

**Almira Township**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**May 10, 2021 6 pm**  
**Townhall 19639 Maple St**

**I. Call meeting to order**

Supervisor Roper calls the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

**II. Pledge to Flag**

**III. Roll Call**

Roper-present, Rineer-present, Clous-absent, Therrien-present, Florip-present

**IV. Additions/Deletions to agenda**

MG Rineer asks to bump down the three items under Old Business and add Fire Department drains as Old Business A.

**V. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

M. Therrien moves to approve the agenda as amended. L. Florip seconds. All ayes. Agenda approved.

**VI. Approval of Consent Agenda**

MG Rineer moves to approve the agenda as presented. M. Therrien seconds. All ayes. Agenda approved.

**VII. Treasurer's report**

Financial report is received and filed

**VIII. Brief public input**

None

**IX. County Commissioners**

Art Jeannot is asked to either provide copies of his written report to us or to go back to a short presentation to the public, as we receive his report and the public does not. We also offer to print out copies and display with our handouts. Jeannot reports that the county finished its audit, they hired a new Deputy County Administrator and continue the search for a County Administrator. They hired a company to search for the right candidate. Mitch Deisch will retire at the end of August. They are trying to compile a new Master Plan and have asked the attorney if the BOC can act as the Planning Commission (as they disbanded theirs) and collaborate with the various PC's within the county. They are also looking into raising the age of being tried as an adult from 17 to 18.

**X. Department Heads**

Chief Drury presents run numbers for the month of April. There were 20 total calls, including 15 ambulance requests in the township, 2 fire incidents, 1 rollover accident, 1 assist to Inland Twp. and 1 assist to Benzie County. The tanker is at CSI right now for service. He's glad to be a part of our community.

The Chief presents Lt. Derek Smith with a Lifesaving Award for his actions taken on April 11, 2020 to rescue a resident from a housefire.

## **XI. Village report**

Jim Sturmer states that the Reynolds Road culvert project starts tomorrow, 5/11. Through traffic will be rerouted onto Poplar. Paving should then commence near the end of the month. Some other positive news is there is a new tenant in the B&M building. Lakeview Realty will soon be moving over there from the Red Door.

## **XII. Guests**

None

## **XIII. Old Business**

### **A. Fire Department drains**

Lt. Danny Mosholder presents and explains the FD proposal for cleaning out, redirecting, and recovering the drains and downspouts. M. Therrien moves to accept the proposal to have Roper Excavating do the proposed work, not to exceed \$2900. Upon a roll call, the following voted: M. Therrien-aye, MG Rineer-aye, M. Roper-abstains, L. Florip-aye. Motion passes. Danny will contact.

### **B. Mistwood Greens**

Mark recaps us going out for bids. We had two bids come in before the deadline on May 5. He states that we had one bid come in at 3:59 pm via email, and one come in hand-delivered at 3:29 pm. Mark opens the bids.

Proposal 1 is from Homestretch Nonprofit, submitted by Jon Stimson via email. It is \$16,000 for all 16 parcels.

Proposal 2 is from Greene Construction Group via hand-delivery. It is \$8000 for all 16 parcels.

We discuss how to proceed with these bids. Mark would like to set a special meeting for some time next week. We set the meeting for **9 am on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** at the townhall. Jeannot adds that he doesn't feel Homestretch follows through and fulfills their obligations and suggests we consider that, even though they are the higher bidder.

### **C. Part-time maintenance help**

Mark shares that we got no applicants. Matt adds we should just adjust the budget and pay Ryan overtime for the really busy weeks. We discuss if we should contract out the cemeteries to lessen Ryan's load. We're really left with few options at this point. We end the discussion with having Mark and Ryan go over a priority list before summer starts and not have Ryan take on any extra projects. This will allow him to focus only on the priorities over the busy summer months.

### **D. Clean Up Day update**

Mandy states that we had a busy and successful Clean Up Day, with a lot of positivity and happy people. We made \$3620 in gate fees, which was split 3 ways between the Fire/EMS Association, the Veterans, and the township. We had 134 loads which resulted in 200 compacted yards. The bill from American Waste was \$10,800.

## **XIV. New Business**

### **A. Sexton Resignation**

Mark presents resignation email from RJ Jordan. Bob Wilkinson sent his rates to us. We will review rates and may have to adjust the prices we pass on to our customers. Bob is already our backup sexton, so there is currently no reason to appoint him or look for someone else.

### **B. Planning Commission**

Mark shares Ryan Ratajczak's email regarding removing a Planning Commission member. M. Roper moves to remove Simon Wolf as a planning commission member, based on Ryan's recommendation. MG Rineer seconds. Upon roll call,

the following voted: M. Therrien-aye, MG Rineer-aye, M. Roper-aye, L. Florip-aye. Motion passes. Mark will contact Ryan.

C. Mandy presents a fund balance transfer from Honor to Huntington. The board discusses the numbers and the reasoning behind the amounts. The recommendation is \$50,000 from the 101 and \$10,000 from the 208, totaling \$60,000. M. Roper moves to allow the Treasurer to transfer funds from the 101 and 208, as recommended, into Huntington savings. Upon roll call, the following voted: L. Florip-aye, M. Roper-aye, MG Rineer-aye, M. Therrien-aye. Motion passes.

#### D. New display sign

Mandy explains the display sign that's normally on the porch of the townhall needs to be replaced. MG Rineer moves to purchase a replacement sign not to exceed \$500. L. Florip seconds. Upon roll call, the following voted: M. Roper-aye, MG Rineer-aye, M. Therrien-aye, L. Florip-aye. Motion passes.

#### XV. Extended public input

Tom Vinette from the Rec Resources Committee goes over the bench proposal. They are trying to renovate all of our benches and it is difficult to make them all the same throughout our parks system. The committee voted to paint the other tennis court over with Pickleball lines. It has become so popular. Disc golf signage- we have a proposal from Aloft for \$1440 for all signs. We discuss our concern with thanking individuals vs. a broad message of thanks on the entrance sign. Someone always seems to be left out of the thanks. No parking signs at Hole One- Mandy explains those are temporary, as we received word from American Waste that they had restricted access to the recycling bins when people parked there. Ransom Lake kiosks desperately need to be redone. Matt reached out to GTRLC and spoke with Erin, who is in charge of signs. They will design and make them for us, along the same lines as the signage at Lower Woodcock or Timbers Rec Area. Matt will take the lead on getting information to her. We want to include any pertinent historical information that was originally in the kiosks. The committee is also working on repairs to the back bridge, and putting in natural barriers to keep people on the paths. Tom also commended the "Beaver Deceiver" having been removed.

Supervisor M. Roper adjourns the meeting at 7:13 pm  
Minutes submitted by MG Rineer