

YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting

Thursday, July 11, 2024  
 6:00 pm  
 Yankee Springs Township Hall  
 284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, MI 49333

MINUTES

MINUTES  
 Page 1 of 7  
 YS Board of Trustees –  
 Regular Meeting  
 July 11, 2024

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

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

**Staff Present:** Rich Beukema, Dennis Buist, Sandy Marcukaitis, Frank Fiala

**Visitors:** 21

**ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:**

**Motion by Heethuis with support from Mousseau to add or delete all items in red text to the agenda.** Discussion: The changes are the addition of last night’s meeting minutes, the updated invoice register amount, and the elimination of two unneeded resolutions. **Roll Call Vote:** VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.

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

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

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

- Board minutes 06/13/2024 Regular BOT meeting, 06/26/2024 Special Budget Public Hearing Meeting, and 07/10/2024 Park Courts Project Bid Opening Special Meeting.
- June 2024 Accounts Payable: Checks # 918019 through Check # 918058 Total Amount \$76,107.01.
- June 28, 2024, Payroll Checks #7898 through Check #7921 = \$19,282.31. June 2024 Fed. P/R withholding \$5,344.61; 2024 State withholding tax payment \$3,284.48.

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

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

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**INVOCATION**

**ROLL CALL**

**MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT AGENDA**

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS**

**Jon Timmers & Dan Miller:** Deputy Fire Chiefs along with several members of the Fire Department.

**Sally Smith:** newly appointed member of the Gun Lake Improvement Board.

**Catherine Getty (County Commissioner):** Brought the board up to date on what is going on at the County, including the ongoing search for the new County Administrator. They approved putting a renewal millage for Barry County Transit on the November ballot. She shared that a study is going to be done to determine if the spongy moth problem will be worse next year or is expected to decline which would determine if any plans will be put in place for a spraying program.

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

**Phillip Joseph (Orangeville resident):** He is the current chair of the Republican Party, running for Commissioner for District 6. Gave a brief synopsis of his achievements and his reasons for running for the position. He feels that candidates run as Republicans so they can win, not because they have accountability to their party. Thanked everyone for the time and would appreciate their vote.

**David Laansma (Payne Lake Rd):** He is a precinct delegate and candidate for Commissioner District 2. He discussed his disapproval of the campaign table for Catherine Getty that was set up at the Fire Department Pancake Breakfast. He feels this was an imposition on the fundraising efforts set up by the Fire Department and that Supervisor Heethuis used his authority to set this up on behalf of Commissioner Getty and candidate Bassett. He referred to Public Act 269 and feels that this was a violation of the act. To avoid discrimination, the other campaigns should have been offered the same opportunity. If Commissioner Getty made the suggestion she should have known the restrictions. He expressed that this action reflects poorly on Supervisor Heethuis' integrity and that he abused his authority over the Fire Department.

**Jim Hooker (YS Precinct Delegate):** Disappointed in the lack of integrity shown by Supervisor Heethuis in using the event that was set up to support the fire department as a campaign event. He feels this showed a lack of respect for the heroes of the community. He believes these actions violated the Michigan Campaign Finance Act which should have been enforced by Mike Cunningham. He feels that the supervisor put his own self interests ahead of the community he represents. The people have the right to remove any elected official whose actions are unlawful and go against the wellbeing of the community. He doesn't feel any action needs to be taken regarding the spongy caterpillars.

**Vern Lettinga:** Received a letter in the mail regarding the Cobb Lake Road assessment. He owns property there, Lettinga Farms, and wants to know if as farmers they should be adjusted for it. He doesn't object as long as if he wants to sell lots along the road in the future, he would be able to tie to that road.

**Jon Timmers (Wayland Fire Dept.) & Dan Miller (Yankee Springs Fire Dept):** Wanted everyone to know who the Fire Department is and to have good communication with the Board and the community. They asked the Board to authorize \$50.00 per day for three fire fighters who provided coverage over the recent holiday weekend (July 4,5,6, and 7). It has been paid in the past but was not done for the last three months.

**Sandy Marcukaitis:** Wanted to thank the Fire Department for their support with the Blood Drive. Over 26 units of blood were donated today which can save up to 70 lives.

**MINUTES**

Page 2 of 7

YS Board of Trustees –

Regular Meeting

July 11, 2024

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Evans Lane SAD 2nd Public Hearing**

- The owners of the 24 parcels will be assessed 1/24<sup>th</sup> of the total cost of the project over a three-year period billed on the 2024, 2025 and 2026 winter tax bills with the unpaid balance each year charged 3% interest. The balance may be paid in full to avoid interest charges.
- Total cost is \$80,155.00 with the cost per parcel being \$3,339.79 plus interest of \$100.19 if charged.
- Valid petition signatures have been obtained from 17 of the 24 parcels being assessed (70.8%). (The law requires 50%.) Signatures were obtained from an additional four parcels that have not been counted due to possible technical deficiencies.
- Apparent approval for the project equals 21 parcels (87.5%).

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

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

**Vern Lettinga:** He asked what the amount he would be charged on the land he owns and whether he would have to pay additional if he sells any lots. Mr. Cunningham explained that he is going to be charged the same amount (\$3,339.39) as everyone else and that selling any of the property would not affect this.

**Jim Hooker:** Asked why this isn't covered by the taxes that residents already pay. It was explained that it is because it is a private road.

**Vern Lettinga:** He asked if he would need permission from all the residents to put another parcel on the road. Per the Board this would be a question that would have go to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Cunningham explained that the tax rolls are being approved tonight. People who are being charged do have the right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal but this has to be done in writing by the end of the meeting tonight.

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

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

**Motion by Cunningham with support from Heethuis to adopt Resolution 07-11-2024 1 approving the Evans Lane Special Assessment District No. 49 Tax Roll. Roll Call Vote:** *Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes.*

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

**Barlow Lake Weed Control SAD 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing**

- Mr. Cunningham explained how the current assessment has been calculated.
- It is less per parcel than it has been in the past because there was a balance remaining from the previous assessments.
- The expiring SAD tax roll included 229 parcels.

**MINUTES**

Page 3 of 7

YS Board of Trustees –  
 Regular Meeting  
 July 11, 2024

**EVANS LANE SAD 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 PUBLIC HEARING**

**MOTION TO ADOPT  
 RESOLUTION 07-11-  
 2024 1 APPROVING THE  
 EVANS LANE SAD NO.  
 49 TAX ROLL**

**BARLOW LAKE WEED  
 CONTROL SAD 1<sup>ST</sup>  
 PUBLIC HEARING**

- Public Hearing Notice was published in the Sun & News 06/22/2024 and 06/29/2024.
- The notice was mailed to all parcel owners with deeded lake access who are included in the proposed SAD updated tax roll with 243 parcels.
- The actual weed control program is similar to what has been done in the past.

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

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

Paul Hausler (Progressive AE): If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact him.

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

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

**Motion by Cunningham with support from Heethuis to adopt Resolution 07-11-2024 2 accepting the plans, and the estimated cost and creating the Barlow Lake Aquatic Plant Control Special Assessment District No. 31-24 and setting the date for the second public hearing 08/08/2024 @ 6:00 PM. Roll Call Vote:** *Knowles: yes; Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.*

**MOTION TO ADOPT  
RESOLUTION 07-11-  
2024 2 CREATING THE  
BARLOW LAKE AQUATIC  
PLANT CONTROL SAD  
NO. 31-24**

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

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

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

- June Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.
  - The ARPA fund CD matured and the money was deposited into the fire equipment fund toward the cost of the new fire truck.
  - IPA payments are being made at a rate of 2.6% and currently investments are making approximately 5% so the IPA loan is not being paid off at this time.

**MOTION TO APPROVE  
TREASURER’S REPORT**

**Motion by Heethuis with support from VanHouten to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. Roll Call Vote:** *VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.*

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

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

**CLERK’S REPORT**

- July 2024 Current Invoice Journal as of 7/11/2024 totaling \$120,335.23.

**MOTION TO APPROVE  
INVOICE JOURNAL**

**Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to approve the July 2024 Current Invoice Journal as of 07/11/2024 totaling \$120,335.23. Roll Call Vote:** *Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes.*

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

**Election Update:**

**ELECTION UPDATE**

- AV ballots for the 08/06/2024 Primary Election have been mailed and so far about 20%

have been returned.

- Election inspectors were approved 07/03. The Preliminary accuracy test was 07/09 and 07/10. The Public accuracy test will be done 07/12 at noon.
- Reminder: The permanent AV list used to send out AV ballot applications will end in 2024. In the future, voters will need to send in applications on their own or request to be put on the permanent ballot list.
- Shared an example of the ballots for each precinct.

**MINUTES**  
Page 5 of 7  
YS Board of Trustees –  
Regular Meeting  
July 11, 2024

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**RECYCLING COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

**Recycling Committee:**

- Next meeting 07/16/2024.

**Park Committee:**

- Pickleball/Basketball grant project update will be in Board actions.
- There may need to be a discussion about new rubber mulch around the playground.

**PARK COMMITTEE  
REPORT**

**Zoning Board of Appeals:**

- 06/11/2024 meeting: One case was heard for a STR permit denial. The ZBA affirmed the decision of the zoning administrator.
- 07/09/2024 meeting: An appeal for denial of a STR permit was tabled until next month to allow for input from the township attorney.
- Next meeting 08/13/2024 if needed.

**ZBA REPORT**

**Planning Commission:**

- PCI June 2024 report in board member packet.
- June 2024 Complaint log in board member packet.
- 06/20/2024 regular meeting: No cases were heard at this meeting.
- Next regular meeting 0/18/2024.

**PC REPORT**

**Fire/EMS Report:**

- June 2024 Fire/Emergency Medical responses: Year to date numbers were reviewed and showed slight increases.
- Fire truck is on schedule and on budget and will be here sometime in August.
- 06/19/2024 meeting:
  - Basic review of the treasurer's report.
  - There is a new finance director in Wayland so hopeful that YS starts to receive all its billing on time.
  - Reviewed purchasing procedures: Anything over \$1,000 will require board approval.
  - Waiting on a bid for the four doors that need to be replaced.
  - Jim Stoddard is still at home recovering. John Timmer & Dan Miller are here tonight and doing a good job covering.
  - Congratulations to Al Bouma who is now a fully licensed EMR.
  - A new firefighter/EMR is Allison Olsen, who is currently residing in Byron Center but will be full time here in about a year.
- Next meeting 08/21/2024.
- Annual breakfast report: 489 people served and netted around two grand.
- EMS meeting held last night. Non-transport EMS fee will go into place in September.

**FIRE/EMS REPORT**

**Water Advisory Committee:**

- Meeting held on 07/09/2024.

**WATER ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE**

- Michigan Rural Water Association performed a rate study and results were viewed.
- They want to hold a Public Hearing to present the findings but are waiting to coordinate with GLASWA to set a date.
- Next meeting will be on 08/06/2024.
- GLASWA July 2024 minutes in board member packet.

**Veterans Memorial Committee:**

- No activity.

**Board Action Items:**

- Park Courts Project contractor selection:
  - Three bids were received and have been reviewed by Fleis and Vandenbrink.
  - Grid26 Construction: Amount \$275,122
  - Midwest Construction Group: Amount \$292,996
  - Mugen Construction: Amount \$294,180
  - Based on this information, it is recommended that the Township does not award this project and wait for a more favorable bidding climate by rebidding the project this winter.
  - The amount approved was \$175,000 with the state paying 75%. At these amounts the percentage to be paid by the Township would be much higher.

**Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to rebid the project in early 2025 (December 2024 if suggested by Don Devries).** *Roll Call Vote: Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes; VanHouten: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.*

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

- It was decided by the Board to wait on the replacement of the playground mulch.
- Zoning Issues Update:
  - Different STR issues have arisen and are being handled by the zoning department.
  - There will be some coming up in August where residents are taking their tickets to the judge. It appears they are taking some type of plea to lessen the amount of the fine.
  - FOIA requests are coming in and Mr. Cunningham is asking everyone to please send in documentation when requested.
  - There may be some “tweaking” of the ordinance coming in the future. It’s an ongoing process.
  - Other communities are dealing with similar issues.
- Fire Department Motions:

**Motion by VanHouten with support from Heethuis that the Yankee Springs Board of Trustees set up a special meeting to meet with management from the Yankee Springs Fire Department, the Wayland Fire Department, and the Wayland City Manager to review how the departments are being managed today.** Discussion: The chiefs would like to improve communication with the Board of Trustees. This is just a review of the process now in place. This will not be a public meeting. It has been difficult with billing for the last several months but invoices and adjustments are being completed now that the new finance manager is in place. *Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes;*

**MINUTES**

Page 6 of 7  
YS Board of Trustees –  
Regular Meeting  
July 11, 2024

**VETERANS MEMORIAL  
COMMITTEE**

**PARK COURTS PROJECT  
CONTRACTOR  
SELECTION**

**MOTION TO REBID  
PROJECT AT A LATER  
DATE**

**ZONING ISSUES  
UPDATE**

**MOTION TO SET UP  
SPECIAL MEETING WITH  
THE YS FIRE DEPT,  
WAYLAND FIRE DEPT,  
AND WAYLAND CITY  
MANAGER**

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

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

**Motion by VanHouten with support from Knowles that the Yankee Springs Fire Committee be tasked with reviewing the Wayland Fire Department services and costs as compared to a potential stand-alone Yankee Springs Fire Department.** Discussion: This is being driven by good business procedures and understanding of what the costs are. Mr. Cunningham stated that he is not in favor of this as he thinks the decision has already been made. Mr. VanHouten says that this is not the goal but just to be sure the current setup is the best one particularly considering the personnel and staffing changes. Mr. Knowles feels it is a good idea to compare. **Roll Call Vote:** Knowles: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: no; Cunningham: no.

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

- Township employee CPR training report: Two classes have been completed and 21 people were trained at a cost of \$1,255.80 (under the approved amount of \$1,320.00).
- Blood drive held today, July 11 was very successful.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Catherine Getty:** She added a few things to her earlier comments: Provided a copy of the COA newsletter Senior Day at the Barry County Fair is on July 16 from 9:00 AM to noon. This Saturday is the Antique Gas and Steam Tractor Show at Charlton Park.

**BOARD COMMENT:**

**Mousseau:** Thanked Schuyler and Cody for the CPR classes.

**VanHouten:** Appreciate the Fire Department and the Deputy Fire Chiefs being here tonight. Good to see you here.

**Cunningham:** Looking forward to the meeting when we see everyone in the Fire Department in their new uniforms.

**Knowles: Thanks to the Fire Department.** Appreciate you being here.

**Heethuis:** Thanked the Fire department. Really liked the CPR training and appreciate everything you do.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Cunningham to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.** Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:   
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Date: 8/12/2024

Respectfully submitted by:  
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary  
July 15, 2024

**MINUTES**

Page 7 of 7

YS Board of Trustees –  
Regular Meeting  
July 11, 2024

**MOTION TO TASK YS  
FIRE COMMITTEE TO  
REVIEW COSTS OF  
STAND-ALONE FIRE  
DEPARTMENT**

**EMPLOYEE CPR  
TRAINING REPORT**

**BLOOD DRIVE**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**BOARD COMMENT**

**ADJOURNMENT**