

**COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, January 14, 2019 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**

Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, shared the hiring of Daniel Bishop as the new director and spoke on the road millage renewal. There has been little snow, so the road commission has focused on trees. Meetings are now the first and second Thursdays at 4 PM.

**Chief Updates**

- Police Chief Allen announced that Covert is now 2<sup>nd</sup> place in animal complaints in the county and hopes to drop to 4<sup>th</sup> this year. The detective position continues to do well. 100% of CSC cases have been closed and one cold case will soon reopen. There was a high volume of car accidents in 2019 due to deer and the festival in Rothbury.
- Fire Chief Myers announced there were 51 calls last month and new policies will be drafted as a result of the latest risk management audit. Homeowners interested in getting smoke detectors installed on February 17<sup>th</sup> can call (269) 288-1059. Chief Myers also explained ongoing issues with Pride Care Ambulance services and mutual aid.

**Informational Updates**

- D. Palgen shared that no power outages or cross pipe failure occurred in Covert Township during that last winter storm.
- Septic tanks at the drain field have been pumped and cleaned and other parts of the system will be serviced soon.
- The Van Buren District Library presented Covert Township with a \$5,000 grant to improve the library facilities.

- Matt Holland from Gabridge & Company PLC presented results from the latest financial audit. Overall, the Township received an “unmodified opinion” and no control issues were identified.

### **Consent Agenda**

- \*Draft\* Minutes of the December 10, 2019 Regular Board Meeting
- \*Draft\* Minutes of the January 7, 2020 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 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**

- Draft December 18, 2019 Airport Authority Meeting Minutes were presented.
- Draft August 21, 2019 and December 18, 2019 Senior Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented by D. Palgen.
- Draft December 18, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes were presented by L. Taylor.
- Draft December 19, 2019 Park Advisory Meeting Minutes were presented by D. Cook.
- Draft December 4, 2019 Ordinance Review Board Minutes were presented by W. Pritchard.

### **Unfinished Business**

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** removing from the table the request of Clerk Cook to amend the Park Washroom Budget from \$40,000 to \$380,000 for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** amending the Park Washroom Budget from \$40,000.00 to \$380,000.00 for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** removing from the table Clerk Cook's request for the Township to accept the donation of a Life Jacket Loaner Board from Safe Kids Coalition Greater South Haven.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** accepting the donation of a Life Jacket Loaner Board from Safe Kids Coalition Greater South Haven at no cost to the Township, to install at the Covert Park Beach and Campground.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the 2020 Poverty Exemption Application along with the Poverty Guidelines Resolution and Eligibility requirements for 2020 as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the request of Van Buren District Library Director to reappoint Wayne Rendell to the Van Buren District Library Board of Trustees for an additional four-year term, to run from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2023.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** rescheduling the March 10, 2020 Regular Township Board Meeting to Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

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

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

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen **to approve** that the Board open Public Hearing.

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

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Purpose: A Public Hearing has been set for the purpose of considering the adoption of the Covert Township Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan for 2020 – 2024, with the direction to file the plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division.

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

### **Public Comment & Discussion**

*L. Taylor mentioned a concern on how the Mean Household Income is calculated and a few statistics regarding the K.O.A. and tennis courts that were identified as incorrect by the Planning Commission.*

*K. Harrington commented on those who completed the community survey and how it affects the results, and brought up the desire to have more facilities available to teenagers, such as basketball courts.*

*D. Cook explained how items were re-prioritized in the plan and the public input process. The timeline to have the plan submitted to the state is February 1<sup>st</sup>.*

*There was no public comment.*

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **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

### **REGULAR MEETING**

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Resolution for the Covert Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plan 2020-2024 with change from the Planning Commission, and file the plan with the MDNR Parks and Recreation Division.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard to adjourn at 8:26 PM.

**Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**