

Goodwell Minute Notes

May 29, 2024

- ◇ JohnT. called meeting to order 7:00 pm, meeting was recorded:
 - ✂ Rachel B., Bob Birr, John T., Tim M., and Jennifer W. present
 - ✂ Public:

☺ Alec Dakin	☺ Lauren Deater
☺ Clint & Shelley Cook	☺ Sandra Wright
☺ Jeremy Rusilowski	☺ Adam Mercer
☺ Dylan Wimmer	☺ Stu Sanders – RoD
☺ John Miedema	☺ Jessie Alonzo
☺ Christopher Gingerich – Big Prairie FD	☺ Lisa Woods
☺ David Fast	

- ◇ Pledge of Allegiance recited.
- ◇ Email was sent out with minutes from April 25, 2024, meeting. Bob motioned to accept the minutes, Rachel 2nd, passed. Minutes posted to the township website.
- ◇ Rachel: **Treasurer's report** as of April 24, 2024:
 - ✂ Have \$190,962.66 total. Payments were \$9,479.05. Payroll taxes of \$1,008.44 was the largest payment. Revenue was \$10,290.62. This includes make-up taxes from last FYE. Jennifer motioned to accept treasurer's report as presented and pay bills. Bob 2nd, passed.
- ◇ Public Comment:
 - ✂ Stuart Sanders – Register of Deeds update: Stuart has been the RoD for 10 years and is running again. Public documents stored in mines, vault in office, electronic. In case of emergency, can get up and running for realtors so document processes keep moving. Exploring new technologies. Working on legislation for 10-year imprisonment if papers proven fraudulent. Wayne County has the first fraud team in the country. Newaygo has a Fraud Alert System that is free for residents in Newaygo County. Initiatives: E Report deeds to replace much of costly physical paper process. Also looking to e-notary which is secure.
 - ✂ Adam Mercer – running for Sherriff of Newaygo County. 20 years in various jobs in Newaygo County Sherriff office. Currently in Kent County Sherriff office. Looking to have; community engagement, school events aimed at positive interaction with students, community organization engagement, work with city regarding locating drug dealers and thieves. Also improve leadership in Sherriff office, aiming toward long-term retention of employees. Find process to improve how the 3 – 4 deputies patrol the 28 townships, working with what we have vs. increasing taxes.
 - ✂ Chris Gingrich ~Big Prairie Township. Fire Report: May- 18 runs: 11 medical, 7 fire – 3 illegal burns. A couple lift assists. Pancake breakfast a success. Getting graphics changed on trailer. Staff of 14.
 - ✂ Jessie Alonzo ~ Big Prairie Township Fire Chief: Sunday is Tom's retirement party (retired in '21) 3pm – 5pm. Need to replace mainline engine: \$630,000 brand new. Will need \$910,000 to complete the engine.
- ◇ Bob: **Zoning report**:
 - ✂ FOUR zoning applications – One for a house to be built on Locust Ave. One for Joseph Kauffman for adding to back of building. Joni Kauffman pulled another permit for a storage building that wasn't completed and another permit for building a lean to for firewood west of the greenhouse.
 - ✂ Sent a letter to James Johnson (lives in Lansing) regarding his property at Pine and Baseline. For blight violation. Sent around May 14th and asked for a response within 30 days. Nothing yet.
 - ✂ Last weekend Bob was contacted by John (Supervisor) regarding the mud run. By the time Bob made it to the location, the event was shut down. Bob talked to Ralph Rattin regarding the mud run. He stated that it was shutting down at 8pm. Bob asked the organizer to come to either a planning board meeting or a township board meeting and explain how the event is set up/advertised. No response yet. John had gotten 2 calls regarding the mud run before he contacted Bob.
- ◇ **Planning report**:
 - ✂ Tim: Discussed the statutory requirements and what is missing. Will be following up on; bylaws, annual reports, and budget. Also: Discussion of cottage business brought up by Luke. There is positive interest.

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- ✘ Question on the bylaws found and any input from the findings on the recent FOIA request. The bylaws found were from 2009, passed by the planning board but never needed to go to the regular board, per MTA call.
- ◇ Jennifer: **Clerk's Report**
 - ✘ June 17 is mandatory election training for the clerk. May need to use 2nd deputy for program testing while Joni is out of the country. Elected positions take effect December 1 due to overlapping of election verification dates. Information will be posted to the township web-site for voter roll clean-up.
 - ✘ L-4029 information has changed, now a millage in August will be "expired" until millage passes. Will need to send in a new L-4029 after voting, if passed.
 - ✘ A plot transfer was done from the owner to his son. Tried to have map printed, printer could not help. Will try Ryan Coffey &/or West Michigan Shoreline. A request came to see about putting in a bench. Jennifer will check with Barb regarding a bench being put in the cemetery.
 - ✘ Hazard Mitigation funds available for projects. No projects known.
 - ✘ No response from insurance company regarding bond forms.
 - ✘ Wilcox Township is redoing their master plan. The Supervisor and planning chair will get copies.
 - ✘ In reviewing the budget so far, cemetery supplies is within \$40 of its budgeted amount. Will discuss with Sexton to see if close to done with purchasing supplies.
 - ✘ Township clean-up is Saturday, June 1, 8am to noon.
- ◇ Old Business: Independent Bank deposit shortage, Rachel was just given the contact information, she will call.
- ◇ New Business:
 - ✘ A transfer is being requested by the nephew raised by the deceased plot owner. Had him send notarized request and his brother send notarized acknowledgement and consent. The board wants legal papers as proof. Jennifer will check with Barb.
- ◇ Public Comment:
 - ✘ Jeremy 7353 E 2 Mile – Preplanning for his event. The special ordinance states if the organizer has a controlled substance conviction no license will be granted. The application does not ask about if there is a conviction. Will it be worth completing the application, or will it be denied? The zoning administrator is responsible for verifying if any convictions and checking the event for issues (will also use the help of any member of the County that is at the event). The law also has some provisions the organizer can check into regarding having minor convictions expunged.
 - ✘ Alec: The law seems that if there is a violation, you can have no event. The recent mud run violated the ordinance so, no mud runs. Board: The event took place before the ordinance was to take effect. There is an overlap between adopting/printing/and when the ordinance is enforceable, cannot even get a permit. Going forward, the special event ordinance is in effect and the board is desiring to work through. Both the music event and the mud run event owners knew a new ordinance would be coming. Bob will send a letter with a copy of the new ordinance to the mud run owner.
 - ✘ Alec: It is discrimination if denied due to a conviction. Board: The attorney was asked to make sure the ordinance was legal, legitimate, and enforceable. The township has a responsibility to protect the community. Also, the ordinance will be reviewed at some point and at that time something could be altered.
- ◇ Jennifer motioned to adjourn, Bob 2nd, passed. Meeting ended 8:15 pm.
- ◇ Next meetings:
 - ✘ Township meeting June 26th 7pm
 - ✘ Planning meeting August 13th, 7pm