

**Webber Township  
Monthly Board Meeting  
5/9/2024  
2286 W. Springtime St.  
Baldwin, MI 49304  
231-745-3471**

**Call to Order:** 6:00PM

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Agenda Approved:** Motion to approve agenda with additions made by Deb with support by Dan. 5 Aye votes. Motion carries.

Add Guest speaker Diane Longoria, Kelly resigning from Planning Board, Attorney communications policy, roof issues, bathrooms at park.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve minutes from the March 20, 2024 Special Meeting, April 11, 2024 Monthly Board Meeting, and May 8, 2024 Finance Meeting made by Pat with support by Kelly. 5 Aye votes. Motion carries.

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

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

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

Water & Sewer Fund: Motion to approve by Deb with Support by Dan. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

Refuse Fund: N/A Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Pat gave her report. Pat made a motion to roll over the Water/Sewer fund CD. Kelly Supported. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion Carries.

**Correspondence:** Ernie read a notice of bankruptcy regarding Endo Corp. We are not a party to this bankruptcy.

We've received notice from the Lake Co Treasurer about two parcels that we have liens on are up for foreclosure sale. We need to decide if we want to buy them. Pat stated if we purchase them we won't get any money from the lien. If the County sells them to another party we will receive any amount over the foreclosure price. We need to decide by July. This was tabled till the June meeting.

**Public Comments:** Resident is unhappy he can't have a trash bin on his camping lot. It isn't reasonable to have to come in to the Twp office every week to pick up bags. He pays the same assessment as everyone else and should get same service.

Ron Wheeler – running for County Commissioner-Dist 1. He believes in the Constitution and peoples' rights.

Resident has 3 lots on Sheridan. For the last 3 years they could bring in an extra camper for visitors and now they can't. Asked about surveyor pins in the road. They stick up and grader may pull them out. He asked about being able to put a new camper on lots he is looking to purchase. He is in restricted area, so this is not permitted. Also asked if he could put a septic tank on a vacant lot so he can dump his camper tank. He was advised to talk to the ZA. He claimed he has and the ZA did not know the answer.

Comment that when people talk to ZA he goes to Ernie to get the answer.

A member of the Planning Commission stated we need to make the zoning ordinances more easily available to the public. He was advised they are on our website. He stated not everyone uses computers. He'd like us to make ordinance books available to all citizens.

US10 & 44<sup>th</sup> St are covered in garbage. There are two campers on one lot. Asked if citizens are able to comment on Ernie's suggestions for PC and BOR.

A citizen asked if Ernie is receiving info regarding a former employee and board member from the Twp attorney. He stated No.

How are candidates for Twp office positions notified they are on the ballot. They will receive a sample ballot.

A planning commission member stated he felt we need to allow anyone to come back to the board, if they want to. We need experience.

Several guest speakers who are running for County positions introduced themselves and provided info regarding their experience and beliefs.

### **Department Reports:**

**Fire:** Chief gave his report. He asked for board approval to spend \$10,000 for 7 more radios. FD has been approved for a DNR 50/50 grant. If they spend \$10,000, they will get \$5000 back through the grant. Pat stated it would be best to get this paid before June 30 so it is in this fiscal budget. Dan made a motion to approve the FD spending \$10,000 to receive \$5000 grant pay back. Pat supported. Chief stated he isn't quite sure if \$10,000 will completely cover the cost of the radios. It may be slightly higher. Roll Call: Kelly-N, Pat-N, Dan-N, Deb-N, Ernie-N. Motion fails.

Motion to approve up to \$10,500 for the radios to qualify for the \$5000 50/50 grant made by Pat with support by Dan. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

Chief stated they've been very busy due to the dry conditions. Things are better now that we've received some rain.

**Maintenance:** Ernie read Jesse's report.

**Road Commission:** Gary said they are getting ready to brine. Trying to get roads graded after the rain. They have bids out for new chassis, but due to backlog they won't get it till 2026.

**County Commissioner:** Working with Safe Routes to School Program. Met with John Molinare. There is help with wells. ORV park grand opening 5/25/24.

**Sheriff:** Gas details of officer involved shooting. He provides reports showing how our # of calls compare to other counties. Held 1<sup>st</sup> ORV Academy last week. There were 17 deputies in attendance. He plans to hold this training at the ORV park every year. He's also hoping to make this a profitable endeavor. He was asked if ORV training will be made available to area youth for safety certificates. He is hoping to do so. Currently this training can be done on line for a fee of \$50. He hired a new road deputy. Driver Ed program has taken off. He donates \$300 toward the cost of Driver Ed Training for area youth. Actual cost is \$400-\$600. 9 students have received a total of \$3000 through the Sheriff's Charity Program.

**Cemetery:** Deb gave the report for Nikki. Deb made a motion to approve up to \$3360 to buy signs and hardware. Pat supported. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

**Grants:** Working on getting pictures to finish out grant. Did receive approval for grant payment. Hope to receive it soon. Jesse found there was no electricity to the WH at the park. Waiting for a dry spell to repaint the parking area. Matt is not happy with the contractor. Need to complete taking pictures, inspection sheet, walk through, upload site plan of finished product to finish grant. The sandbox is fixed where contractor cut it for the fence. Rain garden is north of parking lot. Sing is installed and the County port a john is there. One final payment of aprox \$4000-\$5000 is due to the contractor. It won't be paid until we are satisfied with everything he's done.

**Zoning:** Ernie read Chris's report. Member of public asked if Chris could include the addresses of violations he sites. This info can be FOIAd.

**Planning Commission:** Kelly submitted her resignation. 4 members have resigned. Motion to accept Kelly's resignation made by Pat with support by Deb. Roll Call: Kelly-Abstain, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. 4 Yes, 1 Abstain. Motion carries.

Ernie has received Nikki's resignation letter from the Planning Commission. He stated he doesn't think he will accept it. Dan advised him he does not have authority to accept or deny a resignation. That entire board has that authority.

**Park and Rec:** Go Day is June 6, 2024. Need volunteers.

**On Going:** Motion to accept Nikki's resignation letter made by Pat with support by Kelly. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

There are three openings on the Planning Commission. Ernie stated he wants to put Jackie Jacobs back on the PC. He was asked about any other applications he has received. He does have apps from Jackie, Juanita Fischer, Conrad Thompkins, and Lilyana Jorgensen.

Ernie made a motion to approve Juanita Fischer for Planning Commission with support by Pat. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion Carries.

Ernie made a motion to approve Conrad Thompkins for Planning Commission with support by Pat. Roll Call: Kelly-No, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-No, Ernie-Yes. 3 Yes, 2 No. Motion carries.

Ernie made a motion to approve Jackie Jacobs for Planning Commission. No support. Motion fails.

A member of the Planning Commission addressed the board telling them to put their personal feelings aside and start acting as adults. Deb responded for the record that personal feelings are playing no part of this. Jackie chose to resign rather than accept disciplinary action. The board accepted her resignation. End of story.

Ernie made a motion to approve Lilyana Jorgensen for Planning Commission with support by Kelly. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

Dan accepted the role of board liaison for Planning Commission.

Need two new member for the Board of Review. Currently have Ernie, Ira, Dave, with Chris as alternate. Ernie has received applications from Jackie Jacobs, Kathy Young, and Ruth Riley. Pat made a motion to approve Kathy Young for BOR with support by Dan. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

Pat made a motion to approve Ruth Riley for BOR with support by Deb. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-No. 4 Yes, 1 No. Motion carries.

Pay increase resolution was read. Ernie has an issue with the clerk's proposed increase. Dan explained that COLA increases cannot be included in our salaries per statute. The resolution will be corrected. Motion to approve resolution with corrections made by Pat with support by Dan. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

There was a discussion regarding the pay for the liaison for the Planning Commission should be the same as Trustee pay as they are acting in that capacity. It was agreed the resolution for that position will be made at the June budget meeting.

Meeting dates for the annual budget workshops will be 6/6/24 at 6:00PM and 6/20/24 at 6:00PM.

Ernie received a quote for parking curbs for the park of \$693.22. This is outside of the grant as they were not included in the original grant request. Motion to approve purchase of the parking curbs as quoted made by Dan with support by Pat. Roll Call: Kelly-Yes, Pat-Yes, Dan-Yes, Deb-Yes, Ernie-Yes. Motion carries.

Ernie received a bid from STS Excavating for gravel and top soil for the storage building approach of \$1120. It was pointed out that an employee is the owner of this business and it is a conflict of interest to award this job to him without taking any other bids. Ernie will more bids.

Ernie will get bids for vaulted toilets at the park so we don't need to continue to pay for port a johns.

A discussion was held regarding a policy for contacting our attorneys. Currently individuals are reaching out to the attorneys without the knowledge of the board. This has resulted in duplicate requests and bills for the same issue. It was agreed that, when possible, attorney contact will be made by email with the entire board ccd. The attorney shall then reply to all. If it is necessary to reach out by phone, at least one other board member should be present on the call. Motion to accept this policy made by Kelly with support by Pat. 5 Aye votes. Motion carries.

It was agreed we will keep the park pavilion bathroom locked except for when it is reserved for an event. This will prevent illicit use and daily cleaning. We need signs with park rules. We also need a contract for reserving the pavilion that states those reserving the pavilion are responsible for cleaning and any damages. Although, per the grant, we cannot charge rent for the pavilion, we could charge a cleaning/damage deposit. Kelly will work on drawing up a draft contract.

Motion to adjourn made by Pat with support by Kelly.

**Adjourned:** 8:32PM

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah L Hanes, Clerk