

Sidney Township
Minutes
September 14, 2020

Supervisor Peterman called the Sidney Township Board meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE: Peterman, Stover, Wills, Welder, Leyrer

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Wills to approve the agenda with an addition under New Business for a roll call vote on the Park and Recreation Master Plan. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES:

A motion was made by Stover and seconded by Welder to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk
None

Supervisor

Peterman read a letter received from Lillian Christopherson regarding the Daily News article about the board members not all wearing a mask at the last meeting. A notice should be posted on the hall door asking everyone to wear a mask.

Peterman also gave an update on the sewer system. Drain Commissioner has discussed the idea of having the township take over the administration of the sewer system. There are still several details to explore before a decision is made. Chris Putt who is a member on the sewer advisory committee updated the board on what was discussed at the last meeting. It was the committee's recommendation to increase the operation and maintenance fees by 5.5% for the coming year as is recommended in the SAW grant. The budget will be reviewed for next year to determine if another increase is needed to build up the fund balance for upcoming expenses.

A motion was made by Welder and seconded by Wills to raise the operation and maintenance fees for the coming year to 5.5% as recommended by the committee and the SAW grant. Stover, Wills, Welder, Peterman in favor; Leyrer opposed. Motion carried.

SHERIFF'S REPORT:

Officer Austin Edwards presented an overview of last month's sheriff activities.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

None

REPORTS:

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Stover reported that revenue sharing was normal again this month. Current checkbook balance is \$85,493.82

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

CLERK'S REPORT:

Wills presented a list of expenses for the month. Total expenses reported was \$36,587.90.

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:

The planning commission met on September 1st. A representative from Apex Wind Energy was there to answer questions about drafting an ordinance to govern wind farms. The committee would like to hold a special meeting the end of September to review the ordinance and have it ready to present to the board at the October meeting for approval. Welder commented that Leyrer had not attended the last two planning commission meetings. Leyrer responded that he had not felt well enough to attend.

A motion was made by Leyrer and supported by Welder to approve a special meeting date in September to prepare the ordinance regarding wind farms. Those in favor: Wills, Leyrer, Peterman & Welder. Nay vote: Stover Motion carried.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT:

Commissioner Petersen reported that there will be a solid waste collection in September for electronics and tires at the Health Department. The county's budget was settled with raises approved for employees and prosecuting attorneys, hiring another employee for the Clerk's office, and two part-time security guards for the courthouse. Revenue sharing is still uncertain.

ZONING REPORT:

Dale updated the board on the progress for various complaint locations. A property owner was present to ask for board direction on what she can do about a neighbor who has made improvements to his property that have nearly encroached on her property and blocked her view of the lake.

OLD BUSINESS:

Wind Farms

Welder reported that the wind turbine project has met its goals for obtaining lease signatures. MET towers will be set up next month to get wind data to determine locations for erecting wind turbines.

Police Contract

The board previously discussed discontinuing their contract with the Montcalm County Sheriff for police protection. With the passage of the new millage for the Sheriff's Department, the board feels it would be a double charge to the citizens of our township to charge for both the millage assessment and the cost of the contracted services.

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Welder to no longer contract with the county as of January 1, 2021. Terry will talk to the Sheriff about an hourly rate for occasions when a county officer may be necessary. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Park & Recreation Plan

The new master plan was presented at the public hearing held prior to this board meeting. The board took action to approve the plan.

A roll call vote was taken: Leyrer-yes; Welder-yes; Stover-yes; Wills-yes, Peterman-yes. All in favor. The master plan was approved.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Dale asked if he would be responsible to ticket zoning violations if the county officer was no longer contracted to do it. The constable, Martin Thomsen should accompany Dale and if he is not available, Terry will go with him. The board does not expect him to go alone.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Leyrer and seconded by Stover to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried.

Carrie Wills
Clerk