

Homestead Township Regular Board Meeting September 7, 2021

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:012 pm by Supervisor Tia Kurina-Cooley.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Mallon – Homestead Township. Addressed the Board about the noise from St. Ambrose stating that the business has grown, and Jones does not follow ordinances. When Mallon purchased his home in 2012 the business was not the size it is currently. Music is not essential to the business, and it is disturbing in the rural residential neighborhood. Music happens nearly every night in the summer. Ask that the Board take it into consideration while discussing the noise ordinance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Discussion: Clerk requested that embezzlement matter by treasurer be added to agenda. Supervisor refused. Motion by Cooley to approve agenda with addition of closed session to discuss personnel problems. Support: Mead. Ayes: Mead, Cooley, Delorme; Nays: Mallon. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Cooley to approve the August 2, 2021, Regular Board Meeting with corrections. Support: Delorme. All ayes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

ARPA – Supervisor states funding approved.

.gov domain – Supervisor working on quote.

FINANCE BILLS:

Motion by Cooley to pay GF account payables. Support: Mead. Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Mallon – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Cooley to pay the Fire Department bills as presented. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Delorme – Yes; Mead – Yes; Mallon – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Cooley to pay the Park and Rec bills as presented. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Delorme – Yes; Mead – Yes; Mallon – Yes. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Written and submitted.

Clerk: Written and submitted

Zoning Administrator: Not present. Written and submitted.

Fire Department: Written and submitted.

County Commissioner: Announced the BOC held a special meeting regarding the mask mandate. It was an informational meeting only.

Assessor: No report, not present.

Park Manager: No report, not present.

Planning Commission: No meeting held in August.

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

CORRESPONDENCE:

Focus Group: Hosted by Grow Benzie
Complaint made about speeding cars on Fewins Road and the need for speed limit signs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Appointment of Trustee: Motion by Mead to approve John Hancock as Trustee: Support: Mallon. Roll call: Mallon – Yes, Mead – Yes; Cooley – No; Delorme – No. Motion failed. Motion by Cooley to approve Teresa Pfeiffer as Trustee: Support: Delorme. Roll call: Mallon – No, Mead – No; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes. Motion failed.
Motion by Cooley to approve Bess Butler as Trustee: Support: Delorme. Roll call: Mallon – No, Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes. Motion carried.

Steering Committee: Discussion: Mallon states she is not in favor of Kirk Jones being on the Steering Committee for the Township Master plan as the Township is currently involved in two lawsuits that are before the Benzie County District Court and are not resolved. Cooley states she has no issue with Jones being on the committee. Motion by Cooley to approve all that presented interest to be on the Steering Committee. Support: Delorme. Ayes: Mead, Cooley, Delorme; Nays: Mallon. Motion carried

FOIA LAWSUIT: Motion by Cooley to go into closed session to discuss the FOIA Lawsuit with attorney and to discuss trial status.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Cooley to accept the settlement agreement on the Jones FOIA lawsuit. Support: Mead. Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Mallon – No. Motion carried.

FOIA COORDINATOR: Motion by Cooley to hire a FOIA Coordinator. Support: Mead. Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Mallon – No. Motion carried.

LITIGATION POLICY – Supervisor presents a litigation policy for the Board to approve. Clerk advises that this matter should be tabled to give Board members a chance to read the policy. Tabled to October meeting.

CREDIT CARD POLICY – Motion by Cooley for Clerk and Treasurer to have credit cards for purchases. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Mallon – No. Motion carried.

Motion to hire auditor to assist with past due audit and investigate current procedures. No motion made. Discussion held and tabled until Supervisor has name of auditor.

Motion to hire an account and assist with audit completion. No motion made. Discussion held and tabled until Supervisor has name of auditor.

CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL PROBLEMS.

OLD BUSINESS:

ST. AMBROSE – NOISE ORDINANCE AND HEARING:

NOISE ORDINANCE – Motion by Mallon to accept all recommendations by Township Attorney Tom Grier regarding the Noise Ordinance where the recommendation is to eliminate restrictions by time as stated in current noise ordinance thereby amending the noise ordinance so that the ordinance is covered by a 24-hour period. Support: Cooley. . Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Mallon – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Cooley to go into closed session to discuss the Jones Noise Violation with Township Attorney Tom Grier. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Mead – No; Cooley – No; Delorme – No; Mallon – No. Motion carried.

BUILDING UPKEEP: Supervisor would like to put an ad in the paper to hire a handyman to make repairs to building. Clerk inquires what the Supervisor has notated for repairs to get appropriate quotes.

Supervisor states that she was not aware that building repairs was in her job description. Clerk requests that an appropriate list be made of repairs needed so that a licensed handyman can be hired to make repairs based on bids. No further action.

HARP SHED DISPOSAL: Motion by Cooley to allow HARP to dispose of Shed on Platte River Park as appropriate. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Mallon – Yes. Motion carried.

IT Service: Supervisor advises she is awaiting quote still. Motion by Delorme to give us information about website contract (LIAA). Support: Mike Mead. Ayes: All in favor. Motion carried.

Benzie School Agreement Revisions: Resolution 2021-090701 Resolution Approving Real Property Agreement Between Homestead Township and the Benzie County Central Schools. Motion by Cooley to adopt Resolution 2021-090701. Support: Mead. Roll call: Roll Call: Mead – Yes; Cooley – Yes; Delorme – Yes; Mallon – Yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mead to allow supervisor to sign agreements as recommended by Township Attorney Tom Grier. Support: Delorme. Roll Call: Mallon – yes; Mead – yes; Delorme – yes; Cooley – yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sherry Taylor – States that using credit cards and having to approve them before the Board could lead to late fees because the bills usually have a 10-day grace period. Taylor also states that hiring a FOIA Coordinator instead of using the clerk who has 10 plus years of experience with the Sheriff's Office as FOIA Coordinator doesn't make sense.

Laura Weston – States that Paul Mallon and Karen Mallon are prejudiced against St. Ambrose and should not be able to vote. She believes that it is appropriate to hire a FOIA coordinator because of Karen Mallon's conflict of interest.

Motion by Cooley to Adjourn Regular Board Meeting at 8:20pm. Support: Delorme. Ayes: All in favor – no nays. Motion carried.

I hereby certify that the minutes contained herein are the approved May 3, 2021 Regular Board Meeting Minutes approved by the Homestead Township Board on June 7, 2021. Signed herein by the Homestead Township Clerk, Karen Mallon on this the 8th day of June 2021.

Respectfully Submitted:



Karen Mallon, Clerk