

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
Covert Township Hall 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, W. Pritchard
Members Absent: L. Taylor

The electronic and telephonic meeting rules were presented by Attorney Seth Koches.

Public Comment

- Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, shared that the Road Commission is working 36 – 40 hours doing road work county-wide, including ditching. The office is still closed but taking calls. The new director was then introduced.
- Daniel Bishop, Van Buren County Road Commission Director, shared some information about himself, including that he is a long-time resident of Van Buren County.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared information on two grant applications to support public transit and the results of a recent financial audit. The Commissioner also thanked Covert residents who attended the recent Black Lives Matter march in South Haven. The County is working on a public statement to support the cause and urges residents to reach out with any information to help: gladneyg@vbco.org, (269) 637-0862.

Chief Updates

- Police Chief Allen shared the recent seizure of fire arms and drugs in the community that was successful thanks to a tip from a resident. There has also been an increase in traffic enforcement due to the uptick in drugs.
- Fire Chief Myers shared that call volumes are almost back up to normal. Cardiac related deaths in the state are up 30% possibly due to people not

calling 911 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another new health concern is pediatric inflammatory disease, which is directly related to the virus. Chief Myers also shared that the new full-time hire is doing fantastic, but there are now two openings and they are accepting applications through the 12th of June. The department also completed hose testing and is keeping an eye on shoreline erosion.

Informational Updates

Supervisor Palgen shared the following:

- Matt Schimmel has resigned from the Covert Fire Department and wishes him luck in his new role.
- Mike Dambrowski has resigned from the Senior Advisory Committee.
- Supervisor Palgen thanked our Police and Fire Chiefs for all their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Supervisor Palgen congratulated the seniors of Covert Public High School for their commencement.

Consent Agenda

- ***Draft*** Minutes of the May 12, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- May Clerk's Invoice Register Report and Payroll Period Reports as presented
- May Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking, & Budget Report as presented
- May Police Chief's Report as presented
- May Fire Chief's Report as presented
- May Public Work Report as presented

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Consent Agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 1, CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the bid proposal from Arnt Asphalt for Asphalt Repairs at the Library, Medical Center, Township Hall, Museum, Old Fire Department and the New Fire and Police Department in the amount of \$11,300.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 1, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Professional Services Agreement from Plante & Moran which is hereby incorporated in the engagement letter as presented.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** Van Buren County Road Commission Project #497.3056 28th Avenue and M-140 60' X 60' Crosspipe Replacement in the amount of \$37,895.00, of which Covert Township would pay \$18,947.50.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 1, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to table** the contract between Covert Township and Van Buren United Civic Organization to provide Small Socialization, Volunteer Transportation, and the Newsletter effective July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 1, CARRIED

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** Supervisor Palgen signing the letter of support to the Michigan Fitness Foundation backing the grant application for Michigan Farm to Family.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Contract for Assessing Services between Covert Township and Laureen Birdsall effective July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023 as presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the proposal from Plummer's dated May 20, 2020 in the amount of 11,300.00 as written.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the recommendation of Chief Myers granting Bio-Care to do the Fire Department Physicals in the amount of \$5,545.00 as quoted and presented.

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

Other Business

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the revised COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan as presented.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the request of Fire Fighter Jesse Ogden to receive reimbursement for education as presented in the letter dated June 2, 2020.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3, No: 1, CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen to adjourn at 8:24 pm.

Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, July14, 2020, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Daywi Cook, Covert Township Clerk