

Montcalm Township Board Meeting Minutes

1880 S. Greenville Rd Greenville MI 48838

July 14, 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 Hansen to approve the agenda, Cousineau Second **Motion Carried.**

• **Approval of Minutes from June 9, 2021**

A motion was made by Hyde to approve the minutes, Hansen Second **Motion Carried.**

• **Treasurer's Report:** The report was distributed to the audience and Board Members. 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 Hansen **Motion carried**

• **Supervisor's Comments:** Crowley read the Board Meeting Procedures.

**Reports:**

• **Planning Commission:** Karnatz reported that the Planning Commission will be holding a meeting in August.

• **Zoning Board of Appeals:** No Report

• **Library Board:** The Library Board meeting agenda and report is posted on the Township bulletin board.

• **Cemeteries:** None

• **Zoning Administrator:** Zoning Administrator, Mike Nelson informed the board that he issued 6 permits for the month of June which included a short term rental application.

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

• **Fire Department:** Chief Dickinson read his report.

• **Trustees:** Hansen thanked everyone for coming and for showing support. Cousineau thanked everyone for coming and thanked the lawyer for answering questions.

• **Clerk:** Shearer commented about being recorded at the meetings.

**Public Comment – Concerning Reports:**

• A resident asked if Planning Commission Meeting in August was going to be at 7:00pm or 7:15pm. The answer was 7:00pm.

• A resident asked if the fire department was still looking for a 2nd fire station location. The answer was they have never moved forward on the subject.

• A resident was asked who "Heckman" was on payment of bills. The answer was that it is the name of the lawn care business that does our cemetery.

• A resident commented that the weeds at East Montcalm Cemetery were 6-8 inches tall, and that at night there are vehicles parked in the back.

• A resident commented on the June 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

• A resident commented that the trucks parked in the back of East Montcalm Cemetery were probably his from farming the field behind the cemetery.

• A resident commented that the old Gowen School was missing a piece of cement.

• A resident asked about noise complaints and what she could do about it.

**Public Comment- Concerning Old Business**

**Old Business**

• Closed Session: Motion to go into closed session as permitted by sections (8) of Michigan's Open Meeting Act to review written opinions from the Township's attorney (Roll Call Vote)

A Motion to go into a closed session was made by Hyde, Second Hansen

**Roll Call Vote**

Crowley - Yes

Shearer-Yes  
Hyde-Yes  
Hansen- Yes  
Cousineau-Yes

**Motion Carried.**

A **Motion** to close the closed session was made by Hyde, Second Cousineau **Motion Carried.**

**The Township Lawyer Jeff Sluggett Spoke on the Closed Meeting.**

- First we thought it was a common law issue but later it was brought to our attention it was a legislation issue after reviewing the Planning Commission Bi-Laws Karnatz does have a conflict of interests. Mr Karntz has been informed he has a conflict. He has acknowledged that he has a conflict of interest. Mr. Karnatz has been asked not to participate in Planning Commission and Township decisions about Wind Energy. It is important to understand that he is still a citizen and residents of Montcalm Township. So he can still talk as a citizen and a resident. We have discouraged him from doing that.

**Public Comments:**

1. A resident thanked the lawyer for all the information, this resident also commented that their comments are not as anti-wind or a witch hunt but it is about open and transparent government. Their comments about the Conflict of interest issue has been going on for over a year now, it was brought to your attention back in November of last year and you didnt do you due diligence with giving the lawyer the correct information, It wasn't until i pushed the issue and tagged Mr Sluggett in a email, due to that and after that Mr. Karntz still spoke at the June Planning Commission meeting as a pro-wind. So I'm formally asking the board to remove Richard Karntz as Chairman of the Planning Commission. This resident commented that Crowley should tender his resignation as Supervisor of the Township.
2. A resident read an email from a property owner of the Township.
3. Crowley commented that this person who wrote the email knows better.
4. Cousineau commented that Crowley made an inappropriate comment.
5. Mike Nelson commented that the zoning ordinance book is from April 10 2013 and the wind ordinance for Wind energy has not changed since that date.
6. A resident commented that he wishes the anti-wind people would educate themselves. This resident also commented that Richrad Karntz is a good person.
7. A resident commented that he supports the 1st person's comment. This resident commented that in March of 2020. Mr. Karntz said he was doing this for the township but he signed a lease with Apex in November 2019.
8. A resident commented that action should take place for the removal of Richard Karntz.
9. Crowley commented that he missed the Bi-laws that he is not perfect.
10. Hyde commented that she thinks Mr.Krantz does good on the Planning Commision. He has made some mistakes. Give him a choice and if he does it again then we can remove him from the Planning Commission.
11. Cousineau commented he thinks if we did ask Mr. Karnatz to rescue himself it would clear up the Conflict of interest issue. But he doesnt think the board can vote on it tonight.
12. A resident commented that they support the Planning Commission and this board. Also people from the board have made comments about pro/anti wind and there are also people on the Planning Commission that have anti-wind signs in their yard.
13. A resident commented about why Richard Karnatz should remove himself
14. A Pine Township resident commented how this has ruined their township.

**New Business:**

- **Approval to purchase the FPI 2000 tabletop mail inserter for \$1500**

A **Motion** to purchase the FPI 2000 for \$1500 was made by Hansen, Second Shearer **Motion Carried.**

**Public Comments**

1. A resident asked about paperwork/survey in the tax bill. This resident commented that everyone on the board should be neutral about things going on in the township.
2. A resident commented on east montcalm.
3. A resident asked about putting the Bi-laws on the website.
4. A resident supports our lawyer.

5. A resident asked about getting a deputy for our Township.
6. A resident handed out paperwork to the board and Planning Commission members.
7. A resident asked a question about junk cars.
8. A resident supports getting a deputy for our Township.
9. A resident commented that it is good for the community to have a deputy.
10. A resident commented that she owns ½ the property that has anti-wind signs in it, And her husband who sits on the Planning Commission has been neutral when it comes to making decisions for the Township. They commented that Apex doesn't tell the whole story. They commented that everyone should open their eyes to the truth.

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

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00pm

Submitted By Jessica Shearer Montcalm Township Clerk