

PROPOSED MINUTES

Woodhull Township Board Meeting
October 5, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Township Hall, 7315 W. Beard Road, Perry MI 4887

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Slee at 7:00 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll call was taken with all Board members present.

Delegation of Visitors

Mike Shaft spoke to the Board and attending residents about a museum in Owosso with a new exhibit that includes the history of Woodhull Township from pioneer times to now. The museum is found at 1997 M-52, just north of Owosso. He also has published an excellent book entitled “Shaftsborg: A Hidden Gem” that can be found on Amazon.

Recommended Actions

The agenda was amended to place consideration of pay for former Clerk Cathy Provines and for any election workers provided by the County Clerk under “Decision Items.” Supervisor Slee recommended the agenda be approved as amended, Clerk Hart supported. All ayes, motion carried.

Supervisor Slee moved that the Proposed Regular Minutes for the September 7, 2022, Board meeting be approved. Supported by Clerk Hart. All ayes, motion carried.

Clerk Hart moved that the Special Meeting minutes for September 21, 2022, be approved. Treasurer Bawks supported. All ayes, motion carried.

Board Comments

Supervisor Slee: Extended congratulations to our Assessor Diane Dowler, who received 100% on her Assessor’s examination with the State of Michigan. She also has information for anyone who might want to pursue more broadband in Woodhull Township.

Clerk Hart: Advised of two maintenance issues that need addressing. The toilets in the Hall have a great deal of inner rust and she will contact a plumber. Also, an electrical box in the Clerk’s office has loose connections which cause telephone calls and internet access to drop off unexpectedly, so she will be contacting an electrician to repair it. The old dumpster in Oak Plain cemetery has been removed and a new “curbee” was dropped off

to replace it. Our trash removal costs there have now been halved, and Thursday is trash pick-up day. The Clerk's office is being reconfigured to provide more efficiency in performing Township and election duties.

Treasurer Bawks: There was a mathematical error on the September 30th report in the ARPA account, but the ending balance is correct. There were 27 "Point and Pay" transactions. Our audit is completed and the report has been sent to the state. The auditor would be willing to present the audit report to the Board if desired.

Trustee Betts: The roof is fixed.

Trustee Jelenek: No report.

Committee Reports

Fire and Ambulance: There have been 137 ambulance runs this year, and 412 fire rescue runs so far in 2022.

Park Commission: The park's water is shut off now due to testing dates coming so close to the end of October. New asphalt has been installed to provide more parking.

Planning Commission: No report.

Freedom of Information: One request has been received and filled.

Public Comments: None at this time.

Decision Items

Trustee Jelenek moved to approve the bills as presented, supported by Clerk Hart. Pam, aye. Susan, aye. Cindy, aye. Tom, aye. Rick, aye. Five ayes and no nays; motion carried.

Supervisor Slee moved to Spread the Levy for the corrected Ambulance Special Assessment, supported by Trustee Betts. Pam, aye. Susan, aye. Cindy, aye. Tom, aye. Rick, aye. Five ayes and no nays; motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Betts to approve the L.S.W. budget as amended, supported by Treasurer Bawks. Pam, aye. Susan, aye. Cindy, aye. Tom, aye. Rick, aye. Five ayes and no nays; motion carried.

A Special Meeting to discuss ARPA funds is set for Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. in the Township hall.

Supervisor Slee moved to approve the draft of the Winter Tax Bill Newsletter and forward it to Equalization. Clerk Hart supported, all ayes. Motion carried.

Dan Izdebski of Twin Oaks Mowing and Snowplowing was expected to be at the Board meeting to present his bid for the snow plowing contract, but did not show up. He will be forwarding his bid for consideration at the next meeting. Trustee Jelenek had questions about who would be plowing snow from the cemeteries, and felt that might be part of the Sexton's contract. He urged a review of the matter before we accept any snowplowing bids.

Clerk Hart brought up the decision on paying Cathy Provines per hour during the rest of October. Mrs. Provines has been critically important in giving the new Clerk proper training. After some discussion, Trustee Jelenek moved she be paid at the rate of \$20 per hour. Clerk Hart seconded. Pam, aye. Susan, aye. Cindy, aye. Rick, aye, Tom aye. Five ayes and no nays; motion carried.

County Clerk Caroline Wilson offered to provide county workers to help us on Election Day at the rate of \$20 an hour. Trustee Jelenek moved that we employ one worker at that rate if necessary. Clerk Hart seconded. Pam, aye. Susan, aye. Cindy, aye. Rick, aye. Tom, aye. Five ayes and no nays; motion carried.

Old Business

Supervisor Slee requested a list from Treasurer Bawks about reliable tree removal companies to remove and trim cemetery trees. The Visiting Arborists were concerned that if the work was not done properly, the trees would suffer more damage than necessary. The Treasurer did forward that list, and Supervisor Slee will call each company to ascertain the best price for the work.

Trustee Jelenek has had no success on obtaining a bid to replace the outer east stairway and pointed out the difficulties of making sure the stairway would be ADA-approved. Additional problems may arise because this is a Michigan Historical Site. He will continue his efforts.

Treasurer Bawks did research on how much it would cost to terminate our contract with Pitney Bowes, as opposed to completing the contract period. It would cost nearly \$800 to terminate the contract early, as opposed to \$721 to complete the contract. Because

there would be substantial loss if we chose to terminate the contract early, it will remain in place until April 2024. The Clerk will send a check to add more postage to the machine.

New Business

Treasurer Bawks asked for clarification as to where we should find \$277,130.22 to pay the Shiawassee Road Commission. She recommended we take the money out of ARPA funds. Supervisor Slee said we would be receiving revenue sharing funds soon, but the Road Commission will only give us until the end of this month before they start charging interest. Trustee Jelenek said we shouldn't be receiving a bill for any primary roads at all, since they are the responsibility of the County. Clerk Hart said she felt this was a lot of money to take from our Township treasury, and we have so many other important things we can't do because of this huge bill. Trustee Jelenek reluctantly mentioned that we could take the money out of our General Savings account, and Supervisor Slee so moved. Treasurer Bawks seconded. Pam, aye. Susan, aye. Cindy, aye. Tom, aye. Rick, aye. All ayes and no nays; motion carried.

Public Comment

After several public comments, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

(All meetings are recorded for Clerk's use only)