

**Watson Township Board Meeting  
August 3, 2017**

**Called to order: 7:00 P.M.**

**Present:**

Kevin Travis, Sue Jones, Chuck Andrysiak, Michelle Harris, and Kelli Morris

**Agenda:**

Michelle made a motion to accept the Agenda as presented, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**Minutes:**

Michelle made a motion to approve the minutes with the typo corrections for July 2017, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**Public Comment:**

Cory Smith of 720 S. Farmer Otsego explained that he gets together with friends and others to hold an event coined as a "Hill Climb Course" (located near the intersection of 16<sup>th</sup> St. and 120<sup>th</sup> Ave.) as a benefit to assist people with needs and is open to entries small and large vehicles.

Doug Fuss of 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. expresses his dissatisfaction of the whole event as well as the continual loud noise of the vehicles on the practice course. He is also not pleased with the marijuana grow operation.

Stacy Thomas of 3271 10<sup>th</sup> St. Wayland explains that her daughter races at Cory's event. She explains her daughter enjoys it as her passion, and additionally she knew nothing about the marijuana grow operation- that was mentioned. She is very much in support of the event Cory holds.

Doug Fuss also disagrees with exactly where the bikes are being ridden.

Bo Stankley from Northern Michigan also spoke on behalf of Cory Smith mentioning that he has met many great people and he was also not aware of any "grow" outfit. He would like the board to give permission or allow Mr. Smith to hold his two events per season on a Sunday.

---Break in Public Comment---

**Gale Dugan- County Commissioner:**

Mr. Dugan gave the board the State of Allegan County Report 2017. His report also includes working on a Law enforcement millage. This plan would allow for the Sherriff's to expand by 8 officers, and provide for an increase in 4 officers to help work on a backlog of open cases. The township cost would be approximately \$75,000 and the county would pay \$25,000.

Ken Pardee asks where the need for the increase came from- Gale explains that dates back to 2008-2011 when there were cuts made and numbers declined. He explains that now with the numbers of people increasing, there is a "need" for the increase.

---Resume Public Comment---

Angie Fuss of 120<sup>th</sup> Ave. mentions that she does not appreciate her newborn baby being awakened by the noise of the bikes. As the practice course is near her home.

Cory Smith expresses his remorse for this and explains he was not aware that the practice course was affecting people so adversely.

John Caras wanted to know how many people show up for the hill climb events and he is concerned that they do not have paramedics on site with back boards or neck braces. Additionally, they do not have an evacuation plan or fuel spill kits and other things that may be needed.

Cory Smith mentions he agrees that riding these types of vehicles can involve injuries and he has had his share of his own injuries associated with riding motorcycles.

Michelle Harris questions how often the motorcycles are practicing.

Cory Smith lets her know they usually are practicing about once a week.

Chuck Andrysiak explains that Cory Smith and some others attended a planning commission meeting inquiring on what would need to be done to make the property where the motorcycles are being ridden legal for such an event. Chuck suggested to the group attending the planning commission meeting that they attend a township board meeting and present what was being proposed to the township board. There was some discussion on the operation of motor vehicles on personal property.

Jen Spalding of Ontagon explained that in her township they had to follow certain steps including having insurance on their home owner's policy to hold such events.

Holly of 1740 3<sup>rd</sup> St. in Martin mentioned a band that practices nearby and was curious if that was a bother to neighbors as well.

Riley Thomas of Wayland also wants everyone to know that she rides both the motor cross track and the hill climb and there are two ways down from the hill.

Cory Smith wanted his neighbors to know they are going to slow down and be much quieter in the area from this point on.

Angela Fuss expressed her appreciation for that gesture.

**Bills:**

Michelle made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$17,830.69, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**Treasure's Report:**

Sue gave the Treasure's Report.

**Old Business:**

NONE

**New Business:**

**B. Hopkins Fire Department:**

The supervisor was notified that the Hopkins and Watson Fire Department declined to enter into a fire agreement with the "Gun Lake Tribe" to negotiate fire service. Michelle explains that Hopkins and Wayland already have mutual aid, therefore Hopkins fire departments would respond. As far as medical first responders, Hopkins would also respond as Wayland Fire does not provide medical service. Michelle also explains that there has only been 1 fire on tribe property in 30 years and as monetarily, it should not be an issue.

Kevin made a motion to table the subject, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**C. Mr. James Siver and Mr. Thomas Siver of Siver and Associates- Proposal for legal services:**

Attorney James Siver explains his legal services to the township. He indicates that in 35 years of practice he has never charged for a telephone call for advice. His rate is \$150.00 per hour for actual work. Attorney Thomas Siver also gave the board a short synopsis of his experience. He also represents the city of Greenville. He also lets the board know if there is a phone call made; it will be either himself or his father that greets you when you call.

Kevin made a motion to enter into a non-binding agreement with Siver and Associates for zoning enforcement with the privilege of using our current Baucham firm for more township related business issues- roll call vote: Michelle-yes; Chuck-yes; Sue-no; Kevin-yes; and Kelli-no; motion passed by a 3-yes; 2-no vote.

**D. Addition of Fall Clean-Up Day (late October) for Trash and Roadside clean-up:**

Kevin explains that there was some recent roadside dumping. There was discussion on a fall clean-up event. Cory Smith expressed his willingness to help out with such an event. There was additional discussion that such an event was not budgeted for in the current township budget. Kevin made a motion to table the subject until budget time next year, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**E. Cemetery Survey and Fence estimate for Miner Cemetery:**

Michelle made a motion to have Wightman-Associates do a boundary survey of Miner Cemetery for \$550.00, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**F. Dust Control:**

The board has had a couple complaints on dust control. Some roads that could use another application were discussed. Those roads include 114<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 118<sup>th</sup> (West of 20<sup>th</sup>) and 120<sup>th</sup> east of pavement. Kevin made a motion to increase dust control application to 2000 gallons on those roads, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

**A. Mr. John Caras- Medical Marijuana Proposal:**

Mr. Caras gave the board his presentation on Medical Marijuana. Included in the presentation was information on his background which included security and military aspects. He and his partner also presented the board with written business plans for this proposal. Mr. Caras business partner Scott also explained to the board their motivation and plan to be able to help more people with the need for useful cannabis products. Their plan includes using hydroponic and aquaponics nutrient delivery. Their dried flowers are then marketed in products including, oil, butter, confections, and lotions.

Jen Spalding a military veteran spoke to the board about how the use of medical marijuana has helped her with both injuries involving her military past and her continuing battle with cancer.

Bill Holden asks Scott why they are interested in Watson and not Richland (where Scott resides). Scott explained they choose Watson based on the ballot in 2008 where Watson voters were in favor of medical marijuana.

They mentioned they are not interested in dispensing, only growing and processing, additionally transportation would come from a different entity as well.

Michelle made a motion for Watson Township to make a record of decision to direct its planning commission to begin developing an ordinance pertaining to Michigan Marijuana facilities licensing act, Public Act 281 of 2016, with regard to “grow” and “process” facilities only, Chuck supported; Roll Call Vote: Chuck-yes; Michelle-yes; Kelli-yes; Sue-yes; Kevin-yes. Supervisor declared the motion passed by a 5-yes/ 0-no vote. The board further discussed that the township board would still need to approve any final ordinance presented by the Planning Commission.

**Adjourn:**

Kevin made a motion to adjourn, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned - 10:40 P.M.

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Kelli Morris—Watson Township Clerk