

# **COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

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

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Harold Schuitmaker, Township Attorney

### **Public Comment**

- Rev. W. C. Askew Sr., Van Buren County Road Commission Chair, gave informational updates to the Board including culvert repairs and latest quote to resurface CR376.
- Resident of Public Housing shared concern over fence that was installed to block a pathway that leads from the Public Housing residence to the parking lot of the Fire/Police Complex.
- Barbara Norman, resident of Covert Township and Public Housing Commission member, asked for clarification of who owns the land where the pathway is.
- Barbara Richmond, resident of Covert Township, asked if the board had any recommendations for general contractors to help her with a house remodel.
- Ella Harrington, resident of Covert Township, also asked for clarification on the fence blocking the Public Housing pathway and what the Township plans to do with the vacant buildings downtown.
- Resident of Public Housing asked for further clarification on who is responsible for paying for the pathway and who is liable for any injuries.
- Barbara Norman, Public Housing Commission member, shared that the commission was never presented with a proposed new pathway and urged the board to speak with the commission regarding the issue.

### **Chief Updates**

- Fire Chief Myers presented an update on the Fire Department, including the current risk of grass fires, the acquisition of donated radios, training sessions

hosted in Covert, NFPA's new requirements regarding Active Assailant drills, and a blood drive/health fair hosted at the Covert FD on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Police Chief Allen shared the department's latest efforts in battling the opioid epidemic, including informational meetings and counseling hosted at local churches.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the April 10, 2018 Regular Board Meeting
- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the April 30, 2018 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 M. Rendell to **approve** the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

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

- December 13, 2017 "Amended Draft", March 28, 2018 "Draft", and April 5, 2018 "Draft" Senior Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented by M. Rendell.
- April 18, 2018 South Haven Airport Authority Meeting Minutes
- March 21, 2018 2018 "Approved" and April 18, 2018 "Draft" Planning Commission Meeting Minutes were presented by L. Taylor.
- March 27, 2018 "Approved" and April 19, 2018 "Draft" Park Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes were presented by D. Cook.

### **New Business**

#### **Dangerous Buildings - Orders to raze**

Supervisor Palgen addressed the following properties individually and gave property owners an opportunity to address the board.

- Case 2018-02, Alicia Woodruff-Hernandez, 71123 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue: Hearing Officer David Leroy ordered the demolition of the single wide storage trailer by April 17, 2018. Demolition has not been completed as of 04.18.2018. *Property owner was not present for comment.*

- Case 2018-04, Mitchell Cichy Jr., Unaddressed, CR-376: Hearing Officer David Leroy ordered the house and shed be demolished, the bus be removed and the well pit be decommissioned - capped. Demolition has not been completed as of April 18, 2018. *Mr. Cichy was present and has since demolished the condemned house, removed the bus and kept the well as it is operable. He wants to keep the shed as storage. Photos were shared.*
- Case 2018-05, Margaret Russell, 40214 76<sup>th</sup> Street: Hearing Officer David Leroy ordered the house and sheds (outbuildings). Demolition has not been completed as of April 18, 2018. *Son was present and asked for a 30 day extension to complete the demolition.*
- Case 2018-06, Curly Fletcher, 41909 M-140 Hwy: Hearing Officer David Leroy ordered the demolition of the building (black and white trailer) and garage. Demolition has not been completed as of April 18, 2018. *Property owner not present for comment.*

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Palgen, to approve the request of Dangerous Buildings Hearing Officer David Leroy to uphold his orders and enforce the orders by any lawful means and to hereby order all blight as defined in Covert Township Anti-Blight Ordinance #55 be removed on the following four (4) properties.

- 2018-02: Parcel#: 80-07-012-028-00/ Address: 71123 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue
- 2018-04: Parcel#: 80-07-033-016-00 / Address: CR-376
- 2018-05: Parcel#: 80-07-028-031-00 / Address: 40214 76<sup>th</sup> Street
- 2018-06: Parcel#:80-07-026-012-00 / Address: 41909 M-140 Hwy

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to amend** the Order of the Hearing Officer on Dangerous Building Case 2018-07 / Parcel :80-07-035-022-00/ Address: 46333 M-140 allowing an additional 90 days to make the corrections ordered by Hearing Officer LeRoy and permitting the shed to be rehabilitated with the following improvements: the roof overhang reinforced, new shingles mounted, and entire building painted no later than July 9, 2018; however should the repairs not be completed by July 9, 2018 the Hearing Officers Orders will be upheld.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to amend** the Order of the Hearing Officer on Dangerous Building Case #: 2018-03 / Parcel #:80-07-035-025-00/ Address: 46189 M-140 allowing an additional 180 days to make the corrections ordered by Hearing Officer LeRoy, however should the repairs not be completed by October 8, 2018; the Hearing Officers Orders will be upheld.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 2 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** \$5,246.41 to the Van Buren County Road Commission for ditching at 77410 48<sup>th</sup> Avenue.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the recommendation of the Park Advisory Committee to execute the statement of work for site preparation of Bicentennial Park.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the recommendation of the Park Advisory Committee to purchase playground equipment for Bicentennial Park from Miracle Midwest in the amount of \$32,025.00, less earmarked contributions.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** reappointing Barbara Merriweather to the Housing Commission for the five year term retroactive May 11, 2018 to May 18, 2023.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** advertising the sale of the 2014 Police Ford Explorer (VIN#:1FMSK8ARFGA78319) requiring sealed bids to be opened at the June 12, 2018 Board Meeting.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** Covert Township Fire and EMS Standard Operating Guideline – Ambulance Transport Policy #113 with notated grammatical edit.  
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** option #3 of Arborist Preibe's recommendations for the tree in from of the Police and Fire Complex.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by M. Rendell, **to rescind** Covert Township Resolution Funding CR-376 Reconstruction for 2018; Resolution 2017-15.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by M. Rendell, **to rescind** the bid from Quality Paving in the amount of \$8575.00 for the Senior Housing Sidewalk.

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

### **Other Business**

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to table** opening the bids to complete the site preparation for Bicentennial Park.

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

### **Adjournment**

Motion by K. Harrington to adjourn at 8:16 p.m.

**Next Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, June 12, 2018, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**