

Covert Township Regular Board Meeting

Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Covert Township Hall, 73943 Lake St, Covert, MI 49043

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m. by Supervisor Cook, followed by the Pledge of allegiance.

Members Present: J. Hartmann, N. Barnes, D. Cook, L. Taylor and M. Rendell

Members Absent: None

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Commissioner Updates:

Commissioner W. C. Askew commented on the flood issues found throughout Covert township and Van Buren County. Patching has been done throughout the county and various drain cleanouts. The long-term solutions to alleviate flood issues in the future includes seal coating the roads so that water drains more efficiently off the roads and into clear culvers and ditches.

Public Comment:

Maria Alcoutef, a resident of Covert, spoke on her personal experience regarding the flooding. She emphasized the run-off of garbage that has gathered at the end of the road due to flooding. The overflow of the ditches has caused flooding in and around people's homes. She also expressed interest in becoming more involved in meetings here in the township.

Informational Updates:

- a. Parking Lot Planning
- b. Blight Elimination Program
- c. Senior Building Status
- d. Special Meeting - Rate Schedules & 2023/24 Budget

Attorney Updates:

Attorney Brian Knotek spoke on NGC updates 2016-2022 is still in litigations, trying to reach a conclusion for 2017-2022 in which the tribunal is ready to make a ruling. Tax season 2017 and on will then be evaluated based on the rate of inflation and other considerations. This is due to various over and underpayments by Covert residents as well as various updates and additions that have been made to the homes and properties.

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction of changing county land authority to county land bank authority in the previous Regular Board Meeting held on March 14, 2023 minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

- a. Draft Minutes of the March 14, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- b. Clerk's Invoice Register Report and Payroll Report
- c. Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking and Budget Report
- d. Fire & Police Department Report*
- e. Department of Public Works Report
- f. FOIA Request Report
- g. Senior Services Report
- h. Safebuilt Permits Report

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Zoning Board of Appeals Cancelled

- i. DRAFT Planning Commission Minutes 3/15/2023*
- j. DRAFT Park Advisory Committee Minutes 3/16/2023
- k. DRAFT Board of Review Minutes 3/13/2023 & 3/18/2023
- l. DRAFT Senior Advisory Committee Minutes 3/9/2023*
- m. DRAFT Airport Authority Minutes 3/3/2023

Old Business:

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by J. Hartmann to remove from the table AccuMed Group EMS Fee Change Recommendation.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve the changes to the fee schedule for EMS Services, per the recommendation of AccuMed Group to the lowest suggested fee to Covert residents.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by J. Hartmann, seconded by N. Barnes to remove from the table the process of creating a vendor list.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to approve the creation of an approved vendor list as presented by Attorney Knotek with the exclusion of sub-contracting.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to remove from the table proposal from Mckenna & Associates.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook to approve the proposal from McKenna & Associates to update the Covert Township Master Plan in the amount of \$34,000, for services to include considerations for the Coastal Management Plan.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

New Business:

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook to approve providing Michael Cortez, PTO at the rate that mirrors the Police department personnel.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to approve hiring Clayton Tree Services to replace 4 street light bulbs to LEDs in the amount of \$1,098.38 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by N. Barnes to table the estimate from Compton to replace the rear door at Township Hall in the amount of \$5,680, as presented.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve the estimate from Dale Clayton's Tree Services to remove dying trees from the park north of the library in the amount of \$1100.00 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the estimate from Scholten Plumbing, to clean the irrigation system at the Fire/Police Complex in the amount of \$3,325.00 as presented this is to include permits that will require an additional fee of &180.00.

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the estimate from Midwest Windows & Door to replace the door at the Fire/Police Complex in the amount of \$2,695.00 as presented.

Roll call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by J. Hartmann, seconded by L. Taylor to approve the estimate from Jamie's Painting to power wash and make repairs to the Covert Park Beach & Campground residence in the amount of \$6,850.00 as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by N. Barnes to approve subscribing to TLOxp for Law Enforcement in the amount of \$75.00 per month for the Covert Police Department.

Roll call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to approve sponsoring two candidates to attend the Police Academy at the cost of \$7500.00 plus equipment and uniforms and recruits to be paid a rate of \$15.00 per hour while attending; obtain MCOLES certification with the possibility of obtaining a grant, as presented.

Roll call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook to approve authorizing Supervisor Cook to sign a two-year agreement with FirstNet and buyout the AT&T agreement in the amount of \$410.00 with the option to add additional devices.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to approve paying City of South Haven invoices for water tap fees in the total amount of \$32,990 from General Fund with options to join the authority and complete a rate(s) study.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by J. Hartmann, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the Resolution of Agreement with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant Program to develop the north boardwalk at the Covert Park Beach and Campground, as presented.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve hiring Wightman & Associates as the designated Prime Professional to oversee the Covert Park Beach and Campground North Boardwalk Improvement Project per the Spark Grant Program requirements, in the amount of \$45,000.00. as presented.

Roll call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the proposal from Wightman & Associates to manage the RAP Grant Covert Community Park project in the amount of \$43,397.00 plus reimbursable expenses, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by D. Cook to approve offering Aflac's benefit options to part time employees and allowing changes to plans outside of enrollment periods.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by N. Barnes to approve a budget of \$1,455.00 to host the Memorial Day Parade.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by J. Hartmann, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the resolution to re-establish the Historical Museum Advisory Committee, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve appointing Catherine Green to a one-year term on the Museum Advisory Committee, effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2024.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve appointing Jean Robinson to a two-year term on the Museum Advisory Committee, effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2025.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve appointing LaDonna Golden to a three-year term on the Museum Advisory Committee, effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2026.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve appointing Christy Zwenger to a three-year term on the Museum Advisory Committee, effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2026.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to approve appointing Naomi Barnes as Board Liaison to the Museum Advisory Committee, effective April 12, 2023 until the end of their office term.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to approve appointing Rebecca Job to a one-year term effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2024, Michelina Dominquez to a two-year term effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2025, Patrice Jackson to a three-year term effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2026, and Barbara Bainbridge to a three-year term effective April 12, 2023 until April 12, 2026 to the Covert Community Garden Advisory Committee.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by N. Barnes to approve appointing Daywi Cook as Board Liaison to the Covert Community Garden Advisory Committee, effective April 12, 2023 until the end of their office term.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion Carried

Public Comment: None

Closed Session:

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve entering into Closed Session in accordance with MCL 15.268, section 8 (e) to consult with township attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, as an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body. In addition, to consider a written legal opinion pursuant to MCL 15.248 (h).

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to end the closed session.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve authorizing Township Attorney to initiate injunctive and declaratory action in the Circuit Court pertaining to the M-140 identified in closed session.

Motion passed by all present in favor of saying yes. Opposed: 0 Motion carried.

Adjourn:

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to adjourn at 8:42 PM.

Submitted, by Naomi Barnes, Covert Township Clerk

Next Regular Township Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM at the Covert Township Hall, 73943 Lake Street.


