

Minutes of the October 5, 2020 Regular Board Meeting of Sherman Township

The regular scheduled meeting of the Sherman Township Board was held on Monday October 5, 2020 at 7 pm, in the meeting room of the township hall. Meeting was called to order by Supervisor-Miller at 7:02 pm. After the pledge of allegiance, roll call was taken and members present were Karen Berens, Doug Berens, Ken Smalligan, Roman Miller, and Jamie Kukal.

Motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to accept the agenda with the addition of Special Meeting Minutes under Approval of Minutes. All approved, motion passed.

Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to accept the minutes from September 7, 2020 with the spelling corrections. All approved, motion passed.

Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to accept the minutes from September 28, 2020 as presented. All approved, motion passed.

For public comment, Richard Wolfolk spoke on behalf of Sandy Clarke. Sandy Clarke is a Democratic candidate for State Representative in the 100th District for Lake, Newaygo, and Oceana Counties. Mr. Wolfolk explained his personal connection to Mrs. Clarke and why he felt she was a trustworthy, innovative, invigorating, caring and compassionate choice for the position. R Miller thanked Mr. Wolfolk for coming and bid him farewell as he had another meeting to attend that night.

Butch Deur confirmed that the planning commission would resume their meetings next week Wednesday.

Wayne Berens presented to the board his complaint about the Township Assessor taking his Board of Review decision to the Michigan State Tax Tribunal, along with several other decisions from the 2020 March BOR. He expressed his concerns over the Township's involvement as now the legally responsible party represented as the complainant and the extra expenses tied to the procedures. Assessor- Wallace spoke explaining her objectives as the assessor to assess all properties fairly and establish a more universal standard for appraisals then may have previously been used in the past. With the issues that Mr. Berens spoke of she explained that the complaint was actually with the BOR over the individual decisions of a few property owners and that this avenue was what her professional associates advised her to pursue.

Gary Smalligan questioned how Cindy had arrived at the figures that she was using for some of the evaluations on pole buildings. Wallace replied that she was using the original permits filed for the construction of the buildings in question. Mr. Berens asked if she was also taking into consideration the depreciation value of such buildings when making her evaluations. Wallace confirmed that she does consider depreciation. Mr. Berens explained that the representative that he spoke with at the Michigan State Tax Tribunal was completely dumb founded that the township was pursuing this avenue.

K Berens wanted it to go on record that the Township board is now on the record as the complainant and she is not happy that this is the first that the board is hearing about it in this light. She is very concerned about all the back and forth and miscommunication over the March BOR.

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Wayne Berens expressed his disappointment in having out of the pocket costs and time lost from work to deal with this dispute.

Karen Koprołces offered her opinion that the BOR did the best they could with the situation they had and she is upset that the line of communication was not more open.

Assessor-Wallace responded that she did communicate her displeasure and her position on each case through a presentation. R Miller confirmed that the assessor did indeed communicate her position and displeasure to the gathered BOR in March. He went on to explain that there was a great deal of animosity both ways and the Township board will have to look at it a little closer and move forward from here.

Clerk-Kukal reminded those present that all positions for BOR will need to be filled for 2021 and if you are unhappy with the process, you should apply for one of the open positions, by submitting a letter of interest. K Smalligan asked if Mr. Berens had received his answers tonight. Mr. Berens responded that he feels the board needs to address the issue now or it will only continue in the future. Smalligan responded with his hopes that a newly appointed BOR would have a different working relationship with the assessor. Stan Stroven suggested that a special meeting be held to address the issue, soon.

Treasurer-Berens asked if there were any questions over the report she had provided. She expressed that there were no out of the ordinary expenses this month. Berens did confirm that the junk drive brought in \$528 this fall. She also presented a statement from the bank representative about the authorization to set up and sign for a credit card. J Kukal confirmed that the statement was already in the approved September meeting minutes. Berens said she would check with the representative again for clarification on why the original statement was not used and what needed to change to make it go through. Ken Smalligan asked about the election costs on the report and if they would be reimbursed. Kukal confirmed that \$317 of those funds will be reimbursed by the county for the mailing of the misprinted absentee ballots. The remainder would be submitted for reimbursements after the November election is finished. Motion was made by K Smalligan and 2nd by D Berens to approve the treasurer's report and authorize the payment of bills. Roll call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller and J Kukal No; none Motion passed.

Clerk-Kukal asked if there were any questions over her clerk's report previously presented to the board for review. With no questions, Kukal submitted the names of the precinct inspectors for appointment for the November 3, 2020 Election. The team of Edward Taube-chairperson, Donna Kukal, Corrine Burt, Irene Kandelac, Colleen Hines, and Virginia Bowen were appointed. Niki Hines will also work as added greeter and cleaning help. The dates were set for October 26, 2020 at 4:30 pm for the private accuracy test and October 28, 2020 at 4:30 pm for the public accuracy test. Kukal asked if there were any more updates to the newsletter before she submits it to the printer. K Berens had just a few and Kukal will make those updates and submit it to the printer for printing.

Supervisor-Miller presented the topic of the gypsy moth spraying for 2021. Last year, due to COVID-19 restrictions the spraying was done in May and was not as effective. The plan is to have it done earlier, in April next year. The county hazardous waste collection scheduled for October 31, 2020 has been

canceled. Miller read an invitation for the retirement party of Nancy Harper as the White Cloud District Library Director. Nancy has held the position for 45 years and an open house in her honor will be held on October 21, 2021 in the Library community meeting room from 4 pm to 6 pm. Miller also read a letter from property owner, James Collins, asking the board to consider adopting an ordinance to deal with any future issues pertaining to dock usage on public roadways ending at Robinson Creek.

Trustee-Smalligan reported on the water issue in the crawl space and that authorization was granted by Supervisor-Miller, for Chad Kukal to purchase a dehumidifier. He explained that after further investigation the need for rain cutters was determined to be the best first approach. He presented bids from three companies for approval. Tony Hoffman Builders bid \$2,523 for labor and materials with 5 down spouts. Fremont On-Site Service bid \$2,980 for labor and materials with 9 down spouts. DeVos bid \$2,637 for labor and materials and Ken did not know how many down spouts that bid contained. Gary Smalligan confirmed that the bid from Hoffman Builders was the best bargain, and the company does respectable work. After a great deal of debate over how many down spouts were needed, which direction to take the water runoff and current drainage ditches a motion was made by K Berens and 2nd by D Berens to accept the bid from Tony Hoffman Builders for \$2,523 with the fixing of loose fascia and possibility of additional down spouts as needed. Roll Call vote was taken. Yes; K Berens, D Berens, K Smalligan, R Miller and J Kukal. No; none. Motion passed.

Treasurer-Berens gave the Fremont Fire run report of \$1,471.89 billed and \$0 collected last month.

D Berens confirmed Butch Deur's previous statement that there will be a planning commission meeting next Wednesday.

Building inspector-Smalligan reported issuing four permits and providing seven inspections last month.

Zoning administrator-Kukal reported issuing three permits last month.

Dick Chenard reported for the White Cloud Sherman Utilities Authority that scheduled improvements are still delayed and plan to start in October. The old truck was sold. The City of White Cloud is looking to get a grant for some improvements and is asking the WCSUA to partner with them for the grant. A new drop box is being installed for a payment option for customers.

Assessor-Wallace presented that she has been visiting parcels to comply with the update requirements and requested that her proposed assessing plan previously presented to the board for review, be tabled for the time being.

K Berens would like the board to consider having a special meeting to address the previously discussed communication issues between the 2020 March BOR members and the assessor. K Smalligan restated that the issues should not be an issue for future with new BOR members and proper training. Karen K stated that she has been to all the training and most of her learning came from hands on experiences. Miller commented that there is a BOR training scheduled in November and Kukal suggested that any candidates that submitted a letter of interest to her by November 1st would be encouraged to attend the training. Motion was made by D Berens and 2nd by K Berens to have a special meeting with the

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assessor, March BOR members, and the township board to address communication issues from 2020 on Monday October 12, 2020 at 7pm. Motion passed 4 to 1.

Sexton-DeVisser was not present, so the only report for the cemetery came from Chad Kukal on the slow progress of the surveyor.

There was no unfinished or new business. No public comment or board member comment at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Submitted by Jamie Kukal, Clerk

Visitors present: Jerry Miller Cindy Wallace Karen K Gary Smalligan Butch Deur
 Stan Stroven Dick and Betty Chenard Wayne Berens Chad Kukal
 Richard Wolfolk Bob Berens

Sherman Township
Balance Sheet
 As of September 30, 2020

Sep 30, 20	
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
MASTER ACCOUNT	
101001 · General Fund cash 101-000-001	71,165.48
150-001 · Robinson Lake Cash 150-000-001	30,393.59
151-001 · Mayo Drive cash 151-000-001	9,043.36
152-001 · Crystal Lake Cash 152-000-001	48,100.88
207001 · Fire protection millage Fr & WC	28,907.89
208-001 · WC Fire Station Building Fund	1,432.78
Total MASTER ACCOUNT	<u>189,043.98</u>
204-001 · Road Checking 204-000-002	52,035.90
206-002 · Gerber Fire Runs Savings	1,438.56
209-002 · Cemetery cash	28,464.04
401-002 · Capital acquisition cash	6,279.29
701-002 · Winter Tax Account	473.87
702-001 · Summer Tax Account	44,337.28
Total Checking/Savings	<u>322,072.92</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>322,072.92</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>322,072.92</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>322,072.92</u>