

**COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 18TH, 2019 7:00PM**

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A meeting of the Columbia Township Board was called to order by L. Norton. Present were: S. Corke, K. Gruss, J. Huizenga, L. Norton, and B. Sherrer. Absent: None. Roll call was taken. 15 Citizens were present.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

General	\$279,984.28	Road Fund	\$832,892.55
Fire Fund	\$499,877.49	Ambulance Fund	\$1,803.60
Trust and Agency	\$2,833.94	Tax Fund	\$44,208.71
North Lake	\$7,210.29	House Fund	\$48,303.40
Police Fund	\$269,700.31	Saddle Lake Fund	\$23,344.58
General 2	\$19,799.38	Road 2	\$91,845.35

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Regular meeting minutes: tabled. Special meeting minutes: tabled. Invoices thru 6-18-19 and treasurer's report and payroll thru 6-18-19. Motion by Norton and seconded by Sherrer to the approve consent agenda. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Attended special meeting, audit was completed and tax summer starts in July.

**CLERKS REPORT:** completed payroll, invoices, notices, synopsis, minutes, resolutions, filing, monthly reports and filings. Completed audit, checked on fire department and some requests by residents involving ditching, checked on transfer station and attended special meetings.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Pride care.

**SUPERVISOR:** attended supervisor meeting, met with road commission little bear lake access; email sent to road commission to request ditching on 48<sup>th</sup> St. near Jephtha Lake. Board to address assessor complaints; received 3 new blight complaints.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** fire department pancake breakfast June 30, 2019.

**FIRE CHIEF:** Call fire department if you will be burning large debris piles leave message of address of burn 269-434-6266. Clear area around where you are going to burn. Month of May there was 0 calls for fire structures in Columbia Township. There was 5 structures fires that Columbia supported 3 to Bangor; 1 to Lee; and 1 to South Haven. 19 Emergency Medical First Responder calls. Remember to check the batteries on smoke detectors. Please have your address for your home in a clear and visible location in case the ambulance/fire department needs to find your home. Acquisition of a full sized SUV from the DNR this would help with Winter time medical assists where other vehicle could not. Purchased new laptop and desktop for the fire department office.

**POLICE:** 1 B&E's; 7 general assists; 2 Health & Safety and 7 obstruction of justice; 2 assault; 3 medical assist.

**SENIOR SERVICES:** Senior City in South Haven also offers a meal once a month. Lunch is offered monthly at the Church in Grand Junction contact the church for more information. Activities available at Senior City are: Tai Chi, Hand Chimes, Computer lessons, Pickle ball, Card games, Line Dancing, call 269-637-3607 for more information. Please spread the word about the help the Senior Services offers. Help a senior today for many are in need. Remember to check out the senior sentinel in your local paper.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REP:** Discussion on farm markets. Still reviewing sections of the Master Plan.

**CEMETERY:** There is now a flag and pole for the cemetery.

**BUSINESS:**

1. Motion by Norton seconded by Sherrer to table minutes approval. Motion Carried.
2. Motion by Norton seconded by Gruss to approve expenditures for 6-18-19. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Norton seconded by Sherrer to remove google account for Fire Department off the agenda. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Sherrer seconded by Huizenga to hire Emergency First Responders Balow, Gibbs, Horan and Jasensky for the fire station to man station during the daytime hours. Motion carried.
5. Motion by Corke seconded by Norton to approve Ordinance ZBA text amendment 2019-01. Motion carried.
6. Motion by Norton seconded by Huizenga to table Committee of Whole Meeting. Motion Carried.
7. Motion by Norton seconded by Huizenga to table retreat for board to help with communication purposes. Motion Carried.
8. Motion by Norton seconded by Corke to approve road commission estimate summary for survey, gravel and maintenance of Little Bear Access owned by the township... Motion carried.
9. Motion by Norton seconded by Sherrer to approve no extra coverage for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 by the Sheriff. Motion carried.
10. Motion by Corke seconded by Norton to table Gasper contract. Motion carried.
11. Motion by Norton seconded by Sherrer to enter in to closed session with Attorney for written legal opinion concerning foia issues, foia coordinator and foia documents. Motion carried. 1 no vote Corke.
12. Motion by Norton seconded by Corke to return to open session. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Corke stated that the board and Attorney keep pushing for closed session under the wrong circumstances and could be in violation he also stated that Norton should give up the Breedsville clerk position as she told her voters she would, this is a conflict of interest especially with the fact that she resides with the Breedsville President, another thing, the access that the township owns on Saddle Lake at the end of Silver/saddle drive needs to have the rubbish and shed removed put there by residents next door and so that they cannot file for possession of the property; also that the board members need to perform their own job descriptions and not do other board members jobs and I do not want my tax dollars spent on a retreat for this board, you will have different opinions on issues brought before you; This township has no insurance coverage for any mistakes so quit trying to reinvent the wheel here board members. Abernathy stated that the dumpster should be left alone trash is better in there than on streets. Beckwith commented about the need of an outdoor light for night at the hall; do you need a permit to demolish. Rogusta stated that Breedsville turned down Linda N. resignation as clerk for Breedsville, and that the position is not a voted position.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Sherrer commented that the board needs to continue to work together and not let personal issue get in the way. Gruss commented that the attorney should not have to go thru these matters everyone started with good intentions. Norton stated thank you to Catherine and board will consider mediation.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Norton seconded by Huizenga. Time: 9:35 p.m.

Linda Norton, Supervisor  
Stacey Corke, Clerk