

Homestead Township Regular Board Meeting August 2, 2021

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:00pm by Supervisor Tia Kurina-Cooley.

Present by roll call: Karen Mallon, Mike Mead, Tia Kurina-Cooley, Pat Delorme. Absent: Christina Corey.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Cooley to approve agenda with changes. Support: Mead. All Ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Cooley and Support by Delorme to approve the Minutes of the July 6, 2021 Regular Board Meeting. All ayes; no nays. Motion carried.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Bill Ward – HARP – Request to Board to discuss the removal of the shed for either destruction, township use or sale.

Mary Geetings – Homestead Township Resident: States the FOIA lawsuit brought on by Kirk Jones was her mistake while she was Clerk, not Karen Mallon's mistake. States that if the Board has proof that the Clerk has tampered with the checks then it should bring it forward or cease accusations and it should include her as Deputy Clerk. The township has been audited and there is nothing that indicates that checks have been tampered with. Geetings offers her support for John Hancock as appointed trustee. He was an outstanding supervisor, has honesty, integrity and patience. He studies the law, does research and he would be a benefit to the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor announces she has submitted American Rescue Plan documents.

FINANCE:

Motion by Cooley to approve payables with changes to Road Improvement and add payables presented for Fire Department and Park and Recreation account for Kevin Taghon upon submittal of his report of work done. Support: Mead. Roll Call: Mead – yes; Cooley – yes; Delorme – yes; Mallon – yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Written and submitted.

Clerk: Financial reports submitted.

Zoning Administrator: No report submitted.

Fire Department: 211 calls YTD. Met with architect firm to begin space needs and site study. Requested quote for cost to do report. Chief reports his computer "died" and obtained a new one but has no supporting documents at this time to present to the Board. Firemen completing training.

County Commissioner: Tim Markey announced that the County working on economic development, broadband needs study is being completed. Budget is being finalized. Reported that the Board of Commissioner's room is not video conference ready and can be used by public. ARPA funds are in, and the Board is determining best way to use the money.

Assessor: In person report. Working on 2-year (4/1/2019 – 3/31/2021) sales study. Looking at 57 new buildings; 288 sales. 41 inspections. The Board of Review met in July and reviewed 9 petitions, 1 VA exemption, 1 PRE and 1 Poverty for a total of 12 applications.

Park and Rec – Not present. No report submitted.

Planning Commission – Mike Mead. Wade Trim contract. ZA has resigned.

Motion by Cooley to accept reports as presented. Support: Mead. All Ayes; No Nays. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk reports 2 FOIA requests received. Reports that the Township has received a shut off notice from Consumer's Energy. Discussion held. Board advised Clerk at the July meeting that no bills could be paid without Board Approval; which included all utilities. Motion by Cooley to pay utilities as they come due. Mead Support. Roll Call: Mallon – yes; Mead – yes; Cooley – yes; Delorme – yes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINES:

Vote on Trustee: Motion by Mallon to appoint John Hancock to the vacated trustee position; Support by Mead. Roll Call: Mallon – yes; Mead – yes; Cooley – No; Delorme – No. Motion failed.

Motion by Cooley to appoint Teresa Peifer to the vacated trustee position; Support Delorme. Roll Call: Mallon – no; Mead – no; Cooley – yes; Delorme – yes. Motion failed.

Motion by Cooley to appoint Bess Butler to the vacated trustee position; Support Delorme. Roll Call: Mead – no; Mallon – no; Cooley – no; Delorme – no. Motion failed.

Vote on Planning Commission position: Motion by Cooley to appoint Linda Kozak to Planning Commission; Support Delorme. Roll Call: Mallon – no; Mead – yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes. Motion carried.

Vote on Zoning Administrator: Motion by Mallon to appoint Marvin Radtke as Zoning Administrator to complete the contracted position until March 31, 2022. Support Cooley. Roll Call: Mead – yes; Cooley – yes; Delorme – yes; Mallon – yes. Motion carried.

Vote on Steering Committee Members: Discussion held. Clerk requests that the Supervisor confirm with the Township's attorneys regarding appointing Kirk Jones to the Steering Commission as the township is currently involved in two open lawsuits with Jones both regarding township ordinances. Membership discussion tabled.

Motion to Replace keys/locks and get a locked key box with log: Discussion held. No motion made. Supervisor to get quote on replacement of locks and to consider MSP's accessibility to the Hall.

Motion to access QB reports - Discussion held. Clerk indicated that the QB reports are provided monthly and that no access will be allowed remotely to the Clerk's computer by anyone outside of the Clerk's office. Due to the continual accusations of distrust made by the Supervisor and the Treasurer on the Clerk, the Clerk states that the distrust is now reciprocated. With SOS QVF records on the Clerk's computer, it is also not advisable. The Clerk will not allow remote access to the Clerk's computer. Clerk suggests that the Township look to BS&A for payables or a network system. No motion entered.

Approve Master Plan Agreement – Motion by Cooley to approve the Master Plan agreement with Wade Trim up to \$25,000. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Mead – yes; Cooley – yes; Delorme – yes; Mallon – yes. Motion carried.

Beer Tent at Coho Fest – (added) Beer tent to be held on August 21 and August 22, 2021. Motion by Mallon to allow a Beer Tent at the Homestead Township Park on August 21 and August 22, 2021. Support: Mead. Roll Call: Cooley – yes; Delorme – yes; Mead – yes; Mallon – yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Platte River Park Shed: No discussion held. Tabled for further discussion at a future time.

Iron Man Event: Motion by Cooley to pay volunteer MFR an event wage of \$35 per hour for 12 hours to stand ready with the side-by-side vehicle at the Iron Man event. Roll Call: Mead – yes; Mallon – No; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes. Motion Carried.

Building Upkeep – any updates? Need to post? Township needs a licensed contractor to do repairs. Employees are not authorized by the Board to make repairs. This is a responsibility of the Supervisor. Re visit the needs of the building once a thorough inspection is done. To put out a RFP, the Township will need to have a Work Specification list.

Audit Update: Clerk advised auditor was a no show. Clerk and Deputy Clerk were on hand as scheduled on July 29, 2021, and auditor did not show. Auditor sent notice 1 hour after the meeting start time that she would not be available to meet. Clerk has contacted the Michigan Department of Treasury for guidance and has a meeting scheduled with the department and auditor on August 11, 2021.

Resolution – tax short/overpay: Motion to accept Resolution 2021-0802 “Resolution to Address the Collection of Payments or Refunds on Taxes Under/Over \$3.00”.

Brining: Motion by Mead to approve the 2nd brining to be completed by the Road Commission at \$7,000.00 (e). Support: Cooley. Roll Call: Mead – yes; Delorme – yes; Cooley – yes; Mallon – yes. Motion carried.

IT Business – Tim Markey (added): Tim Markey presented a quote from his company, Ablaze, LLC, to perform IT services for the township. Discussion was held regarding funds on retainer with current IT provider, and that the Township should obtain quotes from other IT providers to eliminate any impropriety in contracting with a township employee. Further discussion tabled.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sherry Taylor: Cautioned the Township about using Bison Associates and requesting an architecture firm to quote on space use. Stated County used the same firm contacted by Markey and it just cost the taxpayers a large sum of money and no results came from the study. She also indicated that door cards for access may be a better option than keys. She further stated that the electors of Homestead Township chose John Hancock as the third choice for Trustee. She wonders why two of Board members did not vote in his favor.

Motion by Cooley to Adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 8:16pm. Support: Delorme. All ayes. Motion carried.

I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the approved minutes of the August 2, 2021 Regular Board. Signed herein by the Homestead Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 8th day of September 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:



Karen Mallon, Clerk