

**Webber Township**  
2286 W. Springtime St.  
Baldwin, MI 49304  
231-745-3471  
**March Monthly Board Meeting**  
March 14, 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

**Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve Agenda made by Dan with addition of approval of Minutes of 3/13/2024 Finance Meeting. Other additions include: Rate Study for W/S rates, Approval of three invoices, Special Meeting date for Personnel Issues, Time Clock, Cemetery Ordinance, and Kelly's request to use several tables. Support by Pat. 5 Aye votes. Motion carries.

**Approval of Minutes:** Pat made a motion to approve the Minutes of the Feb. 8, 2024 Board Meeting, February 28, 2024 Special Meeting, and March 13, 2024 Finance Meeting with support by Dan. 5 Aye votes. Motion Carries.

**Approval of Accounts Payable: (Roll Call Vote)**

**General Fund Account:** Motion to approve by Pat with support by Kelly. Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

**Fire Fund Account:** Motion to approve by Deb with support by Kelly. Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

**Water and Sewer Account:** Motion to approve by Pat with support by Kelly. Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

**Refuse Fund:** Motion to approve by Kelly with support by Pat. Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat gave her Treasurer's Report.

**Correspondence:** None

**Guest Speakers:** Patti Pacola and Ruth Riley

Patti Pacola congratulated Webber Township on a great election. Tabulator report balanced and all reports and required information was provided to the County Clerk and Board of Canvassers. Deb also thanked all election workers for a job well done. It is due to the workers that everything went so well.

A conversation ensued regarding whether a Clerk is entitled to election pay. Deb explained she did not take election pay because she understood it is part of her statutory duties as Clerk. A few days after the election she was handed a check for election pay with a statement that all

Clerks have always been paid for election work. Copies of all checks for Clerks' election pay was provided by the Treasurer. Ernie stated per our attorney, a Clerk cannot be paid as elections are a statutory part of her duties. Deb offered to reimburse the Township for the payment she had received. She had actually previously written a reimbursement check but the Treasurer would not accept it as all Clerks have previously been paid. Kathy Young, former Township Clerk and several members of the public, who were former Board members referred to page 311 of the MTA book, which states a Clerk may be paid for election work if they are trained election inspectors and worked in that capacity. This is a role over and above their statutory Clerk's duties. Deb stated she and Pat were listed as Co Chairpersons in QVF for this election per instructions by the Mi Bureau of Elections. Deb also worked the election floor throughout the day. Ernie maintained if Clerks had been paid in the past it was in error and we are correcting that error going forward. Patti Paola mentioned that Clerks do get paid for election training. Deb had done nearly 40 hours of training to be certified to perform election duties. Pat made a motion to move Deb's \$2'5 compensation from Election wages to Election Training with support by Dan. Roll Call: Kelly-No, Pat-No, Dan-No, Deb-Abstain, Ernie-No. 4 No votes, 1 Abstain. Motion failed.

Pat made a motion to table this discuss to a later date. Roll call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Abstain, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Ruth Riley read her complaint against a Planning Board member. Deb stated she had also received a written report from the Planning Board Chair Person. A date for a personnel hearing will be set for a late date to discuss all charges.

Joseph Umbriet, introduced himself as an Independent candidate for Lake Co Sheriff.

### **Department Reports:**

**Fire Dept:** Chief gas his report. Asked for approval for payment of \$2313.08 for Flow Test. Motion to approve made by Pat with support by Kelly. Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

The IT service at the Fire Dept is not dependable. The Deputy Clerk found that the T-Mobile service to the Township Office is not strong enough to serve the FD. We have a 50G service and are using 70G, so T-Mobile reduces our service during peak hours, which is when the FD is most in need of the service. Nikki has made an inquiry to T-Mobile to see what it would take to get a separate service to the FD. For the same service we have at the Twp Hall, the cost would be aprox \$35/mo. It is not known what the installation fees would be. Deb made a motion to approve up to \$500 to provide a separate Wifi service to the Fire Dept. Pat Supported. RC: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

**Road Commission:** There are a few people that are doing their own road maintenance and have been very hostile when approached by authorities. Gary Truxton asked that if you see this going on Do Not Approach these people. Please call 231-745-4666 to make a report. Authorities will handle. There is no time line yet on the schedule for work on 32<sup>nd</sup> St.

**County Commissioner:** None

**Sheriff:** The Sheriff reiterated you should not approach people attempting to do their own road maintenance on public roads.

**Cemetery:** Nikki has been in touch with Bill Ghent this week. There is a tree that needs to be removed before it damages the fence and electric lines. Grave markers need to be dug up and raised. They were buried in the storm of 2018. There are many people buried in wrong graves, including in the roadway. Nikki will work with Bill to document names on plots. Bill will use a prod on all grave to determine if anyone is buried in them. Nikki is working to correct our outdated and incomplete records from the past. It is hard to determine what the cost to raise the markers will be. Bill suggested doing one or two to get an average to put a cost together. We need to order new plot markers for each site in the cemetery. Nikki has been working to get prices. She will meet with a sign maker in the near future to get a cost put together.

**Grants:** We are working to get the 4<sup>th</sup> payment from the DNR of \$53,000. Dan and Ernie met with the County Administrator regarding the park. They did a walk through and found a missing mirror and waste backer in the bathroom, the ADA paint in the drive is coming up, there are missing caulking and screws in the bathroom as well. The gate has been changed out through a donation from the County. With this donation the County has taken possession of the gate. A rain garden has been developed to catch rain run off with two types of native grasses. There will be a sign placed by the rain garden to identify the grasses. The sandbox was damaged by the contractor when installing the fence.

**Zoning Administrator:** Chris provided his monthly report. He has sent a letter to A-1 Services regarding their building on M37 which has not been completed to date. No expansion of this building will be permitted. Chris also noted that none of the Court Orders are being signed by the Judge.

**Planning Commission:** Sect. 21.04B has been approved by the PC with the exceptions recommended by Twp Board. It was a unanimous vote to approve. They are currently discussing 3.11B 18' rule and 3.25 at this time. Andy also read his rebuttal statement to charges from the public regarding the ZA's time reporting. The restricted zone has been discussed along with storage shed restrictions and max sizes.

**LCEDA:** None

**Co. Parks and Rec:** There's a problem with the concrete around the pavilion. Discussed opening and closing the park on a daily basis. We will hold our park Grand Opening in conjunction with the County park on 5/25/24 from 1-3PM. No use of the park will be allowed prior to this date. Toby had a walk through with the insurance carrier. Tony thanked Ernie and all involved for a job well done with the park project. He mentioned we could have issues with cars being locked in the park after hours if the ORVers don't return before the gates are locked at 8:00PM and will need to contact dispatch to have a deputy open the gate for them. This could become an issue.

**On Going:** Ernie discussed the Maintenance job description. Jesse and Sam has requested a personal meeting to discuss details of splitting the Water/Sewer and Maintenance job descriptions. A meeting was set for 3/20/2024 at 10:00AM to discuss the W/S and Maintenance

job descriptions and the personnel matters brought up earlier in the meeting. Motion by Dan with support by Kelly. 5 Aye votes. Motion Carries.

Motion to approve Zoning Ordinance Sect.21.04 made by Pat with support by Deb. RC: Kelly-Abstain, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes.4 Yes,1 Abstain Votes. Motion carries.

Ernie made a motion to open the park on 5/25 and close on 10/31 annually. 5 Aye votes. Motion Carries.

Motion to do our Grand Opening in conjunction with the County on 5/25 from 1/3 made by Deb with support by Pat. 5 Aye Votes. Motion Carries. We will get date to the DNR for their 30 day notice. We will do a ribbon cutting at the event.

The county reimbursed us for the cost of the gate at the park so they can have control over it. Deb will be sure it is recorded as a donation in Quick Books. Peacock Industries had offered to make a gate for us a while ago. It was never followed up on. Ernie will check with them regarding this offer.

Ernie mentioned an opportunity to partner with the County on payment of the Porta John at the park. The county would like us to pay the monthly fee and bill them for reimbursement at the end of the season. Motion to approve the partnership made by Kelly with support by Pat. RC: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Motion to approve \$2814.00 for budget for Get Outdoor Day made by Kelly with support by Deb. Kelly asked for a contact with Pixie Ponies as they were a no show last year. RC: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Maintenance is requiring a dumpster to be located at the Township Hall for some clean up they need to do. It was decided to get a cost and timeframe for the dumpster before proceeding.

Motion to approve up to \$95 per phone for 4 phones for office and \$175 monthly fee made by Deb with support by Pat. RC: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries.

Motion to approve Personnel Manual with amendments presented by Pat made by Pat with support by Kelly. 5 Aye Votes. Approved

Deb mentioned the Clerk's office was looking to a time clock for all hourly employees at the Township Hall. A discussion ensued. It was decided a time clock is not efficient or necessary. It was agreed a time sheet will be created that will provide room to document various jobs worked during the day and requiring employee and supervisor signatures.

Kelly asked if she could borrow a few tables from the Township hall for an event she is involved in this weekend. Permission granted.

Deb asked for approval three invoices the Finance Committee deferred to the Board:

Road Brining Agreement – \$15,731.10

Miss Digg Agreement- \$1,043.11

Baldwin DDA Assessment- \$11,533.43 General Fund and \$5,990.58 Fire Fund

Motion to approve by Pat with support by Kelly: RC: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Approved

There was a discussion on the new Cemetery Ordinance which forbids the use of plastic vaults. The ordinance was just changed earlier this year and now Verdun Funeral Home wants to use them for financial benefit. This issue was tabled to a later date.

The need for a Water/Sewer Rate study was discussed. We are no longer getting the full amount from GEO since they shut down. A rate study is aprox \$15,000. Rural Water will do it for free, but may take longer. It was stated we need a mothball agreement with GEO. Per Pat the budget is currently is good shape but, There is currently no written agreement. They could refuse to pay or even ask for reimbursement for what they have already paid us. Pat made a motion to set up a rate study with Rural Water with support by Dan. RC: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 5 Yes Votes. Motion carries. Ernie reiterated this study won't cost the Township anything.

**Adjourned: 8:42PM**

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah L Hanes, clerk