

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

IN PERSON MEETING

August 15, 2024

Held at Washington Township Hall, 8989 S. Baldwin Rd. Ashley, MI 48806

- I. Meeting called to order by Supervisor Whaley at 7:02pm, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll call- Present: H.Whaley, B.Hoffer, K.Whaley, N.Rogers, E.Whitford; Absent: (none)
- II. Motion to approve minutes from July 18, 2024 Board meeting by K.Whaley, 2nd by N.Rogers, all in favor, motion carried. Motion to approve Closed Session minutes from July 18 meeting by N.Rogers, 2nd by H.Whaley, all in favor, motion carried
- III. Motion to approve Agenda with additions of V.m. Evaluations, V.n. Fall Clean-Up, V.o. Chip Seal, V.p. Sound Study, by B.Hoffer, 2nd E.Whitford, all in favor, motion carried
- IV. Missing line item from May was added, the balance brought forward and adjusted on June & July reports. Discussion re: Luznak Trucking cost of gravel for parking lot should be paid from Building Maintenance in the GL. Motion to approve May, June & July financial reports as amended and August financial report as read and correct by B.Hoffer, 2nd by N.Rogers, roll call votes, yeas- E.Whitford, N.Rogers, K.Whaley, B.Hoffer, H.Whaley, nays- (none); motion carried
- V. Open Issues/Visitors: Tom Torok from Fulton Schools explained the sinking fund proposal. Howard requested a brief summary page with the information & ballot wording be sent to our clerk to be placed on our FB & put on our bulletin board. Steve Sopocy, Gratiot County District 4 Commissioner update on what's going on in the County (election, airport/grants/fuel sales, road commission, US127/ditches/turn arounds, township flag/school contest, playground equipment/parks grant from County/Pompeii Park)
 - a. Sale Lot on 127 - Howard, Lawyer and update: ongoing, Howard will contact lawyer for next step
 - b. Township flag – Annette & John Chvojka working on a contest for local high school arts students
 - c. Grants update – Nancy: Approved for grant from State \$72,000 to be adjusted, approved for \$20,000 grant from Gratiot Foundation
 - d. Dot.Gov, Microsoft 365 Info/Decision – Barb: rec'd Civic Clarity proposal, will provide the needed DSN to use the .gov domain, setting everything up in order with the .gov user so no person will own/control it but the office assigned will & can be reassigned as needed
 - e. Election update -Barb: 66 AV ballots returned, 128 In person voters, 1 EV voter, several people brought in the AV ballots to be tabulated on election day (they counted as In-person voters)

- f. Turbine complaints update - Howard/Addison monthly report read
- g. Sight Right-of-Way, Pompeii-Howard update: ongoing, Zoning Officer sent letter, tree still not trimmed
- h. Parking lot, Propane tank - Howard: tank to be moved next week, will call to schedule
- i. FOIA Don Cook - Barb: CSZ provided a PDF of Tax & Assessment Rolls, these were sent electronically, no fee was incurred
- j. 2L providers parking lot – Howard: possible interest by a towing company to lease & fence in parking lot, the other party will need to file for a Special Use Permit, no contact from them yet
- k. Election Emergency reaction Plan – Barb: will amend with our contact information the plan as provided by the Gratiot County Clerk & Michigan Bureau of Elections, we should still arrange for an alternate location for the election and use of a generator. Eric said he will contact East Washington Church as a possible alternate election location.
- l. Projected start date for Addition – Nancy: blueprints have been stamped, permits being pulled, estimated start date is September 16th, plan to be framed in before winter, parking lot needs to be completed before starting/inspections. Howard stated we need the use of a dump trailer to haul away dirt from digging basement to save on costs
- m. Employee Evaluations – tabled for closed session at next month’s meeting
- n. Fall Clean-up – Howard: October 5th 9am-1pm, confirmed agreement with Terrell’s for dumpsters same as last year, Eric suggested requesting/paying trucking fee for an extra dumpster on site as back up – Howard will inquire with Terrell’s
- o. Chip Seal – Howard: edges being done this week, chip seal scheduled for next week per Joe ~~Albin~~ Aubin at Gratiot County Road Commission
- p. Sound Study – Eric Whitford & Addison Demott expressed concerns over when & where the study was conducted. Howard will respond to approval letter asking for an extension so we can do an in depth evaluation of the study results before approving

VI. Public Comment for old business/open issues:

- a. John Chvojka asked for clarification from Kevin re: winter tax bill return postage, commented on chip seal issues, dangers re: Michigan turn arounds on US127, blight issue on Blair Rd
- b. Rick Beracy expressed displeasure on tax bill return postage, noted sight right-of-way issues due to grass/weeds, requested copy of budget with GL #'s

VII. New Business:

- a. Township policies/procedures, annual evals - Howard/Barb is working on Policies & Procedures Manual using a template from MTA. Evals moved to closed session next month
- b. Demott sale lot, blight issue – Howard: complaint to be documented, Zoning Officer to send certified letter. Eric & Barb both expressed concerns about making sure complaints are documented and each issue is handled in the same manner to be fair
- c. Playground Equipment Sponsorship – Barb: donor pledges have been made to sponsor all but two of the pieces purchased from Fulton Schools, a donor has stated to let them know if all the pieces aren't sponsored, others have asked if they can still donate after all pieces are sponsored

VIII. Letters/Correspondence:

- a. Emails from lawyer regarding agenda item V. a.
- b. Received 3 Petitions to Request for a change in Zoning Classifications, no application fee has been paid yet (due 18 days prior to hearing)
 - 1) \$1,110.00 due for 10.6 acres
 - 2) \$350.00 due for 3 acres
 - 3) \$1,500.00 max. due for 25.42 acres

IX. Additional Public Comment: none

X. Motion to adjourn by K.Whaley, 2nd by H.Whaley, all in favor. Adjourned at 8:51pm

Respectfully submitted & posted by Barbara Hoffer, Washington Township Clerk on 8/16/2024

Approved: *Howard* Supervisor 9/19/24
 Washington Township Supervisor / Date

Barbara Hoffer
 Washington Township Clerk / Date

Pamela Reed 9/19/2024