

**COVERT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Covert Township Hall Via Video Conference**

The Special 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

*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 sealcoat crew has begun work and meetings will begin two times a month starting in October. The drainage project at 34<sup>th</sup> Ave and West Street will begin soon. Boom mowing does not appear to have started; the tree storm crew is out when time permits. The Road Commission also has a job opening and recently hired a Covert resident. L. Taylor asked about the status of two lights that are out and D. Cook asked about conducting a traffic study at 78<sup>th</sup> Street and 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Gail Patterson-Gladney, Van Buren County Commissioner District #1, shared that Governor Whitmer has allowed electronic meetings of public bodies to continue. Information on the Board of Commissioner's meetings can be found on vbco.org. Sherriff's department has been approved to purchase four new vehicles; a veteran and resident of Van Buren County celebrated 103 years recently. Part 2 of an MSU Extension Training opportunity on Pantry Food Safety is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup>, 10AM. Contact [jorda136@msu.com](mailto:jorda136@msu.com) for more information. D. Palgen asked about meeting with the Commissioner regarding a potential business on Blue Star Hwy and 32<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

**Informational Updates**

*D. Palgen shared the following updates:*

- Work on M 140 and 28<sup>th</sup> Ave, as well as 34<sup>th</sup> Ave and West Street will begin soon.
- The old flocking building has three interested conglomerates and one offer.
- The mini strip mall on 32<sup>nd</sup> and M 140 is on hold.
- Talks have continued regarding the sidewalk from Walnut Grove Apartments to the Post Office.

**Chief Updates**

Police Chief Allen addressed the board and urged parents to monitor social media usage of their children as human trafficking continues to be a concern. Chief Allen also addressed questions

on the recent rise of complaints due to the “Stay Home” order being lifted, and explained why an Amber Alert was not activated when two youths went missing over the weekend.

Fire Chief Myers shared that call volume is back to normal with 48 calls this month, and reminded residents to stay clear of down power lines and cones in the street during storm season. COVID-19 is still here and precautions should continue to be taken to mitigate the spread. The department is still seeking a full-time employee and are in the hiring process with two candidates for the part time positions. It appears that the water level is receding from the shoreline. The 911 proposal recently passed in the August primary to provide a much-needed new radio system, and our own Miguel Llerena was in the news for catching a 28lb trout recently.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the July 14, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the July 22, 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 L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Consent Agenda with a date change in the July 14, 2020 minutes.

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

### **Meeting Minutes and Board Liaison Reports:**

Minutes of the June 23, 2020, July 15, 2020, and July 22, 2020 Senior Advisory Board Meetings were presented by Dennis Palgen.

### **New Business**

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the purchase of two portable radios in the amount of \$8,584.06, as presented.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the hire of Matthew Schimmel retroactive to July 1, 2020, as a Part-Time Covert Township Police Officer with specific duties of Fire Investigation.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Palgen, **to approve** to purchase a set of firefighting gear for Eric Garcia at a cost of \$2,772.50.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the proposal from BS&A to purchase the BS&A Cemetery in the amount of \$7,610, plus a \$550 annual support fee as presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the existing METRO Act agreement with KEPS Technologies, INC. dba ACT.net, which expired July 14, 2020, to July 14, 2025.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** the Commercial Insurance Proposal from Berend Hendricks Stuit Insurance in the amount of \$87,704.00 for the period of 08.01.2020 thru 08.01.2021.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** authorizing Supervisor Palgen to sign the Client Authorization to Bind Coverage with Berends Hendricks Stuit Insurance as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, **to approve** authorizing Supervisor Palgen to sign the Tokio Marine HCC Public Risk Application Declaration as presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** keeping the bodily injury liability insurance protection to unlimited coverage with Berends Hendricks Stuit Insurance as presented.

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

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by W. Pritchard, **to approve** the purchase of Casualty and Property Terrorism Coverage as presented.

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

Motion by W. Pritchard, seconded by K. Harrington, **to approve** the Van Buren County Interlocal Agreement designating Anthony Meyaard as County Designated Assessor for a minimum of five years from the date of the approved designation, as presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** the Professional Service Agreement – Compilation of a Financial Forecast Addendum to Plante & Moran PLLC Engagement Letter, as presented.

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

Motion by D. Palgen, seconded by D. Cook, **to approve** cancelling the Annual Downtown Covert Trick or Treating this year.

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

**Other Items**

*L. Taylor asked if the board would consider regular updates from Department Heads on ways to decrease the budget and cover costs. Consensus was that quarterly reports would be helpful.*

*W. Pritchard reminded the public that the Hooligan Flight Team will do a Covert Community Fly-over in honor of the Citizen Heroes who Fight COVID-19 virus on Saturday, August 15, 2020 above Covert, between 11:40 and 11:50 AM.*

Motion by W. Pritchard to adjourn at 8:38PM.

**Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

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Submitted by D. Cook, Township Clerk