

MARTIN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

November 14, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Tiemeyer, Leep, Sipple, Schipper, Smit, present.

Motion made by Tiemeyer, supported by Schipper, to approve October 10, 2018, regular Board meeting minutes, with correction to fire department and Election Commission Meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Welcome Guests:

Black, County Commissioner, presented a synopsis of county business.

Ambulance: None

Cemetery: Tiemeyer stated an issue that she is dealing with incorrect cemetery records. There was a plot that showed available, which was not at the time of digging. There is a lot that was vacant near where the family wanted the burial. The same family would like to purchase two more plots next to their family member who was recently buried. The 2 plots they would like were spoken for by a family in the 1940's with no activity since then. Tiemeyer would like the board approval to release the 2 lots and be made available per our Township Ordinance after a certain length of time. Motion made by Schipper, supported by Tiemeyer, to approve those two lots to be opened back up for availability. Motion carried unanimously. The lots will get probed to verify the lots are in fact vacant. There is also an issue of occupied burial plots with no headstones to identify. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer will work on creating a system to have in place for better records in this area. Leep and Sipple met Nate Jager and Dave Smit (land owners adjacent to cemetery) at New East to see if there is a possibility of expanding our cemetery. We do not have money budgeted for this potential project so this is just in discussion stage to see if, even possible. If the Township were to purchase some land to add on, the retaining wall would come out and move fill in to allow for more burial plots in the future. Leep will be in contact with Assessor, Simmons regarding the potential changes, etc.

Fire: Wykstra presented an application to the board and would like to recommend hiring Jessica Griffis. Motion made by Sipple, supported by Smit, to approve Griffis as a new fire fighter. The County has been covering the cost for training academy for new fire fighters. Wykstra was pleased to see that the fire millage passed. The Board thanked Chief Wykstra and the department for all their hard work in campaigning for the millage. Sipple suggested to include a thank you to the community as well, in the winter newsletter. Wykstra brought to the board's attention, of a donor which contributed in regards to the money raised on behalf of Jim Brenner's memorial, what the Township is going to do with the funds. There was close to \$1800 contributed. The board would like to acknowledge something meaningful in lieu of Jim and will continue to think of something special.

Library: Kelsey presented an update of the Library news, Santa will be at the Library Saturday, December 1 and in the Christmas parade December 7. Scott Kuykendall's presentation on WWII had a good turnout with around 35 people attending. The Library will be offering classes on making holiday wreaths. The new staff is doing well and working great together, giving a lot of help to Alicia.

Memorial Park: Kelsey stated that with north globe is out at the memorial park. The light on the Geib plague is on all the time and may need to be looked at. Kelsey and Anita took the flags down at the park. Leep thanked Alice for all her work and help with the park. Kraai is putting together a price on a hydrant. Tiemeyer states the park is buttoned up for winter.

Planning Commission: None

Roads: Keith Smit spoke to the board regarding the concerns and issues he sees with the roads. He feels they are not being taken care of properly, no ditches, grading around puddles, etc. Mr. Smit presented some suggestions of thoughts to improve or alternate solutions to be done. The Township can suggest policy change or modify at next road meeting in January with the County. Leep will discuss with other jurisdictions and be educated on what the Allegan County Road Commission policy is.

New Business:

Snowplow Bids – Bid proposal from Property Revolution for 2018/2019 snow removal is \$130 per time, for Township and Library lot, with .25 per pound of salt application. Bid proposal from DTW LLC, for plowing, shoveling at the Township and Library lots of \$60 per time at each location. Salting will be \$35 per time at each location. Contractor holds 100,000 coverage in liability Insurance also. Motion made by Sipple, supported by Leep, to approve DTW LLC, for snow removal at the Township and Library lots per bid proposal. Motion carried unanimously.

Board of Review Members – There were no requests for Board of Review members. Motion made by Leep, supported by Schipper, to reappoint Bruce Tiemeyer, Jodie Gilson and Don Dekema for the 2019-2020 term. Motion carried unanimously.

Marijuana Proposal – With the legalizing of recreational marijuana, the Township needs to amend the zoning ordinance to either allow or prohibit marijuana facilities within the Township. The board has discussed and reviewed the votes per Martin Township per ballot proposal did not pass within our township by voters. Motion made by Tiemeyer, supported by Smit, to approve attorney to draft an ordinance prohibiting marijuana facilities within Martin Township. Smit will be in contact with our Attorney.

Gravel Program Recommendations – Table until December and have time to review if any additional roads that may need gravel.

Winter News Letter – Tiemeyer presented the board with the draft winter newsletter per their review.

Old Business:

Township Hall Expansion –Tiemeyer presented the board with figures on cost for the expansion project. Estimate for the apparatus bay is \$316,000 and office space at \$452,000. With a down payment of \$200,000 total cost of project \$568,000 with interest at 3.5% for 15 years would be an estimated annual payment of \$47,806. Just for offices, \$452,000 with a \$200,000 down payment, would be \$252,000, interest at 3.5% for 15 years would be an estimated annual payment of \$21,210.

After discussion with moving forward on the expansion plan, motion made by Schipper, supported by Smit, to approve TAG for complete architectural/engineering rendering on phase II, in the amount of \$58,500. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by Leep, supported by Schipper, to approve the payment of bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Budget – no changes

Treasurer Report – Received for information

Board Reports:

Supervisor – Glenn – informed the board that the Sexton has done a lot of clean up in Old East of the trees and branches. The Sexton has also fixed the area around the headstone where a complaint was received. Leep forwarded as complaint on a property of a concerned resident to PCI for their information.

Clerk – Rachelle – Election turnout, Township Christmas party for December 1, invites out. Two members of the Planning Commission term will expire 12/31/18. Notice will be published for any interested members for the new term 01/01/19-12/31/2021.

Treasurer – Sue – learned a lot from the MTA Tax and collection conference she and her Deputy attended.

Trustee - John – would like a copy of the Martin Township Policy Manual, Smit will get to Schipper.

Trustee – Jack – none

Motion made by Sipple, supported by Smit, to adjourn meeting at 9:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Rachelle Smit
Martin Township Clerk