

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Via Video Conference

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** adopting Covert Township Policy 2020-01 Electronic and Telephonic Meeting Rules as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5, No: 0, CARRIED

Public Comment

Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, gave an overview of what the Road Commission has been doing during the COVID-19 orders. Offices are closed but calls are still being answered and workers are laying gravel and fixing potholes. The public can use Click N Fix to report issues remotely. Rev Askew praised the new manager and addressed an issue on 34th and West in Covert.

Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, thanked the township and residents for their efforts in decreasing the spread of COVID-19 and shared information on a Mental Health Warmline to be used for non-emergencies. Anyone struggling with mental health issues can call (888) 733-7753.

Chief Updates

Police Chief Allen shared the new hire of an officer who started Monday and warned the public of a variety of scams impersonating COVID-19 charities, utility workers and the IRS, among others.

Fire Chief Myers has no information on how many COVID-19 positive patients they serve as they do not yet have the ability to test, however they now have the ability to video conference with a patient's doctor to decrease possible exposure. Chief Myers also shared that they passed a state EMS inspection. He spoke at the Palisades Symposium and Jed Wild spoke at the MI Tactical Officers Association

and the Fire Instructors Conference. Chief Myers shared that they currently have enough supplies and explained the process to mitigate exposure when responding to a possible COVID-19 positive patient.

Informational Updates

Supervisor Palgen shared that three cross-pipes and two catch basin pipes at 34th and West Street have failed and may require complete intersection reconstruction. Also, as of April 6th there is no word yet on the oral arguments with New Covert Generating.

Consent Agenda

- ***Draft*** Minutes of the February 11, 2010 Regular Board Meeting
- March & April Clerk's Invoice Register Report and Payroll Period Reports as presented
- March & April Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking, & Budget Report as presented
- March & April Police Chief's Report as presented
- March & April Fire Chief's Report as presented
- March & April Public Work 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

- February 5, 2020 Ordinance Review Board Meeting Minutes were presented by W. Pritchard
- March 3, 2020, March 9, 2020, and March 14, 2020 Board of Review Meeting Minutes were presented by D. Palgen
- ***DRAFT*** December 19, 2019 Park Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented D. Cook

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the Michigan Uniform Video Service Local Franchise Agreement Renewal with Comcast as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the revision recommendations of the Senior Advisory Committee to the Senior Service

Standards for Home Repair, Specialized Medical Transportation and Volunteer Transportation as written.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the request of Senior Services of Van Buren County to increase the Care Watch Budget by \$3,800, Chore Budget by \$5,000, Home Repair Budget by \$10,000, and Transportation Budget by \$1,200 - for a total increase of \$20,000.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the request of Office Manager Fogarty to terminate the contract with Area Agency on Aging effective 30 days from written notice, thereby allowing all service contracts and billings to be managed in house, and our Senior Mileage fund to be used more efficiently, thus saving an excess of nearly \$14,000.00 per year.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the proposed budget amendment to the line item Capital Outlay-Ambulance from \$32,000 to \$220,000 to compensate for the purchase of the ambulance.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the quote from Compton, Inc in the amount of \$25,620 to lower the 12" watermain as a result of the new 60" crosspipe installation as required by the Van Buren County Drain Commission, at 28th and M-140 Hwy as presented

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** free Transfer Station Days for two weekends: May 8th & 9th and May 15th & 16th, 2020.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the request of Chief Allen to have Statewide Ford Lincoln transfer, install and replace necessary equipment in the new patrol car in the amount of \$10,202.00.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to table** the request of Chief Allen to change his contract Part D, Section 2, allotting him 200 hours of PTO at the

beginning of every fiscal year with the terms as presented in writing in the Board, pending a solution to address this revision with other employee contracts.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the Resolution to authorize submission of an application to the Michigan Township Par Plan Risk Reduction Grant Program and dedicate funds, as presented with a revision to total sum amount.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the request from F&V Operations for a cost of living increase to the monthly lump fee per current agreement in the amount of 1.9254% effective April 1, 2020.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the estimated quote from Wightman and Associates in the amount of \$2,400 to provide predesign and design services to ensure ADA compliance on the sidewalk from Covert Public Housing to the Covert Post Office parking lot.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the contract with the Van Buren Conservation District to participate in the 2020 Van Buren County Recycling Program in the about of \$250.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to deny** hosting the annual Covert Township Memorial Day Parade on May 25, 2020.

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

Motion by D. Palgen to adjourn at 9:22 PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting - Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by D. Cook, Township Clerk