Regarding recycling: Continuing to try to have enough containers so that no one will leave items on the ground and asked people to pay attention to what they are recycling.

Heethuis: Worked with the Board of Review this week and complimented how well their work was done.

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 3/16/21

Date By Board of Trustees April 8, 2021

Approved 
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Full audio recording of this meeting has been downloaded to the township office computer system on 3/12/21.

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT