

Sidney Township Board Minutes
November 1, 2021

The Sidney Township Board meeting held at Sidney Township Hall, 3019 S Grow Road, Sidney, Michigan on November 1, 2021 was called to order by Supervisor Peterman at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance.

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

AGENDA:

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

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk:

Wills reported that the American Rescue Plan Act application has been approved and we should receive \$255,705. The first half should be deposited sometime within the next few weeks.

It was decided to put out for bids the project for remodeling the hall and making the current office into a kitchen.

A letter was received from several land owners that live near or adjacent to short-term rental properties concerning violations of nuisance and noise ordinances from the renters. They are asking for an ordinance to regulate the short-term rentals

A letter was received from the Montcalm County 64B District Court Administrator & Magistrate, Jason Evans, asking for dates and times of board meetings and a list of our ordinances and the amount of the fees for violations.

Supervisor

Terry reported that the dirt in the park has been leveled. He would like to have gravel brought in to make the area good for parking. Need to ask if it can be covered by ARPA funds.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Laura Engel

Laura commented on the issue of township residents submitting petitions for recall of Jed Welder, our trustee. She feels that the people should take a look at Jed's total background as a veteran and his continued support of township and county concerns before thinking about asking for his recall.

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover gave the treasurer's report. Current checkbook balance is \$168,374.65.

Since rates have been increased for hall rental, there have been more cancellations and no shows. Not sure if it is a result of the increased fees or something else.

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$12,019.51. Drains at large were paid and Danny Lund was paid for leveling the spoils in the park.

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

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Leyrer commented that the next meeting will be December 1st at 7:00 p.m. The commission will start working on an ordinance for short-term rentals which will be for rentals of less than 28 days and will be township wide not just for the areas surrounding the lakes. They will look at permit fees, inspections, available parking space, and provided docks and/or boats etc.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

County Commissioner, Adam Petersen, gave an update on county business. ARPA money has been received to cover last year's losses due to the Covid pandemic.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale reported that the number of zoning permits is up from last year. There were five violations reported during the last two months.

OLD BUSINESS:

AirB&B Issue

This issue was discussed under the Planning Commission Report. The commission will be working on an ordinance

Doors

The board discussed installation of new entry doors as the money was approved in the budget for this year. The Stanton Hardware can install them but need to get the doors ordered. New rubber seals are needed on both front and back entrance doors.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sewer Debt Service Fees

Peterman reported that he attended the sewer advisory meeting in October at which the topic of adding a debt service to the sewer bills was discussed. The additional fees would cover a short fall that will be due at the time of the bond payoff. The amount of the fee would be \$24 to \$36 per year. Peterman would like to hold an informational meeting at the college sometime after the holidays for all residents within the sewer district. He will check with the college to see if the meeting can be held on either January 10th or 14th, 2022.

Lake Weeds Tax Approval

The amount to add to the tax roll for weed control on Nevins and Derby Lakes was addressed. Account balances were reviewed.

A motion was made by Wills and seconded by Welder to spread \$50 for front lots and \$25 for back lots on Derby Lake and \$80 for front lots and \$40 for back lots on Nevins Lake. Motion carried.

CITIZENS COMMENTS:

Mary Baez commented on the issue of the mud bogs that she and her husband sponsor on their property. The property is not zoned as residential but is actually commercial property. She has checked on state laws regarding fireworks displays. They sponsored three mud bog events this year. The board will check to be sure the property is zoned as commercial. The board has only received a couple of complaints about the mud bog activities.

There was a comment concerning long-term rentals that are not removing trash from the property.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk