



Ovid Township Hall
Branch County, Michigan
October 12, 2020
Regular Board Meeting Minutes

Greg Gemmill called meeting to order at 7 PM, and led the attendees in the pledge to the flag.

Members present: Greg Gemmill, Supervisor; Shelly AcMoody, Treasurer; Amy Havasy, Clerk; Jim Snivley, Trustee; Larry Omo, Trustee.

Members absent: None

Others present: Melissa Lane – Assessor, Robert Hawley – Zoning Administrator, Matt Drennan – ESA Solar, Max Benjamin, Monica Suarez and Lorraine Bergman – Pine Gate Renewables, Don Reed

Approval of agenda – Larry Omo made a motion to approve the agenda, supported by Shelly AcMoody. MOTION CARRIED

Approval of minutes – Jim Snivley made a motion to accept the minutes from the September 14, 2020 regular board meeting, supported by Larry Omo. MOTION CARRIED

Treasurers Report – Amy Havasy made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report, with an additional payment to Credit Services for approximately \$1,120.00. Supported by Greg Gemmill. MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

Matt Drennan from ESA Solar Gave his update on the solar farm project. He also mentioned working towards an informational open house for residents.

Reports:

1. Sheriff – No report submitted.
2. County Commissioner – Greg Gemmill read the report submitted by Tom Matthew.
3. Assessing – Melissa Lane presented the Assessors report.
4. Cemetery Sexton – Greg Gemmill read the report submitted by Lucas Cronkhite.
5. DPW – No report submitted.
6. Lakeland Fire Dept. – No report submitted.
7. Zoning Administrator – Robert Hawley presented the Zoning report.

OLD BUSINESS

A. JUNK VIOLATION REPORT

- a. Lynd – 333 S. Centennial Rd – Per Greg Gemmill, they are continuing to work on clean-up. Will continue to monitor.
- b. Russell & Cox – 105 S. Behnke Rd – Per Greg Gemmill, Third violation for junk in yard. (A citation was sent to the owners on 6/29/2020, there was a hearing on 8/19/2020.) New hearing was held on 9/28/2020. Judge dismissed complaint, stating any further issues would be seriously dealt with. Offending articles have been removed. Will continue to monitor.
- c. Pangalangan – 542 Warren Rd – Per Greg Gemmill, the property has sold. Clean up has been done on property. New Owner will contact Zoning for assistance/permits, if needed. Will continue to monitor.
- d. Walker – 523 E. Fenn Rd -Per Greg Gemmill, continuing progress on property. Owner has contacted Zoning regarding a permit for a fence. Will continue to monitor.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTE LIMIT)

None

NEW BUSINESS

A. REPORT ON MARIJUANA MAILINGS & SHOPPER GUIDE ADS

Greg Gemmill stated that more mailings are being received by Ovid Township residents regarding the supposed benefits of allowing the retail sale of marijuana. The ad in the Shoppers guide was only to clarify that these mailings were not being mailed out by the Township.

B. ELECTION REPORT

Amy Havasy reported that as of October 12, 2020 the Permanent Absentee Voter count has increased to 526, from a beginning August number of 201. (This number was before the State had sent Absentee applications to all registered voters.) As of today, there have been over 619 ballots sent out for the November 2020 elections. As of right now, all social distancing guidelines are still in place, the mask wearing guideline for workers (voters, not mandatory, but suggested) is still unclear. With appointments at Secretary of State being scarce, there have been 10 new voters that have registered with the Clerk. Since the 1st of October, there have been 58 new voters that have registered online. There have also been numerous in person “early” voters. Voters are concerned about Election security, protesters, campaigners, and absentee ballot security. The number of voters returning their ballots by either walking them in or using the drop box has increased. The Supreme Court has extended the date that Absentee Ballots can be accepted: They are valid and have to be counted if they are received within 14 days of the election, and are postmarked no later than November 2. How exactly this will be handled is unclear. Ovid Township was fortunate enough to get 3 new Election Inspectors, so we are well staffed. The Public accuracy testing is set for October 23 at 8am.

C. WOODLEY SOLAR PROJECT APPROVAL

Greg Gemmill stated that they now have a signed interconnection agreement. Concern was voiced as to how the land would be turned back to agricultural land if the project fails, or once the lease is complete. Greg Gemmill made a motion to approve the project so that they can apply for a zoning permit. Supported by Jim Snivley. In total, 4 Board members approved, 1 opposed. MOTION CARRIED

D. MOVE FUNDS FROM GENERAL FUND AT SMBT TO MICLASS

Shelly AcMoody made a suggestion that the Township further look in to moving surplus Township funds from SMBT to MICLASS. This would further diversify investments, without having to use CD's, and take advantage of a higher interest rate. This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting, at which time a representative from MICLASS will attend to give a presentation.

E. HONOR CREDIT UNION CD IS MATURING 10/24/2020

Shelly AcMoody made a recommendation to keep CD 338 at Honor Credit Union for 12 months at .35%. Greg Gemmill made a motion to keep the CD at Honor. Supported by Larry Omo. MOTION CARRIED

F. CARPETS CLEANED AFTER NOVEMBER 3, 2020 ELECTION

Shelly AcMoody stated that the Township is getting quotes to have the Township Hall carpets cleaned after the November elections. The Board decided to postpone the cleaning until the Spring of 2021. In the meantime, quotes will be gathered.

Public Comment (3-minute limit)

There was a discussion had between Board members, Robert Hawley – Zoning Administrator, and Melissa Lane – Assessor, with regards as to what constitutes a “final inspection” for assessing purposes. There was a misunderstanding between Robert Hawley and Melissa Lane as to when this inspection can be done. Shelly AcMoody requested having a special meeting to create and clarify the Zoning Administrators procedures and policies. There is concern as to when permits are getting submitted to the assessor for new builds and home/property improvements, as they can affect the tax role, and need to be adjusted in the proper year's taxes. Greg Gemmill agreed that a special meeting should be called.

Correspondence:

Greg Gemmill stated that he had no correspondence.

Amy Havasy stated that she had no correspondence.

Motion to Adjourn made by Larry Omo, supported by Jim Snivley. MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Havasy, Clerk