

Webber Township
2286 W. Springtime St.
Baldwin, MI 49304
231-745-3471

Regular Township Board Meeting Feb. 8, 2024

Call to Order: 6:00PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance: Dan Cousar-Here, Pat Williams-Here, Deb Hanes-Here, Ernie Wogatzke- present, Kelly McCune-Here

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve agenda with inclusion of January 17, 2-24 Special Meeting Minutes, made by Kelly with support by Pat. Five Aye votes. Motion Carries.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 4th, 2024 Combined Planning Commission and Board Meeting, Regular meeting January 11, 2024, Special Meeting January 17, 2024, and Finance Meeting February 7, 2024 was made by Pat with support by Deb. Five Aye votes. Motion carries.

Amendment to Jan. 11 minutes requested by Dan to reflect that Prein and Newhof have not been available to sit down with Ernie and Dan yet.

Dan had a question as to whether we had voted in the Jan. 17 meeting to send the ordinance amendments back to the Planning Commission for further review. After a short discussion it was understood that Deb was to incorporate the various discussed changes to the amendments and provide the amended document to the Planning Commission, which she has done.

Kelly questioned why Roll Call was not documented after motion for Board to consider adopting ordinance amendments. It was clarified the motion was passed by a verbal vote resulting in 5 Aye votes.

Approval of Accounts Payable: Deb explained that, due to our ongoing Quick Books issues, we are unable to provide an accurate General Fund Report this month. However the fund has been manually balanced with the bank statements.

General Fund: Motion to Approve by Pat with support by Deb. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Water/Sewer Fund: Motion to Approve by Pat with support by Kelly. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Fire Fund: Motion to Approve Deb by with support by Kelly. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Refuge Fund: Motion to Approve Kelly by with support by Dan. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries

Treasurer's Report: Pat presented report. Report accepted as presented.

Guest Speaker: Doug Walls of Verdun Funeral Home addressed the board regarding the Cemetery Ordinance regarding restricting vaults to cement only. Per Doug, plastic vaults are less expensive and just as durable, perhaps more so than cement. The board believed plastic was only used when cement vaults can't work, such as on hills etc. We had issues moving a plastic vault in the past. Doug stated Plastic vaults are widely used and there are various contractors that will move them, when necessary. He asked the board to reconsider the restriction.

Correspondence: The Board of Review dates are March 11, 2024 and March 12, 2024 from 1:30 – 7:30 PM.

We received a report from EGLE on our water assessment with corrective actions to be taken to resolve the issues at the Township hall and fire dept. Corrective actions have been taken, chlorination and flushing are no longer necessary as we have had two consecutive rounds of clear tests. The Fire Chief expressed concern that they had not been advised of the water issues as they were active. Ernie assured him they will be kept in the loop in the future.

Public Comments: Trash pick up issues on Wilma's Way. Republic trucks cannot get up there. Residents are having to haul their bins out to M37.

A question regarding the Jan 17, special meeting. Thought the amendment to Ordinance 2.14 was going to be sent back to the Planning Commission.

Question ZA hours.

Department Reports:

Fire: Chief reported they have already had a brush fire, which is very unusual for February. It is very dry. Be careful while burning. Grant ready workshop is coming up. This is a FEMA grant seminar. No work on the new fire truck chassis = due mid June. Truck is scheduled to be ready in December. The new radios are with the programmer. May take 3 months.

Water/Sewer Report: N/A

County Commissioner: The Wolf Lake tower will continue to be maintained, but there won't be any investment made into it. Ham operators use this tower and they are a part of our emergency response system. The 911 center has been renovated in the courthouse. ORV Park grand opening will be held in the spring. They are buying a tractor for maintenance at the park. Chief thanked Bob for providing a key to the park so Aero Med can utilize the park for landing.

Road Commission: Gary Truxton gave the Road Commission report.

Sheriff: Sheriff Martin gave his report. In Apr-May will be adding a deputy for ORV enforcement. Will be holding a 5 day training. Plan is to have officers that can cover marine, snowmobile, and ORV activities.

Zoning Administrator: Chris gave his report.

Planning Commission: Kelly asked that anything sent to them to review be signed. They will work on ORV and camping ordinance. May have a few more things they will work on.

Park and Rec: Will plan park grand opening with the County and DNR event. Looking at trash removal at the park. Received \$121,000 Grant Reimbursement today. A discussion regarding signage at the park. Deb provided approx. Monthly cost to maintain the park during winter months when there is very low usage.

LCEDA: N/A

Ongoing: Ernie answered public comments/questions from last meeting and tonight:

Two people doing maintenance – Board will be doing an evaluation of all depts. To improve efficiency. Will deal with dept. heads for suggestions. Performance reviews will be done in May.

Why change refuse company? Republic cannot get their trucks down Wilma's Way. Pat has been working with them on resolution.

The fourth payment is due to be made to Dan's Excavating. We will hold back 4% until the final review for completion and quality of work. Pat made a motion to pay \$53,368.07 to Dan's excavating

A question regarding the minutes of the Jan. 17 Public Meeting not reflecting that the board voted to send the amendment language on Ordinance 2.14 back to the Planning Commission. The board clarified that a motion was made to send the ordinance back, but the liaison had explained that was necessary. The board could move to consider the amendment at the next meeting. That is the vote that was taken and passed at the special meeting. Further question, how can board vote on the proposed language change when the Planning Commission has not reviewed and approved it yet. It was explained that the PC has completed their work on the amendments and it is now in the hands of the Board to either Approve it as it was presented, Revise the proposed language and vote to approve revised language, or reject it and return to the PC. The language changes that were discussed at the Public Hearing on both 2.14 and 3.17 have been made by the Clerk for the board's consideration at tonight's meeting.

Dan made a motion to return amended language to Ordinance 2.14 back to the Planning Commission for review. Deb provided support. Verbal vote = 3 Aye, 1 Nay, and 1 Abstain. Motion Carries.

Ernie read the proposed amended language to Ordinance 3.17. A discussion ensued regarding whether the language dealing with the length of sales. The language currently states, "Sales are limited to 3 days a week". Was that actually to be, "Sales are limited to 3 days a week in a 30 day period"? It was confirmed the 30 day limit language was to be removed.

Pat made a motion to approve ordinance 3.17 as presented with support by Deb. Roll Call: Kelly-Abstain, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 4 Yes votes, 1-Abstain. Motion carries.

New Business:

The township has received an invoice from Dave McCall for \$5130 with no explanation. There was a discussion regarding the reason for this invoice. Deb had an opportunity to talk to Dave about it today. She told Dave she needed an itemized statement to present to the board for approval. He said, if I give you an itemized statement it'll be \$10,000! He said he had advised Ernie this bill would be coming for the new server, routers, etc. Ernie concurred that Dave had spoken with him and thought Dave had also advised other board members, which he had not. Pat said the board had previously paid Dave about \$7000 for the server earlier in 2023. Dan

mentioned that Dave had previously been advised that the board needs to be advised of any large dollar item in advance so we can plan for it in our budget. He continually fails to comply with this request. Pat confirmed there is adequate funds in the computer budget to cover this bill, but is concerned that Dave is trying to charge for the hours he showed up in the office day after day to ask if our Quickbooks was back up. The problem could have been solved the day after if occurred if he would have listened to Nikki when she suggested the wrong files were installed on our computers. The computer outage didn't only affect the township offices but the fire dept was also without internet access during this period, which is a significant impact to the township. A member of the public suggested we look for another IT person/company. The board is currently in the process of doing so. The Fire Dept wifi service is on and off. They need a reliable service. A suggestion was made to have a separate internet service for the fire dept. The clerk's office will look into this. Dan asked if we were prepared to vote on this invoice tonight. The majority of the board said no. Deb said she advised Dave it would not be paid till an itemized statement was presented for board approval.

Motion to approve Election workers for the Presidential Primary, Pat Williams, Nikki Hughes, Jackie Jacobs, and Marlene Gregorsen was made by Deb Hanes with support by Kelly. Roll Call: Pat-Abstain, Kelly-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 4 Yes, 1 Abstain. Motion carries.

Further discussion regarding plastic vs cement burial vaults ensued. The issue does not seem to be with using plastic vaults. The issue comes when a plastic vault needs to be exhumed and moved. Contractors are afraid the vaults will break leaving them open to a law suit. Nikki had difficulty finding a contractor to move a plastic vault. She did find one that agreed to do the work for \$600. The funeral home had a contractor that would do it for \$800. It was decided to look into possibly revisiting our ordinance to include plastic vaults.

A member of the public asked about the roof failures we are experiencing. Ernie agrees we have a problem with the roof. He said the work was only warranted for 1 year. The shingles have a longer warrantee, but the issue is not with the shingles. We need to address this issue.

The member also inquired about the poor quality of work on the concrete pad at the maintenance building. The project has been paid in full. Ernie believes we need to live with the outcome. Members of the public believe the condition of the pad poses a hazard.

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L Hanes, Clerk