

# **COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.  
Covert Township Hall**

The Regular Meeting of the Covert Township Board was brought to order by Supervisor Palgen at 7:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Supervisor Palgen.

Members Present: D. Cook, D. Palgen, W. Pritchard

Members Absent: K. Harrington, L. Taylor

Also Present: Roxanne Seeber, *Township Attorney*

## **Public Comment**

- Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, gave latest news to the board regarding the veto of \$375M in funding from the state, work being done to M-63 and an upcoming Township Meeting scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup>. Also, the new County Road Commission meeting time is now 5PM.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared latest news from the county, including an upcoming Project Connect for veterans in Decatur on Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Carol Gage-Stewart, Covert resident, asked for an update on the walkway from the Public Housing apartments. D. Palgen responded.
- Dorothy Holmes, Covert resident, asked for details on new utility poles being installed near her home. D. Palgen responded.

## **Chief Updates**

- Police Chief Allen shared that the Police Department is engaged in several major investigations and Detective Marler has actively assumed his new duties. There has been an increase in breaking and entering. Chief Allen urged the public to call in any suspicious behavior. Resident Dorothy Holmes asked about a call in which no one responded. D. Palgen asked about how to handle scam calls.
- Fire Chief Myers shared that they responded to 38 calls in the month, two of which were drug overdoses. Other news included information on the E.E.E. virus, the success of a recent drill with Palisades Nuclear and new equipment for confined space training that was donation by New Covert Generating.

October is also fire safety month, so residents are urged to check the batteries of their smoke detectors.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the September 10, 2019, Regular Board Meeting
- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the September 24, 2019, Special Board Meeting
- Clerk's Invoice Register Report and Payroll Period Reports as presented
- Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking, & Budget Report as presented
- Police Chief's Report as presented
- Fire Chief's Report as presented
- Public Work Report as presented

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

### **Meeting Minutes and Board Liaison Reports**

- DRAFT September 18, 2019 Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were presented.
- APPROVED June 5, 2019, and APPROVED August 21, 2019 Senior Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented by D. Palgen.

### **New Business**

#### **Dangerous Building Case No 2019-18, 34781 76<sup>th</sup> Street**

*Mr. Hall was present and addressed the board. He assured the board that he has every intention of rehabilitating the front trailer. Discussion was had on whether the time extension was enough.*

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded W. Pritchard, **to approve** the request of Mr. Willie Hall to modify the order of Dangerous Buildings Hearing Officer permitting the front trailer located at 34781 76<sup>th</sup> Street in Covert Township to be rehabilitated by no later than January 15, 2020 otherwise the order to raze will be re-instated immediately, and direct the Dangerous Buildings Hearing Officer to remove the condemnation order.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

#### **Dangerous Building Case No 2018-11, 71041 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue**

*Requests for proposal were sent out to four (4) contractors to demolish structure and place the property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property. The following sealed bid was submitted and opened by Clerk Cook: Jack's Excavating - \$3,250*

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the bid from Jack's Excavating in the amount of \$3,250 to demolish said structures and place the yard/property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property located at 71041 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue in Covert Township (80-07-013-019-20) as ordered by the Dangerous Hearing Officer and the Covert Township Board.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

### **Dangerous Building Case No 2019-01, 73765 32 Avenue**

*Requests for proposal were sent out to four (4) contractors to demolish structure and place the property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property. The following sealed bids were submitted and opened by Clerk Cook: Jack's Excavating - \$3,500  
Compton, Inc. - \$2,750*

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the bid from Compton, Inc. in the amount of \$2,750 to demolish said structures and place the yard/property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property located at 73765 32 Avenue in Covert Township (Parcel #80-07-014-033-00) as ordered by the Dangerous Hearing Officer and the Covert Township Board  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 2, No: 1, CARRIED

### **Dangerous Building Case No 2019-02, 75606 CR-378**

*Requests for proposal were sent out to four (4) contractors to demolish structure and place the property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property. The following sealed bid was submitted and opened by Clerk Cook: Jack's Excavating - \$2,300*

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the bid from Jack's Excavating in the amount of \$2,300 to demolish said structures and place the

yard/property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property located at 75606 CR-378 in Covert Township (Parcel #80-07-010-022-00) as ordered by the Dangerous Hearing Officer and the Covert Township Board  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

**Dangerous Building Case No 2019-05, 73029 26<sup>th</sup> Street**

*Requests for proposal were sent out to four (4) contractors to demolish structure and place the property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property. The following sealed bid was submitted and opened by Clerk Cook: Jack's Excavating - \$4,400  
Compton, Inc. - \$2,750*

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the bid from Compton, Inc. in the amount of \$2,750 to demolish said structures and place the yard/property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan at the property located at 73029 26<sup>th</sup> Street in Covert Township (Parcel #80-07-002-054-00) as ordered by the Dangerous Hearing Officer and the Covert Township Board  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 2, No: 1, CARRIED

**Dangerous Building Case No 2018-21, 25940 75<sup>th</sup> Street**

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to deny** the request of Mrs. Marie Smith for a new quote for the demolition and clean up at 25940 75<sup>th</sup> Street as ordered by the Township Board.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** a wage increase of 2% for Department of Public Works Manager, George Piggee, for assuming the responsibility of overseeing the Transfer Station Attendant effective November 1, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the request of Chief Allen to attend the Annual MACP winter professional Development Conference in Grand Rapids at a cost of \$740.00 plus hotel tax and meal expenses as per the Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the request of Chief Allen to sponsor a candidate through the Police Academy at an approximate cost of \$14,427.00 contingent to the request presented by Chief Allen.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the recommendation of Chris Brayak of Wightman & Associates to pay Olson Brothers in the amount of \$32,030.25 for Pay Application No. 2 for work completed on the Washroom/Shower Facility at the Covert Park Beach and Campground.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** costs associated with relocating unknown utilities on the Olson Brothers Extra Work Order #1 in the amount of \$1,459.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to deny** costs associated with removal of demo debris during footing excavation on the Olson Brothers Extra Work Order #1 in the amount of \$540.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the initial METRO Act Right-of-Way Telecommunications permit with Everstream GLC Holding Company, LLC without the new poles.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Resolution to Comply with the Provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 by exercising the Townships right to exempt itself from the requirements of the act effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 thru June 30, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Resolution for Permanent Consolidation of Voting Precincts as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the Resolution for Disposal of Old Election Computers as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Resolution regarding Miscellaneous Items and Equipment as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Resolution regarding Offers for Sale of Bank Building as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Resolution regarding Former Police Department Garage as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to table** the renewal of the Blue Care Health Insurance Plan with the premium increase of 4.2% and an Annual Out-of-Pocket Maximum increase from \$1,000.00/\$2,000.00 to \$1,500.00/\$3,000.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the 2019/2020 renewal of the Berends Hendrick Stuit, Inc. insurance with the deductible at \$500.00 for a total insurance renewal cost of \$80,536.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the appointment of Planning Commission Member Wayne Rendell and Treasurer Wednesday Pritchard to the Ordinance Review Board to serve the term of one year effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Ordinance Review Board compensation rate at \$34.00 per meeting with an additional \$11.00 for the chairperson and secretary per meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the quote # ITRQ15413 from IT Right in the amount of \$2,947.20 to migrate from basic Pop Email to Exchange plan, and purchase Azure Information Protection Premium (encryption) Plan 1, plus \$200 to install the Outlook plugin Mail Express as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard to adjourn at 8:57 PM.

**Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

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Submitted by D. Cook, Covert Township Clerk