

COVERT TOWNSHIP
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
***DRAFT* MINUTES**
Tuesday, July 13, 2021
7:00 p.m.
COVERT TOWNSHIP HALL

The Regular Board Meeting of the Covert Township Board was called to Order by Supervisor Harrington.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Harrington.

Members Present: K. Harrington, N. Barnes, B. Rose, and L. Taylor

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Rose to approve moving the Ordinance Rezoning M-140 Auto Parts to AG (Agriculture) to just before the CLOSED SESSION on the Agenda.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 – No: 0

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Rose to table the Adoption of Ordinance No. 98 and remand to the Covert Township Planning Commission to provide the requested information to the Van Buren County Planning Commission. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3 – No: 1

Public Comment

Rev. W. C. Askew updated the Board and public on the new facility for County trucks/equipment on M-43 Hwy in Bangor Township and stated Covert Township is doing good. Van Buren County Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney shared information regarding the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) for Non-Profits including Governmental.

Several individuals addressed their concerns about the rezoning of the Junk yard/salvage yard and what it will mean to the community not to have that resource any longer.

Mrs. Daywi Cook expressed concerns involving the boards process in replacing board members and how the current process was selected.

Chief Updates

Police Chief Allen reports actively searching for a location for the Child Advocacy Center, which is greatly needed in this area, to provide counseling for child victims and other beneficial resources for the individual as well as their families. Crime is up due to the summer with tourism and out of town visitations.

Acting Fire Chief Vince Virsik reports for Captain Wilkinson 55 calls for services, 45 were for EMS. Two Cardiac arrest, utilized the New Lucas 3, information is automatically loaded reporting that the compression are high standards upwards of 90%, exceeding normal recommendations. The

Staff received thank you cards from the people in the community and it is much appreciated by the Fire Department and all Staff.

Manager Piggee relates there is not much going on outside of the normal day to day duties. He reports needing a new machine due to the other one being broken down. He asked for the patience of the township for the side roads pending a purchase of new equipment.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Rose, seconded by Barnes to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: **Draft** Minutes of the June 8, 2021, Regular Board Meeting, **Draft** Minutes of the June 15, 2021, Special Board Meeting, **Draft** Minutes of the June 23, 2021, Special Board Meeting, Clerk's Invoice Register Report as presented, Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking, & Budget Report, Fire Chief's Report as presented, Public Work Report as presented. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 – No: 0

Closed Session

The Township Board will now convene in Closed Session under Section 8(h) of the Open Meeting Act, in consideration of material that is exempt from disclosure pursuant to section 13(1)(g) of the Freedom of Information Act, to consult with the Township Attorney regarding a written legal opinion.

Unfinished Business

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Rose to approve removing the Public Works – New Zero Turn Lawnmower request from the table. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 – No: 0

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Rose to approve the quote from Steensma Lawn and Power Equipment in the amount of \$8,828.00 to purchase a new Zero Turn Lawnmower for the Department of Public Works. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 – No: 0

New Business

Motion by Lonzey, seconded by Rose to approve the day-to-day operations of the Fire and EMS Department to continue as they are today and advertise for a Fire Chief on a broader spectrum. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 3 – No: 1

Motion by Harrington, seconded by Barnes to approve the purchase of a Keiser Force Machine (aka: Keiser Sled) as presented at a cost of \$3,012.28. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 – No: 0

Motion by Rose, seconded by Lonzey to approve F&V Operations and Resource Management, INC. Amendment 6 to the Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Water and Wastewater facilities effective July 2, 2021, through July 1, 2023, at a monthly lump sum of \$2,151.21. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 – No: 0

Motion by Barnes, seconded by Harrington to adjourn.

Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.