

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Covert Township Hall & Electronic Component

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

Public Comment

- Jean Harris-Holmes, 36049 76th St, commented a desire to have leash laws for dogs in Covert Township.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared the latest news from the county, including an approved Childcare Fund Budget, the latest General Fund Budget with a sound financial position and the new requirement to have a designated assessor that has been filled by Anthony Meygaard. There is also a community food give away on October 21st, 5-7:30pm in the DHHS parking lot in Hartford.

Chief Updates

- Fire Chief Myers shared that they had an above normal volume in calls and are working on hydrants. He also introduced Johanna Quinn as our newest hire on the Fire Department.
- Police Chief Allen addressed the laws in place to control dogs and other animals in the Township and State-wide. He also shared that complaints were up and September has been very busy. Most calls are civil issues.

Informational Updates

- Brian Knotek addressed the public and gave a briefing on the latest development regarding the New Covert Generating litigation and an opportunity to appeal. A Special Meeting in Closed Session will be held Tuesday, October 20th to discuss options.
- Tom Armintrout of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan explained an increase in the health insurance program of 6.48%.

- Robin Abshire, the Park Manager of the Covert Park Beach and Campground, presented a summary of the season. The park took in a record \$231,000 in revenue due to a high rate of visitors, a slight increase in rates and the addition of the new washroom facility. COVID-19 conditions may have played a role. Capital improvements and repairs for the off season were also shared, as well as suggested changes in rates.

Consent Agenda

- ***Draft*** Minutes of the September 08, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- ***Draft*** Minutes of the September 21, 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 Works Report as presented

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Meeting Minutes and Board Liaison Reports

- Minutes of the September 23, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting were presented by Lonzey Taylor.
- Minutes of the September 10, 2020 Senior Advisory Committee Meeting were presented by Dennis Palgen.
- Minutes of the September 22, 2020 Park Advisory Committee Meeting were presented by Daywi Cook.
- Minutes of the August 19, 2020 Airport Authority Meeting were presented in the board packet.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** appointing Daywi Cook to continue serving on the Park Advisory Committee effective November 20, 2020 through January 9, 2021.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the labor agreement between Covert Township and The Police Officers Association of Michigan Covert Township Police Officers Association effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Committee to terminate the current contract for Covert Chore Services and Home Repair Programs with Senior Services of Van Buren County effective November 1, 2020.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to table** the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Committee to the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Committee Covert Township hire a Part-time Administrator at \$12 per hour at no more than eight hours per week to manage the Senior Service Millage Chore Services and Home Repair Programs, effective immediately.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Committee to adopt the revised Minimum Standards for Chore Services at presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the recommendation of the Senior Advisory Committee to adopt the revised Minimum Standards for Home Repair at presented.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the recommendation of the Covert Park Advisory Committee to allow the donated benches be placed in one of four locations: one just north of the playground facing south, one just south of the playground facing north, one on the hill under the shade of the tree overlooking M-140 and another on the west side of the parking lot entrance facing east. It was further recommended that the order in which each donor can choose a location would be selected by random at an open meeting of the Township Board. All future donations may be presented to the Park Advisory Committee for consideration.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 0, Abstain: 2 CARRIED

A random number generator was used to decide the order in which each donor may choose their location to place the bench. The results were as follows: 1 – Lion’s Club, 2 – Lonzey Taylor, 3 – Michael Dambrowski.

OTHER BUSINESS

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** purchasing two LIFEPAK 15 Monitors for the amount of \$36,730 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: ~~5~~-4, No: ~~0~~-1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** signing Amendment Two Professional Services Agreement between Covert Township and SAFEbuilt Michigan, LLC as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: ~~5~~-4, No: ~~0~~-1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** hiring Firefighter Johanna Quinn.

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

ADJOURN

Motion by L. Taylor **to adjourn** at 9:13PM

Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, November 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Daywi Cook, Covert Township Clerk