

**COVERT TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM  
Covert Township Hall, 73943 Lake St, Covert, MI 49043

The Covert Township Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Supervisor D. Cook followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Members Absent: None

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to amend the agenda to remove VBD Library Board appointment and add the following: Resolution to adopt ambulance and fire protection millage ballot language, Resolution to adopt police protection millage ballot language, and Resolution to adopt road improvement millage ballot language.

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

**Commissioner Updates**

Gail P. Gladney, Van Buren Co. Commissioner District 1 briefly reviewed the retirement of Don Hanson, and the appointing of Trina Leary. Another information shared include the completion of the Children's Advocacy Center.

Van Buren Co. Road Commission Rev. W.C. Askew reports the Road Commission has a new Director, Bret Wysocki. The County is actively patching pot holes county wide. And there has been funds of \$55,260.27 allocated for the county millage.

**Public Comment**

None

**Informational Updates**

Supervisor D. Cook summarized the following:

SPARK Grant Submitted for the North Boardwalk

MVB Hosts Community Grant Development Summit January 18, 2023

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Draft Minutes of the December 6, 2022 Special Board Meeting
- b. Draft Minutes of the December 12, 2022 Special Board Meeting
- c. Draft Minutes of the December 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- d. Clerk's Invoice Register Report and Payroll Report
- e. Treasurer's Revenue Receipt Distribution, Banking and Budget Report
- f. Fire & Police Department Report

- g. Department of Public Works Report
- h. FOIA Request Report
- i. Senior Services Report
- j. Safe built Permits Report

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L Taylor to approve/deny/table the Consent Agenda as presented with corrections to December 13, 2022 Regular Board meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Yes 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

**Old Business - None**

**New Business**

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes, to approve authorizing Supervisor Cook to sign the Van Buren County Road Commission Revenue Share Funds Acknowledgment.

Motion by all in favor saying yes. Opposed 0 Motion Carried

Motion by, M. Rendell, seconded by N. Barnes to table amending the 2022/2023 General Fund budget as follows:

101.0-000.00-191.00 (Elections)	+\$1,800	New Budget \$11,347.00
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101.0-000.00-390.00 (Ord Enf)	+\$3,500	New Budget \$12,274.00
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101.0-000.00-738.00 (Library)	+\$1,000	New Budget \$1,855.00
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TOTAL INCREASE IN EXPENSES +\$6,300

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0

Motion by N. Barnes, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve Chief Allen's request to send three employees to MFR class for a total cost of \$900.00 as presented.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the purchase of a sewage pump to be used at the Covert Park Beach and Campground from Bluebook in the amount of \$2051.42 as presented.

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

*Berends Hendricks Stuit Insurance has confirmed that the Township's liability insurance will not be able to cover the Park Manager and their employees unless they are hired employees of the Township. Dawn Strasser has agreed that it is not necessary to be covered under the Township's liability insurance and she will carry her own.*

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor, to table removing section 7 of the Covert Park, Beach, & Campground Management Agreement effective March 1, 2023, and any other amendments that need to be removed; pending final reviews by Attorney Mills.

Motion by all in favor saying yes. Opposed: None Motion Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by N. Barnes to approve appointing Daywi Cook as the direct report for Department Managers, Independent Contractors and Office Manager, effective

immediately.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to approve authorizing Supervisor Cook to sign the 18-month contract agreement between Covert Township and Senior Services of Van Buren County, effective January 1, 2023, as presented, with removal of the automatic renewal clause; pending final review from Attorney Mills.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve accepting the bid from Becht Construction in the amount of \$220,594.56 to complete the Senior Center remodel as presented, with 10% out of General funds and 90% out of Senior Services.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the estimate from Shembarger in the amount of \$29,500.00 to expand the parking area at the museum and Senior Center with new asphalt and restriping to allow for more parking spaces to accommodate the use of the new Senior Center.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve an application to the Van Buren County Land Bank to remove blight at the following locations: with 0% match of funds from Covert Township.

33440 M 140 HWY, Stabilization Project, Cost \$44,718.00

35827 72<sup>nd</sup> Street, Demolition Project, Cost \$22,160.00

33081 N. Cemetery Street, Stabilization Project, Cost TBD

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

Motion by L Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to table the request of the Covert Community Garden Club to organize an Advisory Committee for the use and management of a Community Garden on Township property as presented, pending further information. Roll Call Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Motion Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve re-appointing Eddie Wilborn, Wayne Rendell, to the Park Advisory Committee to serve a two-year term effective 1/9/2023 until 1/8/2025, and appointing Christy Zwenger for the remainder of Jean Hartmann term, to expire 11/20/24 effective immediately.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to approve re-appointing Robert Brown and Lenard Berry to the Covert Township Planning Committee for the remainder of the three-year term to expire 1/9/2024, effective immediately.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve, re-appointing Wayne Rendell and Austin Harding to serve on the Covert Township Planning Commission for a three- year term to expire 2/10/2026, effective 2/11/2023.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by M. Rendell to approve, appointing Wednesday Pritchard to serve on the Covert Township Zoning Board of Appeals for a three -year term to expire 2/10/2026, effective 2/11/2023.

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

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve /re-appointing Pam Baker to serve on the Covert Township Senior Advisory Committee for the remainder of the four-year term to expire 10/10/2025, effective immediately.

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

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by J. Hartmann to approve the Resolution to Adopt Road Improvement Millage Ballot Language, Resolution to Adopt Ambulance and Fire Protection Millage Ballot Language, and Resolution to Adopt Police Protection Millage Ballot Languages with changes.

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

### **Public Comment Any Other Business**

Covert Resident, Barbara Norman questioned if the Covert Garden Park could be somewhere else other than the place near the library, and providing future park space for the older children in the community.

Covert Resident, John Snow inquired if funds /grants could be provided to off set the cost of the transfer station pricing.

### **Adjournment:**

Motion by D. Cook to adjourn at PM.

Next Regular Board Meeting to be held Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6PM at the Covert Township Hall.

