

**COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Covert Township Hall Via Video Conference**

The Special 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, W. Pritchard, L. Taylor  
Members Absent: None

*Electronic and telephonic meeting rules were presented by Attorney Seth Koches.*

**Public Comment**

- Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, shared that work on West Street will begin this week, the culvert replacement on 34<sup>th</sup> Ave is in progress and the work on 28<sup>th</sup> Ave is complete. Someone will reach out to Supervisor Palgen regarding a traffic study to be done on 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 78<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Emily Hickmott and Kim Sinclair from the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) addressed Covert Township's recurring issue with tires being illegally dumped. About 500 tires have been collected and a cage will be placed at the transfer station to regularly collect tires. Covert Township has committed \$250 a year toward the cost and the rest will be covered by other funds provided by VBCD. An annual event to collect tires and other hazardous household waste will also be scheduled.

**Chief Updates**

Detective Marler presented information to the board in Police Chief Allen's absence. Det. Marler thanked the board and community for their continued support of the Police Department. The newest recruit, Ryan Metz, is halfway through field training and the State Police have been pursuing narcotic activity in the area that lead to a search warrant. Trustee Taylor asked for details in who may be responsible for the illegal dumping of tires. Tires were dumped overnight over the course of just a few days in both our community and surrounding communities.

Fire Chief Myers shared that the number of calls is normal for this time of year and COVID cases are not overwhelming. The department is in their 2<sup>nd</sup> round of hiring with interviews scheduled for four candidates. September is hydrant flushing and maintenance month.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the August 11, 2020 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 as presented.

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

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

- Minutes of the December 18, 2019 and August 19, 2020 Planning Commission Meetings were presented by Lonzey Taylor
- Minutes of the August 19, 2020 Airport Authority Meeting were presented.

### **New Business**

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** re-appointing Alesia Webb to the Senior Advisory for a two-year term, effective May 14, 2020 thru May 14, 2022.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** appointing Debbie Hinman to fill the two-year term vacancy on the Senior Advisory Board effective September 9, 2020 through May 14, 2021.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** appointing Pam Baker to fill the Board of Review vacancy effective September 9, 2020 through January 9, 2021.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** appointing Keith Gleiss to fill the Board of Review vacancy effective September 9, 2020 through January 9, 2021.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** appointing Eddie Wilborn to fill the Park Advisory Board vacancy effective September 9, 2020 through January 11, 2021.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** appointing Lenard Berry to fill the Planning Commission vacancy effective September 9, 2020 through January 9, 2021.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** re-appointing Fred Bower to the South Haven Airport Authority Board for another 4-year term; effective May 22, 2020 through May 22, 2024.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the proposal from Quality Paving in the amount of \$4,825.00 to replace a portion of the Walking Path from the Covert Public Housing Building to the Post Office as presented.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Resolution Appointing Ordinance Enforcement Officers as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Construction Board of Appeals Fee in the amount of \$500.00 effective September 9, 2020.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Resolution to adopt Updated Master Plan as presented by the Covert Township Planning Commission.

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

## Other Items

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** authorizing the Department of Public Works to install three concrete pads and benches in the Covert Community Park for the amount of \$445 in materials plus labor.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to table** appointing Daywi Cook to fill a vacancy on the Park Advisory Committee.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 0, Abstain: 1, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** scheduling free Transfer Station days on Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor to adjourn at 8:17 PM

*Next Regular Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.*

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Submitted by Daywi Cook, Covert Township Clerk