

**Allegan Township Board Meeting**

**December 6, 2021**

**7:30 PM**

- I. Call to Order
  - A. Pledge and Invocation
  
- II. Roll Call
  - A. Supervisor Steve Schulz, Trustee Mike Bender, Trustee Jim Connell, Treasurer Jane Waanders, and Clerk Brande Gillies were present.
  
- III. Approve Minutes of November 1, 2021 Meeting
  - A. Connell/Bender made motion to approve with minutes standing approved as read.
  
- IV. Reports
  - A. Professional Code Inspections (PCI)- Building Inspectors
    - 1. There were six permits pulled in October, with two for new homes. Fees totaled \$3,854.00.
  - B. Ted Heckman, Planning Commission – Chair
    - 1. Not present, so Jim Connell gave a report from the last meeting. The wellhead protection ordinance was recommended for approval and was passed on to the township board and approved. Mr. Nagelkirk addressed the board again regarding his AirBnB. They are working on an amendment in the land division ordinance regarding rules based on the length of a driveway.
    - 2. The next meeting is in January.
  - C. Ted Heckman, Zoning Board of Appeals
    - 1. Not present.
  - D. Max Thiele, County Commissioner
    - 1. Not present.
  - E. Marge Baker (Legal Assistance Center)
    - 1. They have seen 207 township residents this year, compared to 178 last year. Allegan township is second only to the city in those serviced. In nine years, they have seen over 20,000 people total.
    - 2. There is an increase in expungement cases, probate cases, and more intense cases (which equals more time).
    - 3. They have expanded their hours on Fridays, and have three part-time staff.
    - 4. The annual budget is \$60,000 - \$65,000 per year. There is no fee for their services, and there are very few counties who offer this type of legal assistance service. A majority of funding is provided by townships, and agencies such as United Way and Allegan County Community Foundation.

V. Public Comment

- A. Rachelle Smit introduced herself. She lives in Martin and is currently the clerk for Martin township. She is running for State Representative and would like to represent the interests of the people in our community.

VI. Old Business

A. ARPA Update

1. The township's application was approved and will be receiving \$491,733.
2. Connell read through the guidelines and listed four specific rules about the spending of these funds: to respond to Covid or its negative impact; for workers performing essential work; for provision of government services due to Covid; to make necessary investments for water, sewer, or broadband.
3. Allegan Township doesn't qualify for the first three items. The money could potentially be used toward the sewer at Miner Lake, to extend water out to the mobile home park on M-89 East, or as an incentive to help with sewer hook up for those close to the city limits.
4. It was asked if this money can be used to help pay for a resource officer at the schools. These funds cannot be used for this, but the township supports having a resource officer in our schools, and will help with the funds for that to happen.

B. Deficit Elimination Update & Resolution

1. This is due to the Riverview Estates road project. This is the last year that this will be required. There is a deficit of \$9,339, and the township needs to submit how they are paying it back.
2. Connell/Bender made motion to adopt the resolution which passed following an aye vote. The resolution will be signed and sent tomorrow.

C. Culvert in Dumont Creek on 121<sup>st</sup>, east of 36<sup>th</sup>

1. This was originally quoted at \$250,000 but may cost more now. This is for a concrete box culvert. Planning should begin now for this to be done in 2023 (due to EGLE permits). The township has the money for this project, plus two years to save more for it if needed.
2. Connell/Waanders moved to support this and notify the road commission, which passed unanimously following roll call.

VII. New Business

A. Fire District Budget Approval

1. John Cook gave a report. The fire district has been in service since 2007. It is a joint district of the city and Allegan Township. There is also a contract for six sections in Cheshire township, which is \$8000 per year. This will be going up \$10,000 in 2022. There is a slight increase being requested of Allegan township this year.
2. There has been an increase in volunteers in spite of Covid, though more volunteers are needed for daytime hours.
3. Bender/Waanders made motion to approve, which passed unanimously following roll call.

B. Approve 2022 Meeting Schedule

1. Waanders/Connell made motion to approve which passed following an aye vote.

C. Approve Reappointments to Planning Commission (Nick Westra, Chad Kruthoff, Mike Buese, Martin Ruiter) & Board of Appeals (Matt Kleifgen)

1. Nick Westra will be replacing Keith Behm.
  2. Connell/Bender made motion to approve which passed following an aye vote.
- D. Poverty Exemption Guidelines
1. The township has always chosen an increase of 20%, and setting the asset level at \$15,000.
  2. Connell/Waanders made motion to increase 20% which passed unanimously following roll call.
  3. Waanders/Connell made motion to set asset level at \$15,000 which passed unanimously following roll call.

VIII. Pay Bills

- A. General Fund
1. \$4,159.78 was presented for payment.
  2. Bender/Waanders made motion to approve all bills which passed unanimously following roll call.
- B. Miner Lake Fund
1. \$310.00 was presented for payment.
  2. Connell/Bender made motion to approve all bills which passed unanimously following roll call.

IX. Correspondence

- A. None

X. Adjourn

- A. Waanders/Connell made motion to adjourn which passed following an aye vote. The meeting closed at 8:43 PM.