

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting  
Thursday, September 9, 2021  
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  
September 9, 2021**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

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

**Staff Present:** John Frigmanski, Frank Fiala, Rich Beukema, Dennis Buist

**Visitors:** 6

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

***Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham to add a board action item for a brief discussion on Shalinda and a possible motion. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.***

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

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

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

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Board Minutes: 8/12/2021 BOT Meeting
- August Accounts Payable: Checks #916485 through #916526; total amount: \$44,195.32.
- August 31, 2021 Payroll Checks #7063 through #7081 = \$12,010.43 net amount. August 2021 Fed P/R withholding \$3,188.54.

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

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**ROLL CALL**

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA**

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

County Commissioner not present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
OF VISITORS

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Jacob Bruggink**, visitor to township (not a resident): He is working with Yankee Springs Meadows (as engineer) on their water supply and the need to make some updates on it. Has had correspondence with Larry Knowles and wanted to see what the update on tonight's agenda was about and to request to set up a time to meet.

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

TREASURERS REPORT

- August 2021 Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.

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

MOTION TO ACCEPT  
TREASURERS REPORT

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

- American Rescue Plan update: Approval letter has been received and the first payment of \$233,254 should be received by October 3rd.
- Second payment should come about 12 months later.
- Per the auditors the township did not show a revenue loss in the first 18 months but may have a loss for the next 12-month period due to the timing of the tax cycles.

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

CLERK'S REPORT

- The current invoice register through 9/9/2021 is \$33,258.11.

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

MOTION TO APPROVE  
CURRENT INVOICE  
REGISTER

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

- Gun Lake Improvement Board had a special meeting September 8 regarding weed control but report has not been received yet.
- Snow Plow Bids: Ad was put in the paper asking for bids by September 8, 2021, but no bids have been received. A decision was made to run the ad again to see if bids come in.
- Consumers Energy Street Lights Contract: Consumers submitted two contracts that had not been signed. The first contract is for the high-pressure sodium lights and the second one for LED lights. The services have been provided but the contracts were never signed.

MOTIONS TO SIGN  
CONTRACTS WITH  
CONSUMERS ENERGY  
FOR STREET LIGHTS

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to pass Resolution 09-01-21 to agree to a five year contract with Consumers Energy for supplying the street lights and paying for the cost of the energy and that the supervisor and the clerk are authorized to execute this contract on behalf of the township. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

Motion by Knowles with support from Heethuis to pass Resolution 09-02-21 to agree to a two year contract for LED lights with Consumers Energy and that the supervisor and the clerk are authorized to execute this contract on behalf of the township. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes.

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

- Recycling committee update: An ad was put in the paper and four people from the community have responded with interest in serving on the committee which will be looking at both recycling and trash needs.
- Fence maintenance: Hall/Office and Park properties update: A contract has been signed and work is expected to be complete in September. The fence openings are an appropriate width to be ADA compliant.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Park Committee**

- No report.

**Zoning Board of Appeals Report**

- No August meeting. Next meeting is Tuesday, Sept. 14.

**Planning Commission Report**

- August 2021 PCI Report and Complaint Log attached to minutes.
- Approved the application for Grooters Development project on M179.
- Approved the change to the parcel land split ordinance so that it agrees with the state ordinance.

Motion by Knowles with support from VanHouten to adopt parcel split ordinance 09-09-21. Roll Call Vote: Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

PARK COMMITTEE  
REPORT

ZBA REPORT

PC REPORT

MOTION TO ADOPT  
PARCEL SPLIT  
ORDINANCE 09-09-21

**Fire/EMS Committee**

- August 2021 Yankee Springs Township Fire/Emergency Medical Responses attached.
- Personnel has continued to remain constant.
- EMS has received a grant of approximately \$200,000 which has been used to purchase helmets, mechanical powered cots, stair chairs, and a generator costing \$20,000 by the Fire Department.

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**FIRE/EMS REPORT**

**Water Advisory Committee**

- September 7th meeting draft minutes attached.
- Two private wells that were tested for PFAS came back negative.
- Would like to have Rob Thall present the draft ordinance to the Board of Trustees at their next meeting. It will be put on October agenda.
- EGLE has requested testing at the old Misak landfill be included in their 2022 budget and is asking the Township to get permission from the owners to have it tested.
- Yankee Springs Meadows water system update:
  - A meeting was set up for Tuesday, 9/14/2021. R. Heethuis & L. Knowles @ 1:00 PM.
  - It appears that the wells have some issues (arsenic and nitrates) and EGLE is demanding that it be fixed.
  - The suggestion is that they need to put in a water treatment system or ask Yankee Springs if we would be willing to run water main up there.
  - Currently the demand is above what GLASWA has the ability to supply so a lot of improvements (new well, increase the arsenic removal, etc.) would need to be put in place.
- GLASA received an award "2021 Wastewater Utility of the Year" from the Michigan Rural Water Association. VanHouten expressed how awesome the award is and that Larry Knowles has been a great asset to GLASA and to the Board of Trustees.

**WATER ADVISORY REPORT**

**Veterans Committee Report**

- The committee worked well and had the support of the board which helped to make the Dedication Ceremony run smoothly. Speakers did an excellent job and the cookies were great.

**VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS:**

- Office renovation project update.
  - The committee met with Don DeVries and Dave Gibbs of Fleis & Vandenbrink in late August.
  - Evaluated all designs to ensure that the prioritized items were included and developed additional drawings based on their priority list.
  - The committee will look at all five options and make their official recommendation to the Board. The Board can then choose one of the five options or choose something entirely different.

**BOARD ACTION ITEMS**

- A decision needs to be made soon in order to get bids out and have a groundbreaking in the spring of 2020.
- Special meeting has been set for this topic only on Thursday, September 30, at 6:00 PM. A notice will be put in the paper for this meeting.

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to set the meeting date for September 30 at 6:00 PM. Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.**

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

- Barry County Road Commission requested a letter of support from the Township to solicit ARPA funds from the County.

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau that we provide a letter of support for the Road Commission to seek ARPA funds for our county.**

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

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

- Township remote meeting attendance - Discussion on whether the ZBA, the PC, and the BOT can have meetings with members attending remotely.
  - Per the MTA, in order to comply with the state's Open Meetings Act, no member can meet remotely unless there's a declaration of a state of emergency. There is an exception until the end of 2021 for medical issues.
  - Currently the Township has a state of emergency in effect through the end of 2021.
  - After the end of 2021, the only remote attendance currently allowed is for active military duty.
  - Advisory boards can allow remote attendance if they want.
  - This can be changed if the Open Meetings Act is revised to allow it.
- Establishing a community contact/complaint/comment and record procedure
  - Discussion about the development of a list (similar to the Code Violation complaint list) so that community residents can see that their comments and complaints were reviewed.
  - Cunningham will develop and bring it to a future meeting.
- Shalinda project has a deadline next month based on the extension that was granted in 2020.
  - If the deadline is met, what does that look like, and mean to the Township?
  - If the deadline isn't met, does the Township grant another extension?
  - Heethuis wants to contact the attorney for input on these two things so that they are prepared for what they can do once the deadline is here.

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to contact the attorney for what actions can be taken when the deadline is reached. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes.**

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

**MOTION TO SET DATE  
FOR A SPECIAL  
MEETING REGARDING  
OFFICE RENOVATION  
PROJECT**

**MOTION TO SUPPORT  
BARRY COUNTY ROAD  
COMMISSION ARPA  
REQUEST**

**MOTION TO APPROVE  
CONTACTING  
ATTORNEY FOR  
ADVICE REGARDING  
SHALINDA PROJECT  
DEADLINE**

- 8/26/2021 Blood drive results: 16 donors and 14 successful donations. No date set but there may be another one held yet this year.
- Barry County Hazardous Waste drop off is Saturday, September 18, 9 AM - 1 PM. Additional information is available on the township website.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

**Frank Fiala:** Suggested a round of applause for the GLASA award and the Veterans Memorial completion and dedication.

**BOARD COMMENT:**

BOARD COMMENT

**Mousseau:** Taxes are due Tuesday, Sept. 14. Office will be open until 5:00 PM and there is a drop box.

**Cunningham:** Thanked an anonymous person who cleared out the overgrowth on the corner of Briggs Road and Bass Road. A bad accident occurred there last year and somebody recently got out there and cleared it out to increase the visibility.

**Heethuis:** Great job from Dave and the Veterans Committee. Secondly, we have been looking for a janitor at the park for the summer and we are thinking about a year-round position of ten hours a week doing some work around the office, the fire department and the park.

**Knowles:** Thanked Dave VanHouten and also his family for their involvement with the Veterans Committee.

**VanHouten:** Excited to hear the recommendations from the Office Renovation Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Knowles with support from Cunningham to adjourn meeting at 7:24 PM.**  
**Approved by all. Motion Carried.**

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted by:  
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary  
September 16, 2021

