

APPROVED MINUTES  
PINE TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Hansen, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and prayer.

PRESENT: Edwin Hansen, Supervisor; Marla Sprague, Clerk; William H. Burr, Trustee; Lynwood Cannon, Trustee

ABSENT: Rachel Pitcher, Treasurer

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Hansen, Deputy Supervisor; Barbara Kaaikala, Deputy Clerk; Sue Pitcher, Deputy Treasurer; Steve Buchholz, Zoning Administrator; Becky Crawford, Road Committee Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The following amendments were added to the agenda:

Item 17B – Check 1973 is void

Item 16B - Treasurer needs envelopes to print taxes

Item 15B - Old Business – parking lot basketball hoops/winterize picnic tables

Cannon moved, supported by Burr, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC VOICE

Roy Burmeister asked when to expect tax receipts. Sue Pitcher stated that receipts are not sent unless requested. Burmeister requested a receipt. Sue Pitcher said she will provide the receipt at end of tonight's meeting.

Misty VanGessel introduced herself as write-in candidate for Pine Township Treasurer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cannon moved, supported by Sprague, to accept the corrected August 10, 2020 and the September 14, 2020 Minutes. Motion carried.

TREASURER/FINANCIAL REPORTS (on file)

The treasurer report was read by Sue Pitcher, Deputy Treasurer.

Cannon moved, supported by Sprague, to accept the Treasurer report. Motion carried.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Buchholz reported one zoning permit and no land divisions for the month of September.

Buchholz was referred to attorney Brock Wood of the Township legal firm, regarding the Phillips blight case by Rainbow Lake, who requested that Buchholz send one more letter and, if a court date will be held, that Buchholz take updated pictures.

The sawmill on Kendaville Road needs a new special use permit in the new owner's name.

Buchholz has begun a letter on the blight case regarding the trucking company on Coral Road.

Sprague moved, supported by Burr, to accept Zoning Administrator's report. Motion carried.

ROAD REPORT

Cannon reported that on Tuesday, October, 6, 2020, Bill Drews, Hansen, Cannon, and Chad Barber toured Township roads to prepare Drews for the upcoming road meeting in December.

FIRE DISTRICT REPORT (on file)

Burr reported the firemen's meeting was held on September 13, 2020. 26 firemen were present and participated in scuba and firefighting survival training. The Lakeview and Maple Valley units have blended well.

Cannon moved, supported by Sprague to accept the fire report. Motion carried.

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CEMETERY REPORT (on file)

Sprague read the report that was turned in by Vicki Shindorf.

Cannon moved, supported by Burr, to accept the cemetery report. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

FARNSWORTH PARK PICNIC TABLES

The picnic tables for Farnsworth Park are to be delivered Thursday afternoon to Hansen's residence.

SOLAR ENERGY ORDINANCE

A synopsis was published on 9/25/20 in The Greenville Daily News at a cost of \$115.00.

BALLOT DROP BOX INSTALLATION

The ballot box was installed last week. Sprague thanked Richard Shindorf for the installation and Peasley Trucking for having stored the ballot box and assisting Shindorf with installation.

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY FENCE

Hansen and Richard Shindorf have the fencing materials and are working on installation.

NEW BUSINESS

SUPERVISOR REPORT

Hansen recognized Dan Paris and Albert Jongewaard of Apex Wind Energy.

Kevin Besen, Pine River Township, Gratiot County Supervisor, gave an update on the wind energy process in that township.

Hansen requested that Paris, Jongewaard, and Besen attend the January Pine Township Planning Commission meeting.

Hansen reported that the 2019-20 budget is not yet complete.

PINE TOWNSHIP TREASURER UPDATE

Sprague presented three letters of complaint written by township residents and turned in to her. Sprague read the letters from Phil Harris and Eileen Burr.

Sprague reported needing stamps to mail absentee ballots as required by law, but the Treasurer was not available to sign the checks. Sprague further reported complaints from township residents

Eileen Burr reported having canvassed the township and learned that residents are very angry in being unable to contact the Treasurer.

Ron Burmeister stated he stopped at the Township Hall to pay his taxes on September 14. Rachel Pitcher was leaving the building and told him if he was 5 minutes earlier she would have taken his payment, but instructed him to put the payment in the township mailbox.

Sue Pitcher stated that the opposition is politically led and that there were no complaints until three weeks before the election. The treasurer is legally bound to charge a fee if the envelope is postmarked the 15<sup>th</sup> or later. Sue stated that she was unable to give an update on Rachel's status, but knows that Rachel's belongings are still at her residence. Sue stated that Rachel will be present at the November meeting.

Cannon stated that the treasurer should be required to be in the office weekly like the clerk and supervisor and most of these problems could be resolved. Sue Pitcher agreed.

Cannon moved, supported by Sprague that the treasurer office be required to be open to the public once per week. Motion carried. The treasurer can pick the day, the day and hours must be posted, and the time period must be for a minimum of 4 hours.

BASKETBALL HOOPS

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Tabled until March, 2021 Meeting

WINTERIZE TOWNSHIP PICNIC TABLES

Hansen and Burr will decide how to best winterize the picnic tables. Tarping was suggested.

AUDIT UPDATE

Sprague is still attempting to schedule a date with the auditor for the audit. Sue Pitcher stated that she can be available to do any of the Treasurer duties related to the audit.

TREASURER SUPPLIES

Hansen stated that the Deputy Treasurer needs a Brother printer drum, #663 ink cartridges, pre-stamped envelopes, and 4 reams of green paper to complete tax printing. Sprague moved, supported by Cannon, to authorize the purchase for the purpose of printing taxes. Motion carried. Sprague will check Amazon Prime Day and Staples for the best price on the items.

TOWNSHIP EQUIPMENT POLICY

Sprague had donated to her church the Township copy machine that had recently been replaced. Hansen stated that he needs that copy machine. Sprague apologized for having donated the machine and will get it and deliver to Hansen's house. Hansen moved, supported by Burr that any equipment that leaves the Township be previously approved by the Board. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Cannon moved, supported by Burr, to pay checks 1958-1992 (checks 1969, 1973, 1974 being void), plus the ACH (automatic clearing house) payment for township checks, in payment of township bills in the amount of \$29,978.90. Motion carried.

Sprague moved, supported by Cannon, to pay Hunter Lake check 529 in the amount of \$600.00. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Cannon moved, supported by Burr , to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 P.M. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted.

Marla SpragueA

Marla Sprague, Clerk