

COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, July 14, 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, L. Taylor
Members Absent: None

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 there is a 32% reduction in their revenue budget due to COVID-19. The office is now open and regular roadside work has begun, including dust control.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared information on new contracts with the County Sherriff's Department and Veteran's Services, such as health and dental care through the Van Buren/Cass Health Department. Call 1-800-210-1921, and press 0 to make an appointment. 2020 marks the 30th Anniversary for the Americans with Disabilities Act and will be celebrated online Friday, July 24th at 11:45 – 1:30.
- Nick Culp & Mick Middaugh of Entergy Nuclear gave a plant update. Palisades Nuclear has been operating for 349 consecutive days at 100% power with no expected down time until the upcoming outage. Mr. Culp shared COVID-19 mitigation strategies. Spring 2022 is the scheduled closure that has been licensed to another company for decommissioning. Fuel will be stored on site due to restrictions in moving it to a repository.

Chief Updates

- Police Chief Allen introduced the newest hire, Officer Metz, who started on the road Monday. Overall, there has been an increase in complaints. Recent

arrests have helped shut down a large drug operation. There have also been a lot of calls that have led to hot spots and people of interest. They have been taking guns off the streets and increased traffic enforcement. Covert is now down to #6 in dog complaints.

- Fire Chief Myers shared that it has been a busy month with 51 calls and an increase in COVID calls. They have implemented a new hiring process to fill two positions and have an increase in applications. They have also been keeping an eye on shore erosion, and shared information on their response to a recent strong storm with a special thank you to the Covert Department of Public Works for their help in moving trees. Chief Myers also shared information on Pediatric Inflammatory Disease on the east side of the state and dangerous hand sanitizers from Mexico that contain methanol. A 911 Millage on the ballot in August was also shared.

Consent Agenda

- ***Draft*** Minutes of the June 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- ***Draft*** Minutes of the June 9, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- ***Draft*** Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Public Hearing Board Meeting
- ***Draft*** Minutes of the June 24, 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 W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor to **approve** the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Meeting Minutes and Board Liaison Reports:

- Minutes of the May 20, 2020 and June 17, 2020, SH Airport Authority Board Meeting were presented.
- Minutes of the June 17, 2020 Senior Advisory Board were presented by D. Palgen.
- Minutes of the June 22, 2020 and July 8, 2020 Election Commission Meeting were presented by D. Cook.

New Business

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** Project #2020-100 Engineer's Opinion of Costs in the amount of \$66,555 to repair 34th Avenue and West Street as presented.

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

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by L. Taylor, **to table** Project #2020-101 Engineer's Opinion of Costs in the amount of \$57,107.50 to repair drainage under West Street.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the Van Buren County Road Commission Sealcoat Program Sheet Project #497.3076 in the amount of \$152,555.00 as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the Van Buren County Road Commission Deberming Program Sheet Project #497.3088 in the amount of \$9,030.00 as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** the Resolution Pledging the Townships Full Support for the Application of an Economic Development Grant for the Rehabilitation of the water distribution system as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the request of Chief Myers to purchase the Battery Backup as presented and quoted by IT Right in the amount of \$1,255.00.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** Supervisor Palgen's recommendation to appoint Ronald Christy, Alan Smaka, and Lenard Berry to the Construction Board of Appeals effective July 10, 2020 thru July 9, 2022.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor, **to table** the recommendation of Clerk Cook to commit to BS&A to manage our Cemeteries in the amount of \$7,610; and to include the \$550.00 annual support fee.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the suggestion of DPW Manager Piggee to change the Transfer Station days and hours of operation to Saturday from 8am to 4pm, not open on Friday, effective August 1, 2020.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the Covert Township Public Works Call-In Policy as revised by Attorney Seth Koches.

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

Motion to adjourn at 9:36 pm.

Submitted by D. Cook, Township Clerk

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