

COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP
53053 CR 388, GRAND JUNCTION, MI 49056
(269) 434-6227

Columbia Township Board
Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Columbia Township Hall
Date: November 19, 2019 Time: 7:00 pm

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Supervisor Norton.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call:

Present: J. Huizenga, B. Sherrer, K. Gruss, S. Corke (left at 9:13, returned at 9:14), L. Norton

Special Speaker:

Paul DeYoung, Register of Deeds for Van Buren County, spoke about the services provided by his office and presented the township with a 1940s map.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Fire Dept. Report - D. Johnson read his written report for the audience.

EMS - J. Robertson reviewed the quick response medical team six month report (April through October) and requirements of the department and staff/volunteers.

Sheriff Dept. Report - Deputy Mohony reviewed statistics for the month of October.

Senior Services - D. Beckwith announced events coming up and challenged the audience to read the Senior Services newspaper insert to learn about the services offered in the county.

Pride Care - S. Lauder Appreciates quick response teams. Reviewed statistics for October.

CORRESPONDENCE /ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Saddle Lake Property Owners Association - Supervisor Norton summarized a letter received. G. Gruss spoke about the lake blight management mentioned in the letter and requirements from the DEQ.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Supervisor's Report - Reviewed her written report.

b. Clerks Report - Reviewed main tasks completed and offered a Happy Thanksgiving to all.

c. Treasurer's Report - Reviewed her written report.

d. Trustee Huizenga Report - Pay attention to school buses. Spoke about millage request on March ballot for veterans services.

e. Trustee Sherrer Report - Planning Commission did not meet earlier in the month. Attended something coalition meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| General | \$298,607.57 | Road Fund | \$909,276.66 |
| Fire Fund | \$478,679.80 | Ambulance Fund | \$1,826.95 |
| Trust and Agency | \$2,855.89 | Tax Fund | \$44,055.94 |
| North Lake | \$14,362.19 | House Fund | \$48,506.22 |
| Police Fund | \$235,703.11 | Saddle Lake Fund | \$31,851.85 |

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

D. Beckwith mentioned water treatment in Bloomingdale and earlier septic ordinance to require pumping of septic on sale of home. Citizen expressed concerns about firefighters not signing contracts. Citizen statement about response time to emergencies and how calls from cell phones can impact ability to locate quickly. Shane Dragonfly Cannabis spoke about his company

CONSENT AGENDA:

Meeting Minutes 10/15/2019 & Expenditures. It was moved by Clerk Corke and supported by Trustee Huizenga to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passed.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Clerk Corke to approve the agenda with changes. Vote: All ayes. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passed.

Discussion Items:

Johnson Blight - Status update. Follow-up with deputy needed. Request status update on all blight cases.

Zoning violations - There are several zoning ordinance issues that the Zoning Administrator is working on right now.

Saddle Lake Assess - Need signage at public accesses.

Ambulance/Tax reconciled - There is a summary document in the board packet for this.

Treasurer Gruss explained the summary and situation.

Committee for Adult Recreation MMJ - Trustees will work to establish this committee with Trustee Sherrer as chair.

Treasurer transition - Treasurer mentioned that she may resign and would like to start to start transitioning duties to her deputy in hopes the deputy will be appointed to the Treasurer position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. 6-month review questions to assist Chief of EMFR/EMS.

This topic was covered in the information section.

2. Credit Card Policy

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Clerk Corke to table this topic until the next meeting. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S.

Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

3. FOIA Policy

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Clerk Corke to accept the FOIA Policy as presented. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

4. FOIA appeal response

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Trustee Sherrer to refund K. Speicher FOIA fees due to late completion. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - no, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Snow Plowing Bids

It was moved by Clerk Corke and supported by Supervisor Norton to accept the bid from S and H Dependable Services for Fire Station #2. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

It was moved by Trustee Huizenga and supported by Clerk Corke to accept the bid from S and H Dependable Services at the 2018/2019 pricing. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

2. Reverted Properties for Sale

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Treasurer Gruss to notify neighboring property owners of the current reverted properties that they will be placed for sale and to place an advertisement in the newspaper stating that reverted properties in Columbia Township will be placed on the market soon. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

3. Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Guidelines for 2020

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Treasurer Sherrer to adopt the Poverty Exemption Guidelines for 2020 Resolution as presented. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

4. Transfer Station/Dump Poverty Thresholds for 2020 Assessments

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Clerk Corke to adopt the Transfer Station/Dump Poverty Thresholds for 2020 Policy as presented. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

5. FOIA to VBCRC

It was moved by Clerk Corke and supported by Trustee Huizenga to adopt the FOIA Request to the County Road Commission as presented. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

6. Operation Hours

It was moved by Clerk Corke and supported by Treasurer Gruss to close the Township Offices on November 28th and 29th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

7. Ambulance Tax Reconciliation

It was moved by Treasurer Gruss and supported by Trustee Huizenga transfer \$28,367.81 from the tax account to the ambulance fund. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

It was moved by Treasurer Gruss and Trustee Sherrer supported to stop payment on outstanding checks drawn on the ambulance and tax funds in the total amount of \$6,805.64. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - yes, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Citizen expresses concerns about blight situations. Citizen requested verification that the new FOIA resolution rescinds the old one, expressed concern over the handling of the snow plow bid, and expressed concerns about equity with poverty guidelines and supports. Citizen expressed concerns about the Road Commission declassifying roads and what that means for those roads.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Sherrer - Happy Thanksgiving to all. Tells Treasurer Gruss that she wishes she wasn't leaving but wishes her luck.

Trustee Huizenga - Tells Treasurer Gruss that she has done a great job and he appreciates all the work. He mentions that there is a newspaper article posted in the hall about the new Senior Services center.

Treasurer Gruss - Addresses concerns with snow plow bid.

Secretary Corke - Happy Thanksgiving and thank you Treasurer Gruss.

Supervisor Norton - Thank you to Treasurer Gruss and Happy Thanksgiving to all.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 9:50 pm by Clerk Corke and supported by Trustee Huizenga. Vote: All Ayes.

Next Meeting December 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Christy Case, Clerk on January 28, 2020. Draft, ready for approval.