

Sidney Township
Minutes
May 3, 2021

Supervisor Peterman called the Sidney Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Supervisor, Terry Peterman; Clerk, Carrie Wills; Treasure, Corinda Stover; Trustees, Jed Welder and Ray Leyrer

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2021 meeting as written. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

CLERK

Wills gave an update on the FOIA request from Apex and reported that another FOIA request has been received from Robert Scott. Apex is appealing the letter and information regarding information not submitted at their first request. She is working on getting together the information requested from both FOIA's. The board approved continuing to work with the attorney at Foster Swift on the Apex request.

SUPERVISOR

None

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laura and Larry Engel.

The Engels gave a historical review of their property which has always been used for agriculture and presented their reasons for being in support of the wind turbines.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer's report was received. Current checkbook balance is \$190,285.61 \$62.61 was taken from the fire bond to pay the county treasurer for bill backs. At the last fire meeting an increase of \$1500 per entity was approved to purchase new equipment. Funds will come from the fire bond. Leyrer asked for a copy of a receipt or invoice to confirm the cost of the equipment.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Welder to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.

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CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$49,672.88. Included in that amount was payment for the annual fire fees, cost to publish the notice for the upcoming public hearing and attorney fees for the ordinances and the FOIA request.

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to approve the Clerk's report and pay the monthly expenses as presented. Motion carried.

Wills asked for board approval to invoice Ferris and Montcalm Townships for a portion of the cost to pay Board of Review members as neither of the two townships sent a member to sit on the board; our members handled all the cases. The board agreed to sending the invoices.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

The special meeting for both the wind and solar ordinances was held in the park on April 24. The Commission voted to advance the ordinances to the next level and hold the public hearing in the park on May 22 or May 23 in case of rain.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Adam Petersen, County Commissioner

Adam updated the board on county business. The Equalization report was turned in; land values in the county are up about 2%. The annual audit was completed; the books look good. The budget process has started. Drain Office has solved the discrepancies in the sewer funds.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale did an update on zoning. Two new locations were added to the list because of junk and unlicensed cars. Terry told Dale about another location on Grow Road to check out. There are tires piled along the road and dead deer carcasses.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wind Ordinance

Nothing to report because of the moratorium freeze approved by the board

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Colleen Venema: Supports wind farms. She has talked to property owners who already have turbines near or on their property and have no reported problems.

Ned Welder: Supports wind turbines. Partnering with Apex will help kids, roads, education and make a good future.

Joe Moleski: Doesn't feel the drafted ordinance is workable. Visited sites in Carson City. Reported noises like squeaks were repaired immediately; turbines don't run all the time;

Karen Hostride: She is not in favor of turbines. Understands how farm life but need to consider how it affects other people with health problems.

Carol Hackett: She is from Douglass Township. Commented that we only have one chance to get this right. Asked us to look at the long term effects and do what's best for the township.

Patti Shindecker: She is concerned with the noise levels. The turbines are much louder when the wind is blowing harder than when it's calm. Not everyone has a problem with the flickers but some do.

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Kimberly Wierda: She is against the turbines because of the health effects. She has friends that are living in their basemenet because the flickers affect their autistic child. She hopes the community can come together as a community and not be torn apart by their difference of opinion.

Laura Engle: Apex says they are putting in place new software that can be programed to shut down the turbines during times when flickers would be a problem.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m..

Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk