

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 30, 2018 at 6:00PM

Covert Township Hall

PURPOSE: Closed Session with Township Attorney regarding New Covert Generating, Part-Time Employment request from Township Employee, Culvert Replacements on 80th Avenue, and 2018-2019 Budget Discussion.

SPECIAL MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Covert Township Board was brought to order by Supervisor Dennis Palgen at 6:00 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Dennis Palgen.

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

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Brian Knotek, Township Attorney

Public Comment

None

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor, **to enter** into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing legal strategy in connection with pending litigation with New Covert Generating.

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

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Cook, **to close** the Closed Session.

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

RECESS (5 MIN)

SPECIAL MEETING

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to reopen** Special Township Board Meeting.

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

New Business

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Palgen **to approve** Chief Myers request to work part-time for Western Michigan University School of Medicine as a Medical Examiner Investigator.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook **to approve** the cost of \$4,631.33 to the Van Buren County Road Commission to replace the cross pipe on the North End of 80th Avenue.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by M. Rendell **to approve** the cost of \$6,803.28 to the Van Buren County Road Commission to replace the cross pipe on the South End of 80th Avenue.

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

2018-2019 Budget Discussion

Fire Department preliminary budget recommendations were presented and discussed.

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the proposed Centennial Celebration Budget of \$4,670.

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

2018-2019 Budget Discussion (Cont.)

Police Department preliminary budget recommendations were presented and discussed.

Other Business

Focus for 2018 and Beyond Discussion

- D. Cook mentioned the need for a common goal and suggested thinking of ways to increase and stabilize population growth, as it has been declining. A Downtown Development Plan was suggested to give new businesses a common structure and goal.
- L. Taylor suggested the need to be conscious of what we spend and how much it would cost to maintain down the road due to a future reduction in tax base.

- M. Rendell clarified that if we lose Entergy’s tax revenue, property taxes do not automatically increase unless it is voted upon.
- K. Harrington stressed the importance of infrastructure, such as expanding and improving the sewer system, to encourage commercial growth and be more business friendly.
- L. Taylor and D. Cook mentioned ways of “selling” Covert.
- L. Taylor pointed out that new businesses are more likely to renovate existing buildings versus construct new ones.
- D. Palgen mentioned the continued success in removing blight.

Discussion on How to Improve Board Meetings

- L. Taylor suggested being more “instructional” so that the public understands the motions being discussed by the board.
- K. Harrington mentioned the desire to be more transparent and give the public a chance to comment at the end of the meeting.
- D. Cook suggested more structure during public comment and giving the public an opportunity to ask questions to board members after the meeting.

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Daywi Cook, *Covert Township Clerk*