

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

**Tuesday, July 9, 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: K. Harrington, D. Cook, D. Palgen, L. Taylor, W. Pritchard

Members Absent: None

## **Public Comment**

- Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, shared information to the board, including a recap of the joint meeting held with the Township Board, updates on a criminal investigation into a possible violation of the Open Meetings Act, and upcoming sealcoating. Askew also explained the process to approve projects.
- Frida Brown, Trustee of Van Buren United Civic Org., asked what action will be made in response to a letter sent to the Township Board from the VBUCO.
- Flozene King, Van Buren United Civic Org., urged the Senior Advisory Committee to consider the list of services offered by the VBUCO, and read off the list of services.
- Roma Dodd, Van Buren United Civic Org., asked that the Senior Newsletter be posted online for the public.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared news from the county, including a Michigan Farm Worker Appreciation Month proclamation, veteran services open house on August 5<sup>th</sup>, and a recent collaboration of local public organizations.
- Carol Gage-Stewart, Covert resident, asked about a possible mini strip mall to be established in Covert.
- Ella Harrington, Covert resident, asked about whether a decision will be made regarding the unused municipal buildings downtown.
- Dorothy Holmes, Covert resident, asked for an update on whether the culvert on her road would be repaired any time soon from the Van Buren Road Commission.

## **Information Update**

D. Palgen introduced the new Covert Township Treasurer, Wednesday “Wende” Pritchard and the new Covert Township Deputy Treasurer, Michelle Gregory.

## **Chief Updates**

Police Chief Allen presented a report to the board. This included decreases in assaults, larcenies and drug related crimes. A recent search warrant in collaboration with our SWET officer, the State Police and FBI recovered heroine, fentanyl and illegal fire arms linked to property crimes and human trafficking. Covert has not had an overdose death in one and a half years. Chief Allen shared a string of traffic accidents on I-196 were all related to marijuana use, and a discussion on self-defense for seniors was had with Trustee Taylor.

Fire Chief Myers reiterated the dangers of fentanyl and inability to treat with Narcan. The Fire Department hosted a Field Day at the school, as well as a Stop the Bleed class. Another Stop the Bleed will be held with school staff soon. Chief Myers also shared recent changes in the fireworks law and urged residents to always obtain a permit before burning and to stay with the fire.

## **Consent Agenda**

- \*Draft\* Minutes of the June 11, 2019, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
- \*Draft\* Minutes of the June 18, 2019 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes
- \*Draft\* Minutes of the June 18, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- \*Draft\* Minutes of the June 27, 2019 Special Board Meeting Minutes
- 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 D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the Consent Agenda with noted changes to the Draft Minutes of June 11, 2019 and June 27, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

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

- \*DRAFT\* June 19, 2019 Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were presented.

- **\*APPROVED\*** May 16, 2019 Park Advisory Meeting Minutes and **\*DRAFT\*** June 20, 2019 Park Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented by D. Cook.

### **Unfinished Business**

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** removing the Park Amenities and Sidewalk Design Project with Wightman & Associates, Inc. from the table.

CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook **to approve** hiring Wightman and Associates to determine what needs to be done to correct the grade of the public housing walkway to be A.D.A. compliant, and negotiate with Quality Paving, at an hourly rate and maximum cost to be determined.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the pre-design and design services with Wightman and Associates, Inc, in the amount of \$4,600 for the Park Amenities and Sidewalk Design Project.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 2, No: 3 FAILED

### **New Business**

*Dangerous Building Case 2018-19, Anthony Greenbay, 47119 M-140: Sealed Demolition Bids opened by Clerk Cook.*

- Jack's Excavating & Trucking, LLC: \$11,800
- John Withrow Excavating Inc: \$13,500
- Jensen's Excavating: \$19,245
- Risky Business: \$16,250

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook **to approve** the bid from Jack's Excavating & Trucking, LLC in the amount of \$11,800 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 47119 M-140 Hwy in Covert Township (Parcel #80-07-035-029-00) as ordered by the Dangerous Hearing Officer and the Covert Township Board.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the request of Chief Myers to approve the three (3) year combined Physio Control contract for the Lifepack Heart Monitors and Lucas CPR Machines in the amount of \$18,262.80.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the request of Chief Myers to accept the proposal from Fire Catt Precision Service Testing for fire hose and ground ladder testing for three (3) years as presented in the amount of \$10,588.50.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to table** the quotes to pave the Covert Cemetery, pending more options to maintain the roadway.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** Resolution 2019-05 to Adopt Waiver of Interest and Penalty for Property Transfer Affidavits.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the quote as presented from IT Right in the amount of \$9,678 to replace the computers in the Township Hall, Fire Department and Police as recommended.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor **to approve** the quote as presented from IT Right in the amount of \$4,787 to replace the servers at the Township Hall as recommended.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the quote as presented from IT Right in the amount of \$1,360.66 to replace the E-Poll Book Laptops for Election as recommended.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** Quote ITRQ10423 from IT Right in the amount of \$1,288.50 to purchase the Network Security Firewall allowing remote access for Township staff.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** appointing Supervisor Palgen to serve on the Senior Advisory Committee effective July 10, 2019 thru November 20, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the Credit Card Use Policy as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** Jack's Excavating to purchase a Christmas Tree and permanently plant the Christmas Tree behind the Veterans Memorial, with trimming and ceremony of the tree to be managed by Jack Hess and Dawn Alspaugh to benefit the community.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1 CARRIED

### **Other Business**

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** port-a-potty service at the Transfer Station from Best Way Disposal in the amount of \$115 a month for weekly service.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen to adjourn at 9:44 p.m.

**Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

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Daywi Cook, Covert Township Clerk