

# COVERT TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**\*DRAFT\***

**TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Covert Township Hall**

The Regular Meeting of the Covert Township Board was brought to order by Clerk Barnes.

The Pledge Allegiance was led by Clerk Barnes

Members Present: N. Barnes, B. J. Rose, K. Harrington, and L. Taylor.

Members Absent: D. Palgen

Motion by N. Barnes, seconded by L. Taylor to Appoint K. Harrington to moderate the May 11, 2021 Board Meeting in the absence of Supervisor Palgen.

Roll Call: Yes 4 No 0

## **Public Comment**

Rev. W.C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner reports \$261,000,000 is ready for the Michigan roads. The Road Commission is open Mon-Thru and meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday night. The Road commission has been very busy working 10 hour shifts The Speed limit is being raised from 70 to 75 MPH; this process is currently underway.

Gail Patterson -Gladney Van Buren County Commissioner updates included the new Palisades Project Director will be John Faul, a list of Members for the Advisory Board will be provided; A notification when the public hearing will be will also be provided so that members of the public who wish to attend can do so virtually or in person.

Public Comments and concerns included but were not limited to:

- Alleged Misconduct of Police Officer's concerning a resident (2)
- Possible vote or holding of election concerning Supervisor Palgen' replacement (4)
- Inquiry/consideration regarding the removal of the fence between the Covert Housing and the Police/Fire Complex (4)

Presentation by Siegfried Freitag to the Covert Historical Museum; The Covert Township Police Department Addition & Renovation 1978 Plaque.

Catherine Green and Jean Robinson accepted the donation on behalf of the Museum and expressed their pleasure and gratitude.

## **Chief/Manager Update**

Police Chief Allen detailed last month was very busy, but also extremely productive, including the recovery of two stolen vehicles and the offenders were taken into custody. The community was given a warm appreciation for their help, support and cooperation during the investigation which led to the recovery of \$7,000 of stolen tools. The Covert Police Officers were commended for their devotion and tireless efforts in the apprehension of the law breakers and the recovery of residential properties. Nine drug dealers were arrested and put a big dent in the drug activity locally and in the surrounding counties. Police Chief Allen is looking into better training and more funding for Recruitment.

Acting Fire Chief Wild informed the community of hosting another vaccine administration at the Fire and Police Complex on May 21. He reports being extremely busy and working to also assist the surrounding areas. Currently dealing with numerous grass fires, from residents burning trash, tires and mattresses, and leaving the fires unattended. There is a current burn band.

Public Works Manager Piggee written report included ongoing projects of Marking and clearing Miss Dig tickets and replacing poles. Completed projects Requesting quotes for tree removal at Fish Cemetery; assisting Covert Police Dept. in stolen property recovery, maintaining all Township properties, preparing for Memorial Day clean up and lawn care throughout the township; assisting citizens with cemetery concerns and maintenance, and pouring concert for the City Park Benches.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the April 13, 2021, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- Clerk's Invoice Register Report as presented
- Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking, & Budget Report
- Police Chief's Report as presented
- Fire Chief's Report as presented
- Public Work Report as presented

Motion by B. Rose, seconded by N. Barnes to **approve** the Consent Agenda as presented.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No 0

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

- **\*APPROVED\*** Minutes of the 10.15.2021, Senior Advisory Board Meeting
- **\*APPROVED\*** Minutes of the 10.29.2021, Senior Advisory Board Meeting
- **\*DRAFT\*** Minutes of the 04.21.2021, Senior Advisory Board Meeting
- **\*APPROVED\*** Minutes of the 10.21.2020, Planning Commission Meeting
- **\*DRAFT\*** Minutes of the 04.21.2021, Planning Commission Meeting

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by K. Harrington to approve meeting minutes and Board Liaison Public Reports.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes 4 No 0

Motion by K. Harrington seconded by L. Taylor to remove from the table the Request of Clerk Barnes regarding payroll.  
Roll Call Vote; Yes 4 No 0

Motion by, L. Taylor, seconded by, B. Rose to Approve the request of Clerk Barnes and to issue her payroll Bi-Weekly effective April 1, 2021 and to extend this to all other board members who desire to receive Bi-weekly payroll.  
Roll Call Vote Yes 4 No 0

Motion by, N. Barnes, Seconded B. Rose to Approve the Covert Township Remote and Hybrid Meeting Policy as presented.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes 4 No 0

Motion by B. Rose, Seconded K. Harrington to Accept the Resignation from the position of Covert Township Supervisor Dennis Palgen effective today Tuesday, May 11, 2021.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes 4 No 0

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by B. Rose to TABLE the Appointment of Covert Township Supervisor pending Special Board meeting for further consideration, May 18, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.

Motion by B. Rose, Seconded by N. Barnes to Assign the responsibility for day-to-day operations of the Supervisor Office to Trustee Kenneth Harrington, with a stipend of \$600.00 per week.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 3 Abstain: 1

Motion by B. Rose, Seconded by N. Barnes to Approve Fire Department Captain and current Acting Chief Jed Wild's remain in the current position and continue to work evenings and weekends completing the Acting Chief role and administrative task while the board develops a plan and finds a permanent replacement.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 4 No 0

Motion by B. Rose, seconded by L. Taylor to Table the posting for Fire Chief and for a Full-Time Firefighter/Paramedic as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes No 0

Motion by K. Harrington to Approve /the request of Treasurer Rose for one-day remote BS&A Tax.net training at a cost of \$850.00.

Roll Call Vote Yes 4 No 0

Motion by L. Taylor, Seconded by N. Barnes Table the request of Treasurer Rose for a new computer, pending inspection of current computer by IT Right.

Roll Call Vote Yes 4 No 0

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by K. Harrington Approve the 60-month Aramark Service Contact for floor mats at the Covert Township Police Department.

Roll Call Vote Yes 4 No 0

Motion by L. Taylor, Seconded by B. Rose to Adjourn.

Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Barnes, Covert Township Clerk