

**ASH TOWNSHIP
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 19, 2017
6:30 p.m.**

The Ash Township Regular Board meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Ready Road Hall by Supervisor Robin Carmack.

Members present: Supervisor – Robin Carmack, Clerk - Michele Geiermann, Treasurer - Rob Schock, Trustee - Adam Grabetz, and Trustee - Jim Booth.

Absent: None.

Others present: William Godfroy - Township Attorney, Jim Vaslo - Township Manager, and 8 citizens.

Motion #2887 Agenda Approval

Motion by Booth supported by Grabetz to approve the agenda as amended, adding under New Business, F. Building Inspectors Pay, G. Backup Electrical Inspector, H. Proposed Wetland Development. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion #2888 Meeting Minute's Approval

Motion by Grabetz supported by Geiermann to approve the Proposed Regular Board Meeting Minutes of 3-15-17, Proposed Special Meeting Minutes of 3-15-17, Proposed Special Meeting Minutes of 4-3-17, and Proposed Planning Commission Meeting Minutes 2-21-17. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion #2889 Bills Approval

Motion by Booth supported by Grabetz to approve bills #1-89 in the amount of \$314,233.57, from General Ledger Funds, Building Funds, Water Funds, Sewer Funds, and Fire Equipment Fund. Roll Call: 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Old Business

Burns Road, Al Wickenheiser Update.

Attorney Godfroy gave a brief update to the board on the Wickenheiser blight issue on Burns Road. He and Manager Vaslo were in court this morning and told the judge that minimal progress had been made. The judge was reluctant to jail Mr. Wickenheiser immediately and gave him an additional 30 days to bring the property into compliance. The next court date is May 17, 2017 at 10 am. No motions were offered.

Sewer Letters to Berlin & Frenchtown Update.

Supervisor informed the Board that he has sent letter to both Townships and is waiting to hear back from them. Manager Vaslo stated that he did get a call from Berlin Township and they are interested in talking about the issue further. A meeting date will be arranged. No motions were offered.

Mowing Bids (local roads).

As directed by the Board Manager Vaslo reviewed the three bids received last month for mowing of local roads in the Township. His recommendation was to award the three year contract to the low bidder, Precision Irrigation & Lawn Care Inc. After a brief discussion the following motion was offered:

Motion #2890 To Award.

Motion by Booth supported by Grabetz to award the three year contract for mowing of local roads to Precision Irrigation & Lawn Care Inc in an amount not to exceed \$14,900 per year.
Roll Call: 5-Yes, 0-No. Motion carried.

Indian Trail, John Sledge Update.

Manager Vaslo explained to the Board that minimal progress had been made by Mr. Sledge to correct the blight issues at his property on Indian Trail. After a brief discussion, Attorney Godfroy was directed to file the necessary court documents to prosecute Mr. Sledge for blight violations. No motions were offered.

Medical Marijuana Review.

Supervisor Carmack led the discussion on the changes to the Public Act that regulates medical marijuana in the state and how the laws pertain to local governments. Attorney Mathew Romer from the Cannabis Legal Group was asked to speak. He gave a summary of the Act and gave the Board several handouts that also summarized the Act and how local governmental agencies play a pivotal part in the new regulations. After some discussion the Supervisor asked that Mr. Romer supply the Township with some sample ordinances to review. Township Attorney informed the Board that the County Prosecutor would be willing to give a brief presentation to the Board on this subject if they were interested. The Board thought that would be beneficial and asked Mr. Godfroy to arrange that for a future meeting. No motions were offered.

New Business

Managers Report

The Ash Township Board did not have any questions or comments on the March Manager's report. The Manager did comment briefly on the downed tree in the Grafton Road Cemetery, noting that a claim for the damage has been filed with the Township's insurance carrier. He also

noted that the MCRC is seeking to sell bonds for road improvements and they intend to use some of that funding to repair Sigler and Scofield Carleton Roads. He ended with a progress report on the Jones Road water main project noting that Hennessey Engineers has preliminary design plan ready and they will be moving forward on permitting. No motions were offered.

Old Fire Truck.

Attorney Godfroy gave some direction on the options for the Township to dispose of the surplus fire truck that is no longer needed by the Fire Department. After a brief discussion the following motions were offered:

Motion #2891 To Designate.

Motion by Booth supported by Grabetz to designate the 1993 Spartan/4 Guys pumper as excess equipment and authorize its sale. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Motion #2892 To Authorize.

Motion by Geiermann supported by Shock to authorize Manager Vaslo to facilitate the sale of the excess fire truck. Voice vote taken. Motion carried.

Culvert Replacement Swan Creek Road.

The Township received a quote to replace the failed culvert on Swan Creek Road from the Monroe County Drain Commissioner in the amount of \$26,840. After a brief discussion the follow motion was offered:

Motion #2893 To Approve.

Motion by Schock supported by Geiermann to enter into a contract with the Monroe County Drain Commissioner for the replacement of the culvert on Swan Creek road in an amount not to exceed \$26,840. Roll Call: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. Motion Carried.

Letter from Sandy Cherry re water supply.

The Township received a letter from Sandy Cherry, a resident on Maxwell Road, north of Ash Street, regarding the lack of municipal water on her section of Maxwell Road. Manager Vaslo, the Board and Attorney Godfroy all joined the conversation with Ms. Cherry who was present. There were many obstacles to extending the water main to this section of Maxwell either thru a Special Assessment District (SAD) or funded completely by the Township. There were also some positive ideas that came out of the discussion. Ms. Cherry intends to circulate a petition to see if she can get enough signatures to form a SAD while Manager Vaslo will work with Hennessey Engineers to see if a creative district can be formed. No motions were offered.

Rezoning of Parcel #5801-013-017-40.

Manager Vaslo explained that the rezoning request in front of the Board has been through the Township Planning Commission and they are recommending approval. It has also been through the County Planning Commission and they are not recommending approval. After a brief discussion the following motion was offered:

Motion #2894 To Approve.

Motion by Carmack supported by Booth to approve the rezoning of Parcel # 5801-013-017-40 from Ag Agricultural to C-2 General Commercial.

Roll Call: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. Motion Carried.

Building Official Pay.

Manager Vaslo explained to the Board the John Tackett, Township Building Official is requesting a pay increase. The new rate would be \$50 per inspection, \$30 per hour for office hours, and \$40 per plan review. The Board thought the increase was reasonable and the following motions were offered:

Motion #2895 To Approve.

Motion by Schock supported by Grabetz to approve the new pay rates for the building official as presented beginning on May 1, 2017.

Roll Call: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. Motion Carried.

Motion #2896 To Adjust.

Motion by Schock supported by Grabetz to adjust the building permits fees to reflect the new building official's pay beginning on May 1, 2017.

Roll Call: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. Motion Carried.

Backup Electrical Inspector.

Manager Vaslo asked the board to appoint Gary Lazette as backup electrical inspector for the Township. Gary is a master electrician and a licensed inspector in the State of Michigan. The following motion was offered:

Motion #2897 To Appoint.

Motion by Carmack supported by Schock to appoint Gary Lazette as backup electrical inspector for Ash Township effective immediately.

Roll Call: 5 – Yes, 0 – No. Motion Carried.

Wetland Development.

Manager Vaslo explained to the Board that a 75 acre parcel on Newburg Road has been purchased by a company looking to develop the property into a wetlands area using the State of

Michigan criteria. The Manager said that he had the proposed development in front of the Planning Commission at their last meeting for discussion only. Out of that discussion it was felt that this could have impacts on neighboring properties and the Planning Commission thought that a site plan review and approval would be proper. The Board concurred and after some discussion and comments from the audience, the matter was left to the Planning Commission to oversee. No motions were offered.

Citizen Comments.

There were several residents who were recognized by the Supervisor and they spoke on a variety of subjects such as gravel road conditions, the Guardian development, medical marijuana and the proposed wetland development. After a brief discussion and hearing no other business the following motion was offered:

Motion #2898 Meeting Adjourn

Motion by Booth supported by Geiermann to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.
Vote voice taken. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michele Geiermann
Ash Township Clerk