

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 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, L. Taylor, M. Rendell, D. Cook

Members Absent: K. Harrington

Public Comment

- Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, gave an update on possible violation of the Open Meetings Act and gave insight on how the administrator position will be filled. A joint meeting with the Covert Township Board and the Road Commission will be held on June 27th. Rev. Askew also gave updates on recent road improvement and repair in Covert.
- Lubert Smith, Covert resident, asked when someone would move the fence enclosing the fire station and expressed safety concern over the new pathway, especially for seniors with limited walking ability. Ms. Smith also asked whether a mall was going to be developed on M-140 and CR 378 and asked for clarification on the development process.

Chief Updates

- Police Chief Allen shared two recent breaking and entering incidents in which arrests were made. Individuals were not from Covert. Chief Allen urged residents to report any suspicious behavior. SWET and Michigan State Police had a successful raid last week and seized drugs and illegal firearms. July 4th weekend is among the most dangerous weekends. Traffic enforcement will be priority. Palisades will conduct a test of the emergency sirens from 8AM – 5PM on June 12th. Chief Allen answered questions from the board, including why there has been a rise in arrests and complaints. This is partially due to more policing. An initiative to educate the public on domestic violence is in development. Residents may leave anonymous tips by phone or email by visiting the web site. Caller ID is disabled to strictly protect identity. Two residents shared incidents of suspicious behavior.
- Fire Chief Myers: Absent

Informational Update

D. Palgen presented the following information:

- Meeting with the Van Buren County Road Commission on June 27, 2019 – 5:00pm at the Van Buren County Road Commission in Lawrence, MI.
- Covert Township Resolution 2017-15 the Reconstruction of CR-376 in the amount of \$125,000.00.

Consent Agenda

- ***Draft*** Minutes of the May 14, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
- ***Draft*** Minutes of the May 21, 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 D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, to **approve** the Consent Agenda with a change to the May 14, 2019 Draft Minutes as presented.

Meeting Minutes and Board Liaison Reports

- Approved Minutes from the April 10, 2019, April 17, 2019, and May 15, 2019 Senior Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented by M. Rendell.
- Draft May 15, 2019 Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were presented.
- Approved Minutes from the April 18, 2019 Park Advisory Meeting and draft minutes from May 16, 2019 were presented by D. Cook.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** Resolution #2019-04, designating the firm of Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber, & Kaufman, P.C. Attorneys at Law as general legal counsel for the Township, effective June 12, 2019.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the Legal Services Agreement between Covert Township and Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, P.C. Attorneys at Law as presented.

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

Dangerous Buildings Orders

As of a May 15, 2019 deadline, the following properties are still not in compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code. Supervisor Palgen addressed the properties individually and gave property owners an opportunity to respond.

- ***Case #2019-01 - Flor Gaytan - 73765 32nd Avenue***
Property owner not present.
- ***Case #2019-02 - Bonnie Daisy - 75606 CR-376***
Property owner not present.
- ***Case #2019-05 - Brandy Hiler (Lock) - 73029 26th Ave.***
Property owner not present.
- ***Case #2019-07 - Jesus /Monica Quiroz - 77731 CR-378***
Property owner, Jesus Quiroz, addressed the board and explained that he had attempted to complete the corrections himself but may need to hire someone to complete in time. He asked for an extension to allow time to comply with the orders.
- ***Case #2019-09 - Earl McFall - 70680 CR-378***
Property owner not present.
- ***Case #2019-10 - June Parker - 46045 M-140 Hwy***
Property owner, June Parker, addressed the board and explained that she needs to get help to comply with the orders. She asked for an extension to the deadline.

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the request of Dangerous Buildings Hearing Officer David Leroy to uphold his orders and enforce the orders by any lawful means on the following parcels:

- 2019-01: Parcel#: 80-07-014-033-00/Address: 73765 32nd Ave,
- 2019-02: Parcel#: 80-07-010-022-00/ Address: 75606 CR-378,
- 2019-05: Parcel#: 80-07-002-054-00/ Address: 73029 26th Ave,
- 2019-07: Parcel#: 80-07-016-010-00/Address: 77731 CR-378,
- 2019-09: Parcel#: 80-07-012-024-00/ Address: 70680 CR-378
- 2019-10: Parcel#: 80-07-035-024-00/Address: 46045 M-140

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

Case #2019-08 - Martin Pedroza - 77868 30th Avenue

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell, **to approve** setting aside the request of

Dangerous Building Hearing Officer David Leroy to uphold his orders and enforce the orders by any lawful means on (Parcel #: 80-07-009-026-01) pending owner clarification from our Township Assessor and/or County.

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

Case #2018-21 - Raymond Smith - 25940 75th Street

Sealed bids were opened to bring the property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code, as ordered to be completed by May 15, 2019. Request for proposals for demolition and cleanup was sent to four contractors and three were returned, opened and presented by Clerk Cook.

- Jack's Excavating & Trucking, LLC: \$7,400
- John Withrow Excavating Inc: \$8,800
- Jensen's Excavating: \$10,225

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the bid from Jack's Excavating in the amount of \$7,400 to demolish said structures and clear debris as quoted at the property located at 25940 75th Street in Covert Township (Parcel #80-07-003-045-00) as ordered by the Dangerous Hearing Officer and the Covert Township Board

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the request of Chief Allen for a promotional position to Sergeant for an officer with the Covert Township Police Department as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the recommendation of Chief Myers granting Bio-Care to do the Fire Department Physicals in the amount of \$9,362.00 as quoted and presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** Ordinance #97 – Franchise – Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation as written and presented before the Board.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** amending the 2018/2019 budget to correct departmental budget lines in the amounts of:

101.0-276.00	Cemetery	\$1,838.00
101.0-360.00	Mechanical Permits	\$1,000.00
101.0-380.00	Building Inspection	\$6,753.00
101.0-444.00	Street & Sidewalks	\$22,000.00

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** appointing Wednesday (Wende) Pritchard as Covert Township Treasurer effective July 1, 2019 thru the remaining term of office (November 2020).

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, Abstain: 1 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to accept** Treasurer Rendell's letter of resignation as Covert Township Treasurer effective June 30th, 2019.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, Abstain: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** purchasing a new computer and Microsoft Office 2019 in the amount of \$919.00 as quoted and presented for the Township Treasurers' office.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell, **to approve**, adjusting Elected Official Health Insurance Contributions and In-Lieu of Insurance to reflect what is provided in the Police and Fire collective bargaining agreements, effective July 1, 2019.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the Covert Township Transfer Station Charges for 2019/2020 at a 50% increase as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** McKenna and Associates to mail out surveys in Spanish to the community and extend the deadline for all surveys.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the agreement with Bendzkinski & Co. to Provide for Preparation of an Annual Information Statement and to Act as Dissemination Agent for the Township of Covert, Michigan as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell, **to approve** Coastal Clean contract for cleaning services at the Covert Township Police Department and Township Hall as present.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to table** the offer to purchase foreclosed properties from the Van Buren County Treasurers office as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the request of the Van Buren United Civic Organization to have the Mobile Food Truck distribution be posted on the Covert Fire/Police Complex digital sign for the following distribution dates in 2019: June 20, July 18, September 19, October 17 and November 21; with a reminder from the VBUCO to the Fire Chief before each event.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the request of the Van Buren United Civic Organization for an additional \$800.00 to the transportation budget.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by M. Rendell, **to table** hosting the Covert Township Parade and Celebration on the Saturday before Memorial Day.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell, **to approve** the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Committee to adopt the proposed 2019/2020 budget as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings:

- Special Meeting/Public Hearing - Tuesday, June 18, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- Special Meeting with VBC Road Comm.– Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.
- Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Daywi Cook, Covert Township Clerk