

# **COVERT TOWNSHIP**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**\*DRAFT\***

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**

**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: N. Barnes (Covert Twp Hall), D. Palgen (Covert Twp Hall), B. Rose Covert Twp (Home), L. Taylor Covert Twp (Home)

Absent: K. Harrington

### **Public Comment**

Covert Township Attorney Jake Eccleston from Bauckham, Sparks recapped the rules of the Electronic and Telephone Meeting; verifying no changes since last meeting; no in-person meetings continue to be in effect. Reminding board to state name/title and their location during the meetings.

Rev. W. C. Askew, Sr., Van Buren County Road Commissioner, gave a brief overview of preparing for the snow with the delays in the severe weather helping to stretch the budget this season; routes are continuing to be maintained and monitored. Jeff Moffett resigned due to becoming an elected official.

Gail Peterson-Gladney, District 1 Van Buren Co. Commissioner; A hearing is scheduled for January 26, 2021 at 2:50 PM. Information concerning where to get registered for vaccine can be found on the website [www.vbcassdhd.org](http://www.vbcassdhd.org); potential places supporting vaccination, Bronson and Borgess Hospitals and Meijer Supermarket.

Keneisha Harrington, Community Participant, inquired about a needs assessment and how she could access the information. The determination was a survey was conducted by the Planning Commission; and by contacting the supervisor or office manager she would be able to come to the Covert Twp Hall and pick up a copy.

### **Chief Updates**

Police Chief Allen reports that crime is up as attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic; including, but not limited to Domestic Assaults, Child Neglect, Simple Assaults, drug and alcohol related infraction and drunk driving. The department will continue to work together to provide protection and keep community safe. Encouraging news was Covert, despite the increase is still lower than our neighboring communities.

Fire Chief Jed Wild presented detailed report on the trainings and working closely with the health Department to ensure that the Firefighters are able to accurately assist with administrating the vaccine. The department is in full swing with daily shift trainings; Two additional part time workers complete the department as being fully staffed; Information will be forthcoming concerning when vaccinating will be available to the community at the Covert Fire Departments Location.

### **Consent Agenda**

- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the December 1, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- **\*Draft\*** Minutes of the December 22, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- Clerk's Invoice Register Report as presented
- Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking, & Budget Report December & January
- Police Chief's Report as presented
- Fire Chief's Report as presented
- Public Work Report as presented

Motion by B. Rose to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by N. Barnes.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 CARRIED

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

- None

### **Unfinished Business**

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by, D. Palgen to approve the removal of Clerical Assistant Position from the table.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3 No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, Seconded by N. Barnes to **Approve** the position of Township Clerical Assistant, the Job Description as presented, and to post the position accepting application through January 31, 2021.

Roll Call Vote Yes: 3 No: 1 CARRIED

### **New Business**

Motion by D. Palgen, Seconded by B. Rose to appoint Dawn Alspaugh, Pam Baker, Keith Gleiss, as Board of Review Members and Mia Bennett as an Alternate Board Member, terms effective 01.12.2021 thru 01.12.2023.

Roll Call Vote Yes: 4 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion Rose, Seconded, by Taylor to Approve Chief Allen's request for the following policies as presented:

- Article 15...Use of Force
- Article 16...Firearms

- Article 52...Raid plans/no know search warrants.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Palgen, Seconded, by Taylor to approve the MERS Defined Benefit Plan Adoption Agreement Addendum as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes:3 Abstain: 1 CARRIED

Motion to Adjourn by D. Palgen

**Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.**

Submitted by Naomi Barnes, Covert Township Clerk