

**Watson Township Board Meeting
September 7, 2017**

Called to order: 7:00 P.M.

Present:

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

Fire/EMS Special Assessment- Public Hearing:

Kevin opened the Public Hearing for the Fire/EMS Special Assessment. Cathy Pardee commented that the assessment was the best thing the township ever had. Michelle made a motion to close the “public hearing”, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried. The Supervisor made a motion to renew the Fire/EMS Special Assessment for 1 mil, Sue supported; Roll Call Vote: Chuck-yes; Michelle-yes; Kelli-yes; Sue-yes; and Kevin-yes. The supervisor declared the special assessment renewed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes. The Supervisor made a motion to close the Special Assessment Public Hearing, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Agenda:

Sue made a motion to accept the Agenda as amended, Kevin supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Minutes:

Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes as amended for August 3, 2017, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

A. Planning Commission:

Chuck gave a report on a recent seminar he attended. One topic of interest involved the medical marijuana law. He mentions that Michigan’s LARA (licensing and regulatory affairs) Department has left it up to townships to decide on a vetting process to determine what types and how many licenses are approved for their jurisdictions. Chuck mentions that because of this, LARA needs to have completed their Marijuana Licensing Law before a township approves any ordinances, because the content of the LARA Licensing Law is currently changing frequently.

Kevin mentions that he has concerns that the state has also discussed taking away the regulation of weekly rentals.

Chuck also reported that Solar Power Farming is becoming more and more popular.

B. Fire Chief:

Kevin read the report of Fire Chief Tim McKinnon for the benefit of the township board and audience members.

C. Sexton:

Mark reported that the Cemetery survey was complete and he did drive additional stakes in case the ones put in by the survey company came down. Also Jesse has completed the driveway graveling.

D. Libraries:

None.

E. Supervisor:

The supervisor explained to the board his interest in pursuing “grant money” to assist in doing a sewer study for the area near the highway. The board discussed that having sewer available would be essential in developing the area near the highway. The supervisor has asked Jay Eveland to assist the township in the grant writing process, as she is very well versed in the subject of grant writing. She has graciously agreed to assist the township in this task or in any way she can be of assistance. Michelle mentions legislation (possibly in the future) concerning underdeveloped or improved property. The board has some discussion on this subject.

F. Gale Dugan- County Commissioner:

Mr. Dugan explained that the county sold bonds to fund a drain and water control structure on Selkirk Lake to keep the lake level consistent. He also reported that the Health Department has a backlog of tasks and is in need of more personnel to process permits (and in a timely efficient manner). The Health Department is currently having some personnel changes and working on increasing staff to solve this issue. He also gave a report on the final budget. Allegan County is also working with Van Buren County on an “Indignant Defense Fund”. He also reported salary corrections for “chief deputies” and “elected officials”, by making it a 20% differenced across the board. This will elevate any issues in the future. He reported that the Road Commission is working on a budget and they will be looking at the 50/50 resolution on culverts when their budget numbers are better in place.

Kevin is interested about how to get on any of the “boards of determination”. Gale suggests contacting Denise Medimar. Chuck is curious if any other municipalities are hearing about medical marijuana?

Gale mentioned that there was a gentleman (Mr. Holden) who spoke at Trowbridge that was interested in developing a 1500 square feet facility.

Bills

Michelle makes a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$11,210.52, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasure’s Report

Sue gave the Treasure’s Report.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

None.

Public Comment:

Cory Smith introduced himself again and he also introduced a gentleman named Daniel. He told a story of Dan and his motorcycle riding abilities. Cory also introduced some of his other friends that also enjoy the function has been held by Cory in the past. Cory tells the board that he is looking for direction on how to proceed because the zoning does not allow for his activity in the A-2 zone. There is discussion on what steps Cory would need to take next.

John Radke makes a plea for the board to work with Cory as he does not think the noise is a real issue, he (Cory) only wants to host a couple events per year, and he believes Cory is doing a great thing for everyone involved.

Chuck explains that he (Cory) needs to fill out paperwork for a zoning change to present to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Chuck also explains that it may be a hard process. Cory mentions that he does not want to be a burden or bother to the township. Chuck will contact Lori and get direction on what would need to be done. Cory expressed that he is satisfied with the assistance of the township in this matter.

John Caras would like to recommend that the residence have first opportunity for any licensing concerning marijuana and expresses that he is opposed to business persons that are not local.

Scott Herspury mentions that LARA has added two new meetings and will also have a citizen’s board to assist in the process of finalizing the regulations for the marijuana law.

Chuck also mentioned that at the seminar he attended it was mentioned that a township would want to have sewer and water for any operation of more than 1500 plants.

John Caras mentions to keep that information in perspective as restrictions like that would greatly limit the locations of such operations.

Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned - 8:38 P.M.