

MARION TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott Lloyd, Bob Hanvey, Tammy Beal, Les Andersen, Dan Lowe, Sandy Donovan, and Greg Durbin

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: John Gormley, Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Bob Hanvey called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The meeting is also available to attend online.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

The board members introduced themselves.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No response.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Items on the zoning administrator contacting the attorney, PDR ballot language, and a general announcement were added to the agenda. Greg Durbin motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

CONSENT AGENDA

Les Andersen motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Scott Lloyd seconded. **Motion carried.**

2024 LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Les Andersen motion to accept the proposal from Burnham & Flower in the amount of \$59,009 for liability coverage, as presented. Scott Lloyd seconded. Roll call vote: Lloyd, Lowe, Andersen, Hanvey, Durbin, Donovan, Beal—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Les Andersen motioned to accept the proposal from Burnham & Flower in the amount of \$2,911.25 for cyber coverage. Tammy Beal seconded. Roll call vote: Durbin, Hanvey, Donovan, Beal, Andersen, Lowe, Lloyd—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

HEALTH INSURANCE PA #152 OPT OUT RESOLUTION

Les Andersen motioned to adopt a resolution to approve opting out of 2011 Public Act 152, as presented. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Andersen, Lowe, Lloyd, Hanvey, Donovan, Durbin, Beal—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

2024 POVERTY EXEMPTION GUIDELINES

Tammy Beal motioned to adopt a resolution to approve the 2024 Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines for Income and Asset Tests, as presented. Les Andersen seconded. Roll call vote: Hanvey, Andersen, Lowe, Lloyd, Beal, Donovan, Durbin—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

BOARD OF REVIEW LETTER APPEALS

Scott Lloyd motioned to adopt a resolution to allow residents to file letter appeals to the 2024 Board of Review, as presented. Tammy Beal seconded. Roll call vote: Beal, Donovan, Durbin, Hanvey, Andersen, Lowe, Lloyd—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

2024 MARION TOWNSHIP ROAD PROJECTS

The road commission would like to have information from the township by February 29 for roads to be considered for the Pavement Preservation Program. Les Andersen passed out the plan drafted by the engineer for potential candidates. Tammy Beal said that the road commission foreman for Marion Township indicated that Francis Road and East Davis (both gravel) need some work. Scott Lloyd said he would like to inspect the roads prior to making a decision.

Greg Durbin motioned to postpone this item until the next board meeting. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

MARION DRAIN #3 PAYMENT

Dan Lowe said the drain problems were caused by developers and the school's retention ponds, and now the township has to pay to have it fixed. Bob Hanvey said the roll has been finalized by the Drain Commission; the question is whether to pay the township's portion up front or in installments. Estimated interest over 15 years would be about \$172,000. They will be staging material and equipment at DeMuse and Witkowski's property.

Les Andersen motioned to make a single payment of \$373,285 by January 12. Tammy Beal seconded. Roll call vote: Andersen—yes; Hanvey—yes; Durbin—yes; Donovan—yes; Beal—yes; Lowe—no; Lloyd—yes. **Motion carried 6-1.**

Les Andersen motioned to adopt a resolution to amend the General Fund budget, as presented. Scott Lloyd seconded. Roll call vote: Lloyd, Lowe, Andersen, Hanvey, Durbin, Beal, Donovan—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

SEWER USAGE RATE INCREASE

The City of Howell has increased the wastewater treatment rate. Bob Hanvey said he would like to wait until the fourth quarter billing is received before making a decision. Greg Durbin motioned to postpone this item until the billing information is received. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

NUISANCE ORDINANCE

Les Andersen questioned whether "township" in Section 5 means the township board or the zoning administrator. Dan Lowe and Les Andersen both said it should be the township board. The attorney said the zoning administrator could present a report to the board for a decision. The board members discussed a code enforcement officer's role vs. the zoning administrator; and having enforcement "complaint driven."

Les Andersen motioned to have the attorney update the draft Nuisance Ordinance. Scott Lloyd seconded. **Motion carried.**

MARION TOWNSHIP LAKESIDE CEMETERY PLOTS

Les Andersen motioned to buy back three cemetery plots at \$500 each. Sandy Donovan seconded. Roll call vote: Lloyd, Lowe, Andersen, Hanvey, Durbin, Beal, Donovan—all yes. **Motion carried 7-0.**

MARION TOWNSHIP MAINTENANCE

Tammy Beal updated the board members on the December 13 and December 20 Building Committee meetings. The storage pods were removed this week. The partition for the meeting room won't be available until June.

CLERK'S COMPENSATION FOR EARLY VOTING

Sandy Donovan motioned to adopt a resolution to increase the clerk's salary by \$763.65 per month for the term of January 2024 through November 2024, due to additional early voting hours. Les Andersen seconded. Roll call vote: Lloyd, Lowe, Andersen, Hanvey, Durbin, Donovan, Beal—all yes. **Resolution passed 7-0.**

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

Bob Hanvey made a recommendation to reappoint Jim Andersen and Bruce Powelson to a three-year Planning Commission term through December 31, 2026. Tammy Beal motioned to accept the recommendation. Les Andersen seconded. **Motion carried.**

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Les Andersen wanted to confirm that the zoning administrator is authorized to contact the attorney if necessary; the response was yes.

PDR DISCUSSION

Les Andersen asked if the Planning Commission should work on drafting ballot language to request a millage. John Gormley questioned whether the township has the statutory ability to do that. Jim Anderson said it's been done in Dexter and Scio townships, and also in Ingham County. The attorney will investigate and report back to the board.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT—GREG DURBIN

Greg Durbin shared that his nephew, Trevor Keegan, is a member of the National Champion Michigan Wolverines football team; and his grandson, Evan Durbin, will be attending the Michigan State Police Academy in January.

CORRESPONDENCE & UPDATES

Information on the MTA Conference is included in the packet; let Tammy Beal know if you're interested in attending.

The packets for the next board meeting will be available on Thursday, January 18.

Dan Lowe asked about the situation on Sexton Road. Bob Harvey said they have picked up the paperwork for a home occupation, but it hasn't been submitted. The township will send the owner a letter giving 10 days to submit the paperwork.

The board members discussed creating parcels with only accessory buildings; the Land Division Ordinance would have to be changed to prevent this.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No response.

ADJOURNMENT

Les Andersen motioned to adjourn at 9:30 pm. Tammy Beal seconded. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by: S. Longstreet

Tammy L. Beal, Township Clerk Date

Robert W. Harvey, Township Supervisor Date