

Allegan Township Board Meeting
June 7, 2021
7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Pledge and Invocation

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Trustee Mike Bender, Trustee Jim Connell, Treasurer Jane Waanders, and Clerk Brande Gillies were present. Supervisor Steve Schulz was not present. Trustee Connell led the meeting and noted that the current mask guidelines were being observed.

- III. Approve Minutes of May 3, 2021
 - A. Bender/Waanders made motion to approve with minutes standing approved as read.

- IV. Reports
 - A. Professional Code Inspectors (PCI) – Building Inspector
 - 1. There were seven permits pulled in April, with three for new homes. Fees totaled \$3,670.00.
 - 2. There were nine permits pulled in May, with two for new homes. Fees totaled \$4,164.00.
 - B. Ted Heckman, Planning Commission
 - 1. At the last regular meeting there a request for special use (a beauty shop) was approved; a site plan for a farm, an issue on M89. And potential for well-head protection was discussed.
 - C. Ted Heckman, Zoning Board of Appeals
 - 1. No official business to planned for the next meeting.
 - D. Max Thiele, County Commissioner
 - 1. Not present
 - E. Nick Brink, Allegan Fire District
 - 1. Chief Brink went through the review for Allegan Township. He pointed out the number of calls versus the labor hours, and how that affects the budget. Many of these calls are for medical reasons.
 - 2. There is a lot of mutual aid between neighboring fire departments.
 - 3. The need is for 16 firefighters to be fully effective, and there are currently not enough responders, especially during the day time. Due to this and the increase in demand for medical help, there is a future need for medical responders/full-time firefighters.
 - 4. Much of the fire equipment is in good condition. A fire prevention trailer was recently acquired, which will allow for fire education. More than half of the funds for this was provided by the firefighters.

5. Al Lamaire raised the concern that his insurance policy increased by approximately 20% due to the fire department being down-graded in their ISO rating. Chief Brink asked that Mr. Lamaire have his insurance company call him because the price of the policy should have gone down, not up, and he would like to help explain the rating.

6. Connell asked Chief Brink what a medical call looks like. Chief Brink explained that the fire department usually arrives at the scene more quickly because they're typically closer in proximity than an ambulance. The fire department cannot transport, but will do CPR while waiting for the ambulance to arrive.

7. Connell asked how many full-time firefighters are necessary. Chief Brink said that the need would be for two, plus himself. This would probably not be a 24/7 need. They would look at what shift would be most needed.

F. Sam Martin, Miner Lake Improvement Board

1. The board is a function of the township. It consists of a representative from the Lake Association, a community member, the county commissioner, and a county member.

2. They monitor water quality and do water testing two times a year.

3. The board approved using herbicides to treat invasive plants. The lake was treated last fall and it was effective. This Thursday, it will be treated again lake wide. Residents have been notified of restrictions. A sample will be taken 7-8 days later to see if there is any trace remaining.

4. In 2014, the board collected assessments to fund for five years. There are enough funds remaining to pay for this upcoming treatment. In September, there will be a new meeting to renew the assessment in order to keep treating the lake.

V. Public Comment

A. Al Lamaire Jr.

1. He requested clarification for the ordinance that states a permanent structure must meet the 15 foot setback. He does not believe that these setbacks should apply to a temporary structure (i.e. playhouses, sheds). Connell said that this would have to go to the Planning Commission for discussion.

VI. Old Business

A. New Generator Coming in Mid-August (Installed by Esper Electric)

1. The township has received the specifications for this project. It will require 612 cubic feet of natural gas for a full-load.

B. Sewer for Miner Lake (Sam Martin)

1. Miner Lake has 250 residents, both seasonal and year-round. More residents are year-round than seasonal. With more homes expanding, many systems failing, small lots, and a lack of good options, many residents are asking the board to pursue a sewer system again.

2. A survey was done again, sent out in May, and more than half of the responses have been received. Of those responses received, 70.9% voted yes. The board is asking the township board to update the plan.

3. Connell asked if there is room in the budget for this. Waanders said that there is money in the Capital Improvement Fund to pay for just the study.

4. It was noted that although Schulz was not present, he is in favor of this. The motion to reestablish an updated study was made by Waanders/Connell, and passed unanimously following roll call.

C. 125th & 123rd Road Project

1. The hills have been leveled, and the road is still closed. Culverts still need to be installed.

VII. New Business

A. Discussion About Covid Grant Money

1. It looks like the American Recovery Act will be giving \$463,000 to the township to be spent within a two year period. The final restrictions are yet to be seen, but Connell encouraged others to begin thinking of projects that this money could be used for. Some of the ideas include: partnering with the county for high speed internet; sewer service; create a park (special needs?); the city and township purchase fire equipment together; a culvert that is needed per the Road Commission; upgrade cemetery (it will be \$60,000 to complete this project); indoor ice rink or pavilion.

VIII. Pay Bills

A. General Fund

1. \$15,128.16 was presented for payment.

2. Waanders/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 with meeting closing at 8:40 PM.