

COVERT TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 14, 2022
6:00 p.m.
COVERT TOWNSHIP HALL

The Regular Board Meeting of Board Meeting of the Covert Township Board was called to order by Supervisor K. Harrington at 6:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor K. Harrington

Members Present: N. Barnes, D. Cook, M. Rendell, K. Harrington and L. Taylor.

Members Absent: None

Commissioner Updates

Van Buren County Commissioner Gail Patterson-Gladney briefly reported the aftermath of the storm which included damages to county building The Museum and the Animal Control buildings with no power, and trees down. She reflected on the Michigan Supreme Courts ruling to make Juneteenth a paid Holiday.

Public Comment

George Lucas addressed the Township and Board to announce his candidature for State Representative for the August Primary.

Special Presentation

The Covert Township Board presented a Certificate of Appreciate to Detective Alan Marler, and Captain Vince Virsik for 25 years of exceptional service and devotion to the Covert Community and Township Boards.

Chief/Manager Updates

Detective A. Marler requested another candidate for training be considered by the Board. He reports the Police Dept have been very busy. Some burglaries on the Lake shore front homes were apprehended and several pieces of property was recovered. He encourages the home owners who have had property stolen to please contact the Department so that you can recover your stolen items. Detective Marler the shooting that occurred on August 15, 2021 investigation has yielded two suspects who are now being held at the Van Buren County Jail.

Captain Virsik gave a brief update which included the storm which kept the Fire Department extremely busy in the Palisades Park, and fire lanes; Blue Star Hwy had to be cleared of down trees. Captain Virsik introduced new hires, Jacob Clemens, William Featherstone and Paul Pant.

Public Works Representative Albert Moore gave updates on the progress on Marking and clearing Miss Dig tickets, resealing and striping the parking lots at Town Hall, Police and Fire complex, Museum and Library, Old Fire Dept. and Clinic; assisting citizens with drainage issues and working on getting the all of the citizens concerns addressed timely.

Attorney Updates

Attorney M. Brian Knotek updates included the Tencate/M-140 Auto Parts, a decision needs to be made concerning a recommendation. The Library and Bank Building plans need to move forward. The Lift Station/Sewer Project, Covert Industrial (formerly West Michigan Flocking/ New Covert Generating were also topics of brief discussion.

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington to Approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No:0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to approve the Consent agenda to include revision to the May 10, 2022 Board meeting minutes.
Roll Call Vote: Yes 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Meeting Minutes

- *DRAFT* Minutes of the 05.18.2022 Planning Commission
- *DRAFT* Minutes of the 04.19.2022 Park Advisory
- *DRAFT* Minutes of the 04.28.2022 Zoning Board of Appeal

Commissioner Update

Van Buren County Road Commissioner Rev. W.C. Askew spoke briefly on the subject of the ditches and the standing water; the Commissioner assured the board that each concern would be addressed and be reported back to the Supervisor and the Public Works Manager.

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by D. Cook to remove from the table Distribution Easement Agreement between Covert Township and Indiana Michigan Power.
Roll Call Vote: Yes:5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the Distribution Easement Agreement between Township of Covert and Indiana Michigan Power as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

New Business

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to Approve the Offer to Amend that Statement of Conditions regarding Parcel #80-07-017-018-05 as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell, to approve the amend the 2022 Budget to correct departmental budget lines in the amounts of:

General Fund/Department: 101.00 Twp Board Consultant & Wages	+\$20,000.00
General Fund/Department: 265.00 Township Hall Repairs Shembarger	+\$6,000.00
Park Fund: 692.00 Parks Capital Outlay – Sidewalks	+17,000.00
Planning Fund: 801.00 Consultant	+\$2,000.00
Fire/Ambulance Fund/EMS Department	+\$3,000.00
Museum Fund	+\$2,000.00

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to Approve the appointment of M. Rendell as the direct contact for Police and Fire Chief Julian Allen, Office Manager Fogarty, DPW Manager Piggee, and Covert Park, Beach, and Campground Manager, Abshire effective immediately.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by N. Barnes to Table the request of property owner D. Rice to modify the boundaries of the 2 ‘zoning lots’ to create 2 new lots as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to Approve Chief Allen’s request for Asbestos Abatement (removal) at 25566 M-140 Hwy in Covert Township in the amount of \$1,523.63 for Covert Township Fire Development and Training maneuver.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by K. Harrington to Approve Chief Allen’s request to send one candidate from Covert Township Police Department to KVCC Law Enforcement Academy. The approximate cost is \$7,300.00 with an hourly compensation rate of \$10.00 per hour, effective August 1, 2022, through academy completion/graduation.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to Table both quotes for removal of trees from the estimate #18 & 19 as presented by Dale Clayton’s Tree Services.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Cook to approve DPW Manager Piggee’s request to close the Transfer Station at 1:00PM on Saturday, June 18th as the will be no staff available after 1:00PM.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by N. Barnes, seconded by L. Taylor to Approve the quote from Great Lakes Sign in the amount of \$1,970.00for a Public Works Sign for overhead door at Public Works Building.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes, to approve the quote from Compton's in the amount of \$1,885.00 for the excavation of the underdrain at the cemetery and to include quote for remain of the road after the excavation is completed. Yes: 4 No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to Approve paying Lawn Boys invoice #18945 dated 09.29.2021 the remaining \$1,200.00 for the 22 additional posts installed at Covert Park, Beach, and Campground.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 1 CARRIED

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by L. Taylor to approve quote by Dan's Automotive to replace the Air conditioner Compressor in the 2010 Ford Expedition in the amount \$930.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by K. Harrington, seconded by L. Taylor Approve the Van Buren County Road Commission 2022 Sealcoat Fog Seal Program Sheet Project #1 in the amount of \$32,500.00 #2 Hot Seal in the amount of \$95,85.00 #3 De-berming Program Sheet Project #497.3088 in the amount of \$17,680.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to Approve the Van Buren County Road Commission 2022 Local Road Special Maintenance Sheet Project #497.3059 in the amount of \$11,679.23.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Motion by N. Barnes, seconded by D. Cook to Approve the contract between Covert Township and Coastal Clean Cleaning Services as presented effective June 15, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 CARRIED

Next Regular Board Meeting- Tuesday, July 12, 2022

Submitted by, Naomi Barnes, Covert Clerk