

## **Argentine Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2020**

Call to Order @ 7:00 p.m. This meeting was also held on Zoom.

Supervisor Saad led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Graves, present, Conner, Schmidt, present, Hallman, present and Saad, present.

Moved by Saad, seconded by Hallman to add Russ Ciesielski to the agenda to discuss the Linden School Bond Proposal. Motion passed.

Motion, Hallman, seconded by Saad to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2020 Regular Board Meeting, the minutes of the Closed Session on July 27, 2020 and the minutes of the Special Assessment Cost Hearing on August 27, 2020. Motion passed.

Motion by Saad, seconded by Conner to adopt Resolution 2020-13 to repeal Resolution 2020-4. Roll call: Saad, yes, Hallman, yes, Conner, yes, Schmidt, yes and Graves, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence is available to view.

Moved by Saad, seconded by Graves to approve the budget amendments as recommended by Clerk Graves. Motion passed.

Motion, Hallman seconded by Conner to approve payment of expenditures as presented in the board package. Motion passed.

Public comment: Deborah Ortwine- spoke about her perceived inaction of her complaint regarding a neighbor's chickens.

Reports: Fire Department- A written report was submitted. Chief Kurtz was not in attendance. The report listed the maintenance that has been completed. Elliot Rodgers has passed firefighter practical and written exams.

Firefighter Leland Wigglesworth has informed Chief Kurtz of his retirement from the Fire Department service. All members of the department appreciate his 50 + years of fire service experience and he will be missed.

Moved by Graves, seconded by Saad to accept the resignation of Leland Wigglesworth from the Argentine Township Fire & Rescue Department. Motion passed.

Attorney Lattie suggested that we send another letter to Terry Balewski about attendance.

Chief Kurtz is requesting permission to post open applications for the position of Lieutenant 1 internally or promote Kyle Kurtz to Lt.1.

Moved by Saad, seconded by Graves to promote Kyle Kurtz to the open position of Lt. 1 effective immediately. Roll call: Schmidt, yes, Graves, yes, Saad, yes, Conner, yes and Hallman, yes. Motion passed.

Police Department- A written report was submitted. Chief Allen was not in attendance.

Building Department- Saad reported that 17 permits were issued that total \$6,431.

The Planning Commission –The Planning Commission did not meet.

Attorney: David Lattie had no business. Treasurer Schmidt asked for an answer to his question about Ordinance # 35.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Stages Island Bridge:

Mr. & Mrs. Micah Stanley and Mr. Allen have asked for approval to place a floating aluminum lighted structure 6' x 32' bridge/ dock between Stages Island and the mainland. The details were specified to the Board. This will be installed from November 15<sup>th</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> each year. It will be insured. The Township will be named on the insurance for liability and a certificate will be renewed annually. Schmidt noted that this fits with our dock ordinance. Hallman asked that reflective tape be placed on it. Graves asked if boat traffic would be impeded. Hallman clarified that this would replace the original bridge. Hallman asked for all DNR guidelines to be followed. Schmidt moved that the Board accept this design and location of this bridge be approved. Hallman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Hallman, yes, Conner, yes, Graves, yes and Saad, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Linden Community Schools Resource Officer Agreement was tabled.

Resolution 2020-12 to move a Precinct Polling Place

Clerk Graves said that due to the high turnout expected, safety and the need to social distance as much as possible, it is necessary to move precinct # 2 to accommodate parking. It is required that the Board passes a resolution to temporarily relocate a polling place. Precinct #2 would be moved and Precinct # 1 and # 3 will remain at the Fire Hall.

Moved by Hallman, seconded by Graves to adopt Resolution 2020-12. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Conner, yes, Hallman, yes, Graves, yes and Saad, no. Motion passed 4-1

Chief Kurtz is requesting that the first 5 parking spaces after the Handicap Parking Spaces are reserved for Firefighter parking only on weekends. There have been issues with people taking up spaces while not on township business.

Russ Ciesielski, Superintendent of Linden Community Schools: spoke with pride and enthusiasm about the proposed school bond on the November ballot. There is a 20 year \$55, 000000.00 bond proposal on the November ballot. This bond will increase taxes 1 mil for a total of 1.46 mils on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation for 20 years. This is a net increase of 1 mill over what is now in place. The school has plans to use this money for improvements in technology, buildings, security, equipping playgrounds and more. Mr. Ciesielski showed a power point presentation. Schmidt asked would this be used for staff pay. Mr. Ciesielski said the bond money can't be used to fund salaries. Schmidt asked how many students the school has lost last year. Ciesielski answered 30 to 40. Treasurer Schmidt asked how the School Board Members vote on placing the bond proposal on the ballot. Russ Ciesielski said the vote was 4-3.

Saad said he is aware that the School would like us to support the bond proposal but we would not be taking action on this.

Graves said while she supports the schools, she does not believe as Clerk, it is her role to promote or speak against a ballot proposal, nor does she think it is the role of the Board to do so. Graves said this is for the voters to decide when they vote.

Business from Board Members:

Schmidt- When we get our new police vehicle, I think we should cascade the oldest police Tahoe from the Police Department to the building department. We do not need to keep extra vehicles. Schmidt made a motion to cascade the oldest police vehicle to use for building and general township use and authorize the Clerk to sell the 2010 vehicle. Saad seconded the motion. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Saad, yes, Hallman, yes and Graves, yes. Conner did not vote because he had left the meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

Hallman- Royalty looked at the trees behind the Fire Department. It could fall and damage the Fire Department. Supervisor Saad asked Royalty to give us a quote. The Pathway is scheduled to be paved on Wednesday. The Lobdell Lake fireworks will be on Saturday September 5<sup>th</sup> @ 9 p.m. We approved \$750. for technology upgrades. When will this be done?

Supervisor Saad had asked Graves to talk about Medical Debt that was paid off in our community during her time.

Graves- The new ballot deposit box has been installed outside of the office door. I am having shelves installed on the wall in the election room. We attend Flint Central Church of the Nazarene. Our church has purchased the medical debt from collection agencies for less than a penny on a dollar. The church was able to pay off \$10.5 million of medical debt for every person who owed it in Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee, Huron, Sanilac, Tuscola, Livingston and part of Macomb County. This debt is now cancelled for the people who owed it, including those in Argentine Township. Medical debt negatively affects a person's credit score. We were proud to donate to this effort.

Saad- Tom Wickham is a Detroit Battalion Chief and safety expert around the county. We have asked him to be a consultant to help our Fire Department improve. Saad moved and Hallman seconded to have our attorney work with the (board officers) Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer to draw up a consulting agreement. Roll call: Graves, yes, Saad, yes, Schmidt and Hallman, yes. Conner had left the meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

Adjournment at 8:40 p.m.

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Denise Graves, Clerk

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Brian Saad, Supervisor

