

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, February 11, 2020 AT 7:00 p.m.
Covert Township Hall

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, W. Pritchard
Members Absent: None

Public Comment

Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared information on three county-wide proposals on the March election ballot, the 50th anniversary for the Mental Health Authority and the importance in participating in the US Census this year.

Barbara Jean Norman, Van Buren United Civic Organization President, shared that the center will be holding meetings to fill out the Census with numerators. Dates will be scheduled in March.

Chief Updates

Officer Daniel presented a report on behalf of Chief Allen. Officers are responding to complaints of speeding through downtown during rush hour and vehicles not stopping for school buses. Officer Daniel also warned residents of an increase in IRS phone scams.

Fire Chief Myers shared that they responded to 36 calls last month and will no longer be under contract with Pride Care effective February 17th. Red Cross will be installing free smoke detector February 17th to owner occupied homes. Call (269) 288-1049 to be included on the list. Chief Myers also shared information on Smart 911 accounts.

Informational Updates

D. Cook shared information from a recent Economic Development Summit hosted by Market Van Buren. This included opportunities from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, a study conducted by Antero Group, and panel discussions on broadband expansion and state/federal funding.

D. Palgen shared that Police and Fire Union contract negotiations will begin shortly and the Township is seeking bids for municipal financial consultants to prepare for the closure of Palisades Nuclear Power Plant in 2022.

Consent Agenda:

- ***Draft*** Minutes of the January 14, 2010 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

- January 8, 2020 Election Commission Meeting Minutes presented by D. Cook.
- ***DRAFT*** January 15, 2020 Senior Advisory Meeting Minutes presented by D. Palgen.

PUBLIC HEARING

Purpose: To consider a six (6) year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for use in applying for a Michigan Economic Development Corporation – Infrastructure & Resiliency Grant.

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** that the Board close the Regular Township Board Meeting.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook **to approve** that the Board open Public Hearing.

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

The Public Hearing was brought to order by Supervisor Palgen.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Supervisor Palgen.

Members Present: K. Harrington, D. Cook, D. Palgen, L. Taylor, W. Pritchard
Members Absent: None

Discussion

Jeff Wingard, Project Manager from Fleis and Vandenbrink, presented the Six (6) Year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan for use in applying for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation Infrastructure and Resiliency Grant.

Public Comment

None

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor **to approve** the Township Board adjourn from the Public Hearing.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington **to approve** the Township Board return to the Regular Township Board Meeting.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard **to approve** the Six (6) Year Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for use in applying for a Michigan Economic Development Corporation – Infrastructure & Resiliency Grant as presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** authorizing Clerk Cook to sign the resolution and application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation – Infrastructure & Resiliency Grant.

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

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the request of the Covert Township Planning Commission to distribute the proposed amendment of the Covert Township Master Plan for review and comment as drafted and presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** continuing with the asbestos abatement and demolition process of the property at 73029 26th Avenue.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** modifying the order of the Dangerous Buildings Hearing Officer to allow the rehabilitation plan as presented by Inspector Hanson dated 1/23/20, for property located at 75781 30th Ave - allowing up to one (1) month to obtain a building permit,
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0, CARRIED

Supervisor Palgen addressed the following properties individually and allowed property owners to respond.

Dangerous Buildings 2019-12, Ruben Gomez, 73808 North St
Comments on behalf of Mr. Gomez: None

Dangerous Buildings 2019-14, Benjamin Moore, 29620 76th St
Comments on behalf of Mr. Moore: None

Dangerous Buildings 2019-15, David Oliver, 72425 24th Ave
Any comments on behalf of Mr. Oliver: None

Dangerous Buildings 2019-19, Armando Arellano, 75131 36th Ave Unit #1 & #2
Comments on behalf of Mr. Arellano: None

Dangerous Buildings 2019-23, Franklin Huff, 47508 80th
Comments on behalf of Mr. Huff: None

Dangerous Buildings 2019-24, Rhea Morrow, 44633 76th
Comments on behalf of Ms. Morrow: None

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **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 further modify the orders by requiring the property owners to place the yard/property into compliance with the International Property Maintenance Code provisions of the State Construction Code and the Housing Law of Michigan by the elimination of all unlicensed and/or inoperable motor vehicles and the parts thereof, tires, rags, household garbage, litter, trash, brush piles; construction materials, unused and unusable machinery, debris, wood and plastic items, barrels, indoor furniture, discarded items, and any other unused/unusable items that have been left or stored in the yard on the following parcels:

1. Parcel#: 80-07-140-045-00 / Address: 73808 North Street

2. Parcel#: 80-07-009-024-00/ Address: 29620 76th Street
 3. Parcel#: 80-07-260-002-00/ Address: 72425 24th Avenue
 4. Parcel#: 80-07-023-015-00/Address: 75131 36th Ave-Units 1&2
 5. Parcel#: 80-07-031-036-00 / Address: 47508 80th Street
 6. Parcel#: 80-07-034-005-50 / Address: 44633 76th Street
- Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4, No: 1, CARRIED

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** project #497.3055 as quoted from the Van Buren County Road Commission for the crosspipe replacement on 72nd at a total cost to Township of \$4,900.47.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** re-appointing Ella Harrington and Donnie Rhodes to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals for the 3-year term to run from February 12, 2020 through February 11, 2023.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D Cook, **to approve** re-appointing Evelyn Coan to serve on the Housing Commission for the 5-year term to run from February 12, 2020 through February 11, 2025.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** re-appointing Tom DeRosa, Wayne Rendell and Austin Harding to serve on the Planning Commission for the 3-year term to run from February 12, 2020 through February 11, 2023.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies as presented.

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

Motion by K. Harrington to adjourn at 8:39 pm.

Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by D. Cook, Covert Township Clerk

