

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at Covert Township Hall

REGULAR MEETING

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. Palgen, K. Harrington, D. Cook, L. Taylor, M. Rendell

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Harold Schuitmaker, Township Attorney

Public Comment

- Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, shared insight on proposed gas tax and a meeting with Covert Township on May 8th regarding road repair projects. Rev. Askew also gave an update on Covert services.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared latest news from the County, including a medication “Take Back” day in South Haven, the hiring of a Chief Public Defender, and an upcoming speaker event on affordable housing on April 11.
- Dorothy Holmes, Covert Township resident, asked whether the restrooms in the Township Hall are A.D.A. compliant and to explain why there is a clearing of trees throughout the area.
- Carol Sage-Stewart, Covert Township resident, asked if the Township Board could begin using microphones for the hard of hearing and to repair the large holes near the cross pipe repair on 34th Ave.

Informational Update

Supervisor Palgen shared the following information to the public:

- Several Township employees and officials took a tour of the roads with members of the Road Commission to identify areas in need of repair and maintenance.
- A draft application to the U.S.D.A. for a grant to help maintain our waste water system will be available soon. Fleis and VandenBrink has been contracted to complete this.

- A meeting was held with Park Advisory members and Township Officials to renegotiate a contract with Olson Brothers to begin constructing the washroom facility at the Covert Park Beach and Campground in September.
- A community survey is now available online to be completed by people with interest in Covert Township. Deadline is May 15.

Chief Updates

- Police Chief Allen shared that a new officer has been hired to fill one of two vacancies and there has generally been a decline in incidents, including stray dogs.
- Fire Chief Myers shared the arrival of a new fire engine and that the back-up ambulance has been taken out of commission. Chief Myers is looking into borrowing an ambulance until the new one is in service. Also, a Spanish CPR class is being prepared for the community and the “Stop the Bleed” program is continuing.

Consent Agenda

- *Draft* Minutes of the March 12, 2019 Regular 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 L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, to **approve** the Consent Agenda with the correction to the March 12 minutes, as presented.

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

Meeting Minutes and Board Liaison Reports

- March 5, 11, and 16, 2019 Board of Review Meeting Minutes was presented by D. Palgen.
- January 16, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes, and DRAFT March 20, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes were presented by L. Taylor
- DRAFT March 20, 2019 South Haven Airport Authority Minutes were presented.

Unfinished Business

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Cook **to approve** removing Local Road Special Maintenance Project #497.3071 Various Driveway Culverts discussion from the table.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by M. Rendell, **to approve** Van Buren County Road Commission Project Sheet #497.3071 for Driveway Culverts.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** removing Interim Captain Pay discussion from the table.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by K. Harrington, **to deny** the request of Chief Myers approving the Interim Captain Pay Letter of Agreement between the Township and the Covert Profession Firefighters Union effective March 18, 2019.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** removing the American Tower discussion from the table.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to deny** the request of American Tower to convert our Township Tower in cash via the American Tower perpetual easement program.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded D. Cook, **to approve** setting aside the Order of the Township Board upholding the Order of the Dangerous Buildings Order to Raze the structure at 74229 CR-378 (Parcel #: 80-07-015-080-00) allowing the structure to be rehabilitated to code by August 20, 2019 otherwise the Order of the Township Board to raze will be upheld.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the request of Department of Public Works Manager George Piggee to purchase the John Deere from GreenMark in the amount of \$60,400, as quoted.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the recommendation of Fire Chief Myers to transfer the backup ambulance 1911 to the Lawrence Technology Center in exchange for consideration to be determined.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the recommendation of Clerk Cook to purchase a new computer and Office Home and Business 2019 software as quoted by IT Right for Deputy Clerk Barnes in the amount of \$1,029.00.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by L. Taylor, **to deny** Covert Township Resolution #2019-03 in support of legislation that would allow Township Boards the option to have its elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook **to approve** the request of Covert Park, Beach and Campground Manager, Robin Abshire to offer a discounted rate to seasonal campers for the 2019 season only, due to the early closure of the camp this year. 2019 Seasonal rate will be \$2,240.00.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** re-appointing Mike Dambrowski to the Senior Advisory Board for a two-year term; effective May 14, 2019 to May 14, 2021.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** re-appointing Zella Crump to the Senior Advisory Board for a four-year term; effective May 14, 2019 to May 14, 2023.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by M. Rendell, **to approve** amending the budget as follows:

101.0.380.00	Building Inspector	\$2,000.00
101.0.801.00	Planning	\$5,000.00
101.0.910.00	Insurance	<\$7,000.00>

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

Motion by D. Palgen seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** purchasing two portable radios and one charging station in the amount of \$9,116.75 as quoted from Motorola Solutions.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the quote from Quinn Electric in the amount of \$350.00 to run the electric from the two closest sites to temporarily feed the existing lift station during the construction of the new washroom at the Covert Park Beach and Campground.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Ordinance of Prohibition of Recreational Marihuana Establishments effective April 9, 2019; effective May 10, 2019.

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

Adjournment

Motion by K. Harrington to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, May 14, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Daywi Cook, Covert Township Clerk