

**COVERT TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.
COVERT TOWNSHIP
HALL**

The Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Clerk Barnes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Clerk Barnes.

Motion by M. Rendell seconded by L. Taylor to have Trustee Cook facilitate the meeting.

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

Members Absent: K. Harrington

Public Comment: Barbara Rose, inquired again concerning the lack of information in the agenda, the issue was addressed by Attorney Knotek. Dorothy Holmes, inquired about the lack of transportation provided for the Senior Citizens in Covert, and the long hours of waiting after appointments have been completed.

Chief Manger Updates

Public Works Manger Piggee updated provided updates for the Board concerning the lack of cooperation from the Van Buren County Road Commission dealing with Miss Dig tickets, ditching and overall cooperation and assistance with protocols and safety requirements for Covert Citizens.

Commissioner Update. W.C. Askew, briefly responded to Manager Piggee concerns and reported the issue will be addressed at the next board meeting which is Wednesday, Sept. 14. 2022.

Chief Allen updated the Board on the recovery of stolen vehicles, the location of a victim of human trafficking, training sessions, accepting of applications and interviews for the police department. The Fire Department updates included New Fire Truck, maintenance on the ambulances, Saturday's pancake breakfast Sept. 17, 2022 from 8:00-12:00.

Attorney Brian Knotek Updates included New Covert Generating reports no upcoming hearings and a new discovery. Two Litigations private properties involving an advertisement in which the property was not zoned to accommodate due to structures, parking, capacity to accommodate staging lights, towers, traffic and ability to serve food and without health department certifications. Temporary injunctions were issued by the Court. The tree lighting event according to Ordinance#5 does not require a permit it is public property, not private, and final word is pending more information. The Board will be notified. The issue of putting a more detailed agenda on the website yields no legal requirement, however, it can be done by method of FOIA request which would require review and redaction due to everything is the board package is not subject to the public information Act, this will be decided by the board pending who, what, and (7) pretrial conferences were done in person today.

All results will be complied withing 30 days and presented to the board by Spreadsheet. Dangerous tree notices went out to the county and property owners.

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Motion Carried Aye: All No:0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by N. Barnes to table irrigation system at Police Fire Complex pending further information and pending soil testing.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the estimate from Compton Land improvement as presented not to exceed \$825.00.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the quote from Wolverine Power Systems in the amount of \$1,112.13 to replace the generator controller as presented.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by L. Taylor to approve the quote from Overhead Door Company of Kalamazoo in the amount of \$2,055.00 to replace door torsion spring assembly of 4 springs.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the funds request of Chief Allen funds for Vector Solutions Public Sector Software Maintenance Fee and Premier Membership in the amount of \$2,613.00 as quoted.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the request of Chief Allen to purchase a 2023 Ford SUV in the amount of \$58,270.00 as quoted by Statewide Ford Lincoln for the Covert Township Police Department.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by N. Barnes, seconded by M. Rendell to approve the Township retaining the 2017 Ford Explorer (#GA77112) to replace the Township Expedition.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by N. Barnes to approve Trustee Cook to submit a letter “Intent to Apply” for the Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund, pending review by F &V.
Motion Carried Aye: All No: 0

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Cook to approve the engagement letter to audit the financial statements of the governmental activities for year end June 30, 2022.
Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by M. Rendell to table payment to City of South Haven for Invoice #5609 in the amount of \$4,751.00 to tap and bore a 1” tap, pending possible review of the old contract,

communication with South Haven concerning prior notification of actions before completing job and forwarding all information to Attorney Knotek.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by N. Barnes to approve Trustee Cook and Treasurer Rendell to begin creating a draft agreement with Senior Services of Van Buren County with the help of Brian Knotek and Diane Rigozzi, also inquiring/requesting possible volunteer transportation to support Covert Seniors for a period of 3 months.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the quote from Tru-Spect Inspections & Environmental to perform services internal and external as quoted in the amount of \$600.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by L. Taylor, seconded by N. Barnes to approve the proposed Ordinance Amendment of Section 18.24 of the Covert Township Zoning Ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by D. Cook, seconded by L. Taylor to approve authorize Clean Earth to vactor along with flex hose and support truck with (2) technicians to vacuum, recover, and clean (3) lift stations, power washing the base and walls of each lift station in the amount of \$3,500.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes: 4 No: 0 Carried

Motion by M. Rendell, seconded by D. Cook to approve the following budget amendments in the 2022 General Fund/Department Budgets:

Township Board	+\$22,000.00
Supervisor.....	-\$22,000.00
Township Hall	+\$5,000.00
Ordinance Enforcement	-\$5,000.00
Streets & Sidewalks.....	+\$8,000.00
Transfer Station	+\$1,200.00
Insurance	-9,200.00

Other Business: Garden Club meeting at the Library September 20, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.
September 14, 2022 is the last day to pay taxes at Covert Township Treasurer’s office. Delinquent charges are 1% per month.

Public Comment: Barbara Norman inquired about Deputy Clerk position being filled by the newly elected Supervisor, a resolution to the 45th street issues and the senior transportation issues, as well as utilizing the empty buildings in Covert.

Dorothy Holmes is concerned that the home next to her home, has weeds growing up and the area is infested with snakes.

Carolyn Gage Stewart inquired about the replacement of the Board member who resigned from for Public Housing authority be reappointed as soon as possible so that the business of the public housing can resume.

Motion to Adjourn by D. Cook, seconded by N. Barnes

Next Regular Board Meeting-Tuesday, October 11, 2022

Submitted by Naomi Barnes, Covert Township Clerk

