

Montcalm Township Board Meeting Minutes Via Zoom

1880 S. Greenville Rd Greenville MI 48838

March 10,2021

MEMBERS PRESENT: Douglas Crowley, Supervisor; Rosemary Hyde, Treasurer, Jessica Shearer, Clerk, Edward Hansen, Trustee, Brian Cousineau Trustee

MEMBER ABSENT: None

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Douglas Crowley

Pledge to the Flag

• **Approval of Agenda**

A **Motion** was made by Hyde to approve the Agenda. Second Hansen **Motion Carried.**

• **Approval of Minutes from February 10,2021**

Hasen explained to the board that he didn't seconded the motion to approve ppe gear and a computer to the fire department. A **motion** was made by Hansen to approve the minutes with the changes. Hyde Second **Motion Carried.** Cousineau voted no. Cousineau asked if the minutes could have more details of resident comments in the Minutes. Cousineau also asked if we could put the fire report online for residents to view. Shearer agreed to both of his requests.

• **Treasurer's Report:** The report was distributed to the audience and Board Members. Hyde informed the board that she is all settled with the county for taxes.

A **Motion** to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Shearer, Second Hansen. **Motion carried.**

• **Payment of Bills:**

A **Motion** to approve the Payment of Bills was made by Hyde, Second Cousineau **Motion carried**

• **Supervisor's Comments:** Crowley told everyone that he is still working on putting together the 2021/2022 budget for the March 24, 2021 meeting.

Reports:

•**Sheriff Report:** No Report.

• **Planning Commission:** Karnatz let everyone know that the planning commission held a meeting the week before. Karnatz summarized what the planning commission talked about which included Conflict of interest, Officer electioned, Square footage of Cabin style deer blinds. The Planning commission is having a meeting the 1st wednesday of May.

•**Zoning Board of Appeals:** John Johasen informed the board that the ZBA needs to have an origination meeting. The ZBA will be having a meeting on April 21, 2021 at 7pm. • **Library Board:** The Library Board meeting agenda and report is posted on the Township bulletin board.

• **Cemeteries:** Nothing to Report.

• **Zoning Administrator:** Zoning Administrator Mike Nelson informed the board that he issued 5 permits for the month of February

• **County Commissioner:** Adam Peterman gave a report on what was happening at the county level.

• **Fire Department:** Chief Dickinson read his fire report. Chief Dickinson report said they had 12 fire runs for the month of February. March Training includes CPR and Blood Borne Pathogens. Chief Dickinson informed that board and residents the fire department had brought a new computer and the new ppe that the board approved in the February meeting.

• **Trustees:** Nothing.

• **Clerk:** Nothing to report

Public Comment – Concerning Reports:

Public Comment- Concerning Old Business

1. A resident asked about the gas reporting down the road from their house.

Chief Dickinson informed her that he had contacted DTE and they sent someone out and

everything is fine.

2. A resident thanked the Board for returning their FOIA request and asked about an email from the lawyer about Bi-laws.

Crowley gave the lawyer the Bi-laws.

Karnatz read the Bi-laws to the residents and the board.

3. A person from Cato Township read an email from apex saying Richard Karnatz signed a contract with apex in November.

Old Business

- **Attorney's opinions concerning conflict of interest for Planning Commission members and Trustee vs fire department.**

Crowley informed the board and resident after talking with the lawyer that there is not a conflict of interest. **Public Comment**-Concerning New Business:

A resident commented that they would like to see a wind ordinance that supports everyone. Crowley commented that we all want a strong ordinance.

New Business

- **Proposed contracts for 2021 road work**

Hyde made a **motion** to accept the road commission contract for 1,000 yards of gravel. Second Shearer. **Motion Carried.**

Hyde made a **motion** to accept the road commission contract to asphalt overlay (Top Course) on Colby Road from Fitzner Road and Berridge Road for \$97,104 with a 20% rebate from the Road Commission for \$77,683.20. Second Shearer **Motion Carried.**

Hyde made a **motion** to accept the road commission contract to Spray brush along the local roadside to be determined. Costs to be shared. The Road commission will contribute \$2,000 to match the Township contribution of \$2,000. Second Cousineau **Motion Carried.**

- **Spring Clean Dates/Rate**

Shearer made the **motion** to set the date for the spring clean up day on May 1, 2021. Second Hansen **Motion Carried.**

- **Township creating a draft for a ordinance for natural rivers act**

Hansen made the **motion** that we contract the lawyer to draw up an ordinance for the natural rivers act Second Hyde **Motion carried.**

- **Discussion of a temporary moratorium on wind energy projects**

Cousineau informed the board that he wants the board to put a temporary moratorium on wind energy projects. Cousineau explained we need it to protect the township/citizens until the ordinance is figured out.

Crowley said that the proposed ordinance needs work.

Cousineau made a **motion** to put a moratorium on wind energy projects.

No second **Motion Not Carried.**

Public Comments

1. A resident asked about all the hardware purchases on the payment of bills.
2. A resident commented that it was great that the township agreed to get colby road done. This resident also congratulated Cousineau for his recommendation on the moratorium. This resident asked if the township residents will have a chance to vote on wind turbines.

This resident was informed that we have to have a Public Hearing and everyone has a chance to voice their opinions.

3. A property owner informed the board that Sidney township said that Apex was not included in making their ordinance, this property owner also

commented that it was unorthodox for someone to have a signed lease with Apex and sit on the Planning Commission.

4. A resident asked if we have a say if our property can be sprayed by the road commission. This resident doesn't want their property sprayed. This resident also talked about the bridge on Dickinson Lake rd. Something needs to be done before next year. This resident also asked about cleaning supplies purchases.

This resident was informed that all they need to do is contact Mark at the Road Commission and inform him that they didn't want their property sprayed, and that the township buys all the cleaning supplies but for the floors.

5. Adam Petersen informed the board and residents that the only way to be able to get Wind energy on a ballot you would have to piggyback off another vote or hold a special election which usually can cost up to \$70,000.

6. A resident asked who profits off the windmills.

This resident was informed that no one on the regular board profits off of them.

7. A resident asked about property value.

8. A resident informed that board that her and her husband don't want wind turbines and they are ugly.

9. A resident from Douglass Township asked about the Flat River setback for wind turbines.

10. A resident commented that it is a great idea for putting setbacks on lakes waterways.

11. A resident from Douglass Township commented that we can't believe what Apex is saying about being 3 years out from putting Wind Turbines in.

12. A resident stated that we all should do our own research on Birds and animals and what wind turbines can do to them

13. A resident commented that we should let the people vote on it. 14. A resident commented that we should look at the facts instead of the emotions. This resident supports wind turbines.

15. John Johansen thanked the board for acting on natural rivers act and also thanked Mark at the Road Commission for the Tree trimmer and the roads. 16. A resident commented that in Massachusetts the Health Department there declared Windmills hazard to the health of the people living there. 17. A resident asked about the meeting being recorded.

This resident was informed that meetings that are on Zoom are recorded and in person are recorded on a tape recorder.

18. A resident asked about Hall Rental and if the Township Master Plan could be forwarded to them.

This resident was informed that Yes the master plan could be forwarded to them and Hopefully by June we could have hall rentals

19. A resident thanked Cousineau for the moratorium and he is very disappointed with the other board members for not seconding his motion.

20. A resident informed that resident and board on how the residents of the township can take actions against the Board if they pass an ordinance.

21. A resident commented that we need to have an in person meeting.

A Motion to adjourn was made by Hyde. Second Hansen. **Motion Carried.** Meeting

Adjourned at 8:46pm

Submitted By Jessica Shearer Montcalm Township Clerk