

# GREENBUSH TOWNSHIP MINUTES

Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024

Board Members in Attendance

Thelen, Smith, Roof, Kindel and Graham

## **Election Commission Meeting**

April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 7PM

Opened Meeting with the Pledge of Allegence

Clerk Smith gave the following report: The May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 St. Johns School Bond Proposal will take place at the Greenbush Township Hall 1883 E. French Rd. St. Johns MI. Polls will open at 7am and close at 8pm. Our certified workers are as follows: Debra Hebler (Chairman) Rebecca Fike, Annette Snyder, Leona Thayer, Jennie Jorae and Brianne Moore. All certified election officials will be in attendance, plus Clerk Smith. The receiving Board at the May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Election will be Annette Snyder and Rebecca Fike. Clerk Smith is asking for a motion with a roll call vote to raise the hourly rate for the Election inspectors from the previous \$12 hr. to \$15 hr., with the \$50 bonus to the chairman to remain intact. \* Motion by Graham to increase the election inspectors wages as stated by Clerk Smith \* Seconded by Kindel \* Roll call vote 5 Ayes 0 Nays \* Motion passed \* Motion to adjourn meeting by Thelen \* Seconded by Graham \* Motion passed \* Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Thelen opened the regular Greenbush Township Monthly Meeting at 7:06pm by welcoming everyone in attendance.

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made by Smith to accept the agenda as presented with the following changes, \* St. Johns School Superintendent Berthiaume to speak after Fire Chief Whitford, \* Discuss (not approve) Road Contracts and new zoning concerns. \* Seconded by Thelen \* Motion passed Agenda approved.

**Clinton County Sheriff:** No one in attendance and a monthly E-mail had not been received. Board members did comment on the MPH sign on Scott Rd. A good reminder to slow down.

**St. Johns Fire Department-Chief Whitford:** Chief Whitford spoke highly of the Fire Dept. and the Fire fighters that are employed. He emphasized the importance of getting a burn permit. They can be done on line or by going to the St. Johns Police

Dept.M-F. These are annual permits and are good for one year. The Fire Dept. is working with the Police Dept.on new software for the input of fire calls. As of date Greenbush has had 9 runs. Clerk Smith reminded residents to check their homeowners insurance for fire coverage. The Township charges \$800.00 an hr. Not to exceed \$1600.00 and most homeowners are covered with \$500.00. A new fire truck arrived in Dec .it has a 1000 gallon water and foam capacity. Chief Whitford also reported that new air packs are in the process of being purchased, current ones were bought in 1988. The Fire Dept. is also looking to hire one more fighter to join the team. A grant was received from the DNR for some greatly needed fire hose and another grant was received from Agro Liquid to help out with some equipment that would be used on an upcoming grain bin rescue exercise. It was also mentioned that fire rates to the contracted Townships might increase in the upcoming FY. Supervisor Thelen did not seem concerned with this possible raise due to the fact that the Fire Dept has given us quality service and that we are lucky that we have their services. Chief Whitford concluded to please contact him with any questions or concerns. Residents were wondering about the Solar panel situation? What the cost of thousands of gallons of water to fight the fire of the panels. Whitford agreed there would be a major cost and they have had some training but it is more sit and watch them burn. The Board appreciated the update from Chief Whitford.

**St. Johns School Board- Superintendent Berthiaume & VP School Board Scott**

**Darragh:** The May 7th Bond Proposal was discussed and brought forth to the Greenbush Township Board and residents. It was explained what the bond would be used for and the benefits of passing the Bond. If passed there is various school enhancements that need to take place such as smaller classrooms for K-3, updates to Eureka Elementary (security/playground improvements), addition of a early childhood development center and updating sports facilities. The board appreciated that they took time to explain their upcoming bond proposal.

**CAAS Report:** Supervisor Thelen attended monthly meeting, it was reported that the runs had gone up 40 from the last month. A second echo unit would be all staffed and director Webers position is still currently taking applications.

**Reading & Approval of Prior Months Minutes:**

Motion made by Kindel and seconded by Graham, to table the reading March's meeting minutes due to computer issues.

Motion Passed

**Treasures Report & Approval of Bill Payments:** Treasure report was given by Roof, asking that the Balance sheet along with the Profit and Loss report be approved.

Checks #14522-14526 including EFTPS and ACH for approval.

(Fiscal year 23-24 books to be closed out after Patty reviews the amendments)

Motion made by Kindel to accept report and pay said checks.

Seconded By Smith \*Motion passed

**Correspondence:** Many drains in the township are to be under maintenance this summer, residents will be made aware of maintenance prior to. Smith went to Quarertley officers meeting, she reported that sheriff Dush attended and introduced Chris Hambleton head of areas SWAT Team. It was brought to their attention of how they are funded and Chris asked that townships be made aware, so they could potentially budget funds for the SWAT Team. Officer Dush also commented on the new scanners for the county jail.

**Public Comment (Anything other than agenda items):** Resident Kellog reported that Briggs Public Library had received a grant from the State Senate Committee and other various grants. This is to ensure that the new renovations being done are fully funded.

**County Commisisoner Report:** Commisisoner Val Vail-Shirey was in attendance and made all aware that there are county staffing issues specifcally 911 & Sheriff Department due to the need for competative wages .At the Clinton County 4-H Grounds the arena is to be updated, beef cattle barn will get a new roof and now each of the buildings can be rented out. The Ordinance at the city commisioners meeting for the solar applications on 3/26 had 11 ammendments and 10 were approved. There was a lease signed to put in a battery storage facility in Clinton County - public hearing on 5/9 at the courthouse. Todd Cambell is acting director as of now for zoning. Any concerns on broadband can be directed to Adam Smiddy as he is cordianator for Clinton County.

**Assessor Report - Beth Botke:** No reports to be made but wanted let residents know that she will be out measuring as well as to be aware that tax season will soon be upon us.

**Old Buisness:**

Road Report/ Fiscal year 23-24 Road Contract

The Road Project contracts were disscused by board members in concern with the paving of Scott Rd. (Marshall - Hyde). Graham suggested to table the project till more insight on its necessity of project. Graham made motion to table the signing of said sections road paving until the May meeting. Smith seconded. 3 Ayes and 2 Naves Motion Passed

Motion made by Graham to approve and sign remaing road contracts (Excluding Scott Rd. Marshal to Hyde). Seconded by Kindel  
Roll Call Vote - 5 Ayes and 0 Naves

Road Millage 2024 Approval for August 24 Primary Election

A motion made by Roof to allow Smith to send resolution and wording of road millage renewal to township lawyer so she could proceed to have theTownship Board

sign it and get it registered with the County so it could be put on the August ballot. Seconded by Graham

Roll Call Vote - 5 Ayes and 0 Nays \*Motion passed

Green Energy Update

The Ordinance at City Commissioners meeting on solar and Wind applications took place on 3/26. There was 11 amendments and 10 were approved. Supervisor Thelen said that it was give and take but all would be good improvements to the wind/solar applications for Clinton County.

**New Business:**

Resident concerns of well being of local properties

The Board is taking into all considerations on how to handle the current problem of the residential and land owners not keeping control of their trash . The Board would suggest to call the Clinton County Zoning but even better, try to be neighborly and work the situation out between yourselves

Zoning Issue

Supervisor Thelen asked the Board their opinion on the situation on DeWitt Rd. that had a property fire and are living in unsatisfactory conditions. Thelen is concerned that the clean up has not taken place . \* Kindel made a motion that the Board would like Thelen to go and speak to the residents about this situation in a neighborly manner. \*Seconded by Smith \*Motion passed.

**Additional Public Comment:** The concernment of the majority of residents at the meeting spoke of the School Bond Proposal. Also brought up was the signing of the proposal for the county control of Zoning to be put on the November ballot. The fact that some land owners are still signing leases for Solar and Wind was also discussed by the residents.

**Adjournment:** \* Motion was made by Graham \* Seconded by Kindel to adjourn the meeting \*Motion passed

**Meeting Adjourned** at 10:10 pm

**Next Meeting May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 7pm**

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Supervisor Lee Thelen

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Clerk Ramona Smith