

Goodwell Minute Notes
August 30, 2023

- ◆ Bob B. called meeting to order 7:00 pm:
 - ✘ Rachel B., Bob Birr, Tim M., and Jennifer W. present; John Tow excused
 - ✘ Public:

☺ Greg & Colleen Olsen	☺ David Grveles	☺ Jeremy Rusilowski
☺ Shawn Smith	☺ Clint & Shelley Cook	☺ Dave Fast
☺ Joe Wozniak		

- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance recited
- ◆ Email was sent out with minutes from July 26, 2023 meeting. Rachel motioned to accept the minutes, Tim 2nd, passed. Minutes posted to the township web site.
- ◆ Public Comment:
 - ≥ none
- ◆ Rachel: **Treasurer's report** as of August 30, 2023:
 - ✘ Have \$137,891.30 total. Payments were \$24,500.04. Checks to Auto Owners, \$1,328.00, Big Prairie Fire Department \$12,437.01, and Newaygo County Road Commission, \$3,209.71 are the largest payments. Revenue was \$2,371.38. Jennifer motioned to accept treasurer's report as presented and pay bills, Tim 2nd, passed.
- ◆ Bob: **Zoning report:**
 - ✘ Complete 3 permits. 1) Beverly Gilson, 2 Mile for a double wide. 2) Company putting in temporary mobile home 3930 Beech 3) Nick Smith – contractor building new home 3930 Beech
 - ✘ Parcel division – Cypress. Going with original draft due to change in plans
- ◆ **Planning report:**
 - ✘ Planning met August 8th. Lots of discussion, but no completions.
 - ≥ Special event ordinance - getting more direction from Board. People were discouraged at non-compliance and what township would/can do.
 - ≥ Cemetery – Goodwell is at lower-middle of the fees charged. Checked pricing in Newaygo County. Some cemeteries have disinterment fees, half give reduced fees for children/infants. Only one other township does the foundations, others have the monument company handle. Many townships are looking at pricing to compare. Will table until all members present. Discussed having an assistant Sexton to help share weekend/holiday work at Sexton's discretion. Should having a burial during holiday/weekend be at Sexton's discretion, or use assistant Sexton to offset work?
 - ✘ Next meeting October 3rd.
- ◆ Jennifer: **Clerk's Report**
 - ✘ Discussed One Township at a Time organization and work with Goodwell township. Jennifer made the motion to make the township hall available for One Township at a Time to hold a potluck gathering on September 21st. Rachel 2nd, passed. The organization has stated that their expectation is they will provide all materials, so no township monies will be expected.
 - ✘ Discussed the organizing of documentation the township is to have. Jennifer is making a list of documents, last reviewed dates, intervals of review and dates of next review. The aim is to span the reviews as even as possible over a 5 year cycle. Currently the cemetery ordinance is under review, the next to review is the General Policy for Goodwell Township. The Investment Policy is to be developed by the Treasurer in time for the budget review. Permit tracking is a question that was asked by another clerk.
 - ✘ The Cemetery Ordinance has been updated with information gathered at last meeting, but the board is still working at completing it.
 - ✘ Cemetery documentation
 - ≥ Barb gave the clerk a document describing the Sexton duties. This has been put on the computer and will be used to craft a help wanted advertisement after the revised ordinance is adopted.
 - ≥ The ladder in the well pit that belongs to Howard needs to be replaced, and a metal detector is needed. Howard is willing to have his tools be used until we find replacements.
 - ≥ The burial plot owners and any used graves are on the computer for 75% of the cemetery. A scanner was purchased for scanning deeds and transfer/cremation certificates. This has made it very easy to answer questions regarding plots and gravesites, and makes purchasing a program and paying yearly

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- fees seem unnecessary. Another step is to mark veteran burial sites, and the date of purchase. This will assist in assuring veteran graves are marked with flags, and provide the date to verify for forfeiture.
- ✘ Audit – one last paper to collect for pre fieldwork. Meet at hall with auditor Sept 12 and 15 at 9:30am.
 - ✘ Tim’s email as trustee is goodwell.trustee@gmail.com, we will get a zoning administrator/trustee email set up and hopefully have all township email addresses under gmail.
 - ✘ It was asked to consider title/name desk plates for the board so the public would know the board members’ position/name.
 - ✘ November Election – have 3 inspectors set, one alternate. The public accuracy test is October 25 at 6:30.
 - ✘ Election 2024:
 - ≥ Drop box ordered, nothing back yet.
 - ≥ Reviewed mail boxes, chose one regular size and one larger size to compare. The smaller size seems to fit our needs. Anything larger would most likely be ordered and sent to a residence. Tim motioned that Jennifer purchase the smaller mail box and the post for it, Rachel 2nd, passed.
 - ≥ 9 days of early voting:
 - ☆ The process was discussed:
 - ✓ Proposal 2022-2 has put in place early voting each federal/state election for at least 9 days, but counties may choose more. Newaygo County has chosen 9 days. The current law put into place requires the following:
 - (i) Each township must have available a site in the county for their voters to be allowed to vote early for 9 days before an election day.
 - (ii) The site must provide machinery separate from election day machinery for any such items that retain vote information. These include tabulator and computer.
 - (iii) The site must provide a minimum of 3 workers for these days, for the 8 voting hours and any pre-post day tasks.
 - (iv) The site must send out early voting location information to each voter that could vote there.
 - ✓ Three choices for each township to choose from:
 - (i) Join the county and have them run and we pay based on number of total voters we have. We have no control over anything. Any voter wishing to vote would have to go to the county site in White Cloud. The cost is under \$800.00 for Goodwell.
 - (ii) A township may be the site for their township. Everything is handled by the township, funding, responsibility, everything just like election day.
 - (iii) Townships that ‘touch’ a township may join with that township. They would work out the funding and the scheduling. The hosting township would have the responsibility.
 - ✓ There are grant funds available. Mainly focused on county sites. Less for going joint, minimal for going alone.
 - ☆ The costs and were described and discussed.
 - ✓ There are materials that can be merged with building supplies (locking room, mailbox).
 - ✓ Some are not necessary until next fiscal year (Assist Terminal and printer for ballots on demand – printing ballots as needed vs. ordering more than enough)
 - ✓ Ballot box is ordered through the state and will not cost if installed by the state.
 - ✓ We now have a November 2023 millage for special education, we will need only 3 inspectors and 9 day voting is optional (Goodwell chooses not to offer). This will take from election money for Presidential Primary needs. Inspectors, postage, and mileage.
 - ✓ Notices to each voter must be sent stating location of 9 days of early voting. If in the same location all 3 federal/state elections, only one notice per voter, else each election must have notice sent out.
 - ✓ Ongoing costs for each election for the early voting
 - (i) Ballots – expect to be minimal with print on demand ballots, and the election day ballot supply being used for all 10 days.

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(ii) Programming - could be as high as a new program, but possible (should be) lower due to being a copy of the election day program, and so would be a 'simple' copy. A bit more if joint townships.

(iii) Inspectors - need 3 for early voting (verified day after this meeting). Clerk will act as one for most of the time (not Sundays) and not charge.

☆ The expectations were discussed.

- ✓ Currently the Goodwell Township hall is not ADA compliant. The path to the entry (ramp and landing) and entry (door) are not compliant for elderly and disabled voters act. The west end of the hall is not ADA compliant.
- ✓ With possibly no help from the state to accomplish requirements, and with other instances of the state taking portions of the township activities, it appears there is an intentional push to take the autonomy from townships. As the one held responsible, the clerk is not interested in joining the county and having voters pay more in time and gasoline for what she cannot control.
- ✓ Monroe Township is interested in joining Goodwell. Their board meeting is not for another 2 weeks. We will find out as soon as possible after their meeting. Norwich, Wilcox, and Big Prairie also have interest, but have chosen the county for now.
- ✓ The clerk is pressed to state that if the clerk pay does not more adequately match the hours and effort put in over the last almost 4 years, the township will have to find another person to run for clerk in 2024. But, with adequate pay for the work done, one of the 3 inspectors at the 9 days would be done without charge by her (except no Sundays). This is because it is expected that so few voters will vote early, she will be able to accomplish township work during the times there are no voters. If there were many early voters, than election day will be minimal and the same could apply.
- ✓ There is around \$18,700.00 in costs. Some will be handled by building expense, some is not needed until after the budget year, there may be some grant monies. The clerk asked for around \$7,000.00 be added to the election budget. This would handle all costs for all election related items through the 2024 Presidential Primary election.

☆ The seriousness of the voting process for Goodwell Township was thoroughly discussed and upheld. Ideas of how to work the ADA requirements are being considered, working with the ongoing costs of wages is being considered. Tim motioned to move forward with conducting 9 early days of voting at the Goodwell Township hall with or without any grant funds. Rachel 2nd. Roll call: Rachel – yes, Jennifer – yes, Bob – yes, Tim – yes, passed.

◇ Old Business:

- ✘ Review of Cemetery ordinance postponed until next board meeting where supervisor will be present
- ✘ Bob – citation work for music festival. Talked to magistrate to make sure of citation, told he must have new citation form, it is being ordered. Will pursue getting citation(s) completed and checked by attorney. Dave Grveles was given results of a survey done by a group regarding the music festival. 384 surveys sent out, 31 returned (address). Returned surveys: 5 were neutral, 6 approved, 49 disapproved. It is believed the original paperwork and the names of the individuals in the organization may be needed for the lawyer. Will find out as this moves along.

◇ New Business:

✘ none

◇ Public Comment: none

◇ Tim motioned to adjourn, Rachel 2nd, passed. Meeting ended 8:45.

◇ Next meetings:

✘ Township meeting September 27th, 7pm

✘ Planning meeting October 3rd, 7pm