

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

Columbia Township Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Columbia Township Hall

Date: January 21, 2020 Time: 7:00 pm

Call to order:

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Norton at 7:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call:

Present: J. Huizenga, B. Sherrer, K. Gruss, L. Norton

Absent: S. Corke

INFORMATION ITEMS:

Senior Services - D. Beckwith provided an update on current services.

Fire Dept. Report - Written report included in the board packet. D. Johnson summarized the report.

Sheriff Dept. Report - Written report included in the board packet. Deputy Mohony provided numbers verbally Deputy Mohony mentioned that complaints need to be signed and contact information provided for follow up to occur.

County Commissioner - K. Dorah provided a brief update on County projects and mentioned a new VBISD Health Department Center.

Road Commission - D. Burluson informed that Dan Bishop is the new Road Commission Director, information sessions for the Road Commission millages on the March ballot will occur on January 30th and February 7th at 6 pm and was asked by Trustee Huizenga to provide information about the correlation between revenue and roadwork by municipality within the County.

CORRESPONDENCE /ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Norton noted that Life EMS had published an article internally regarding their new contract with the township that was nice.

Supervisor Norton read the resignation of Stacey Corke, Clerk of the township.

BOARD INFORMATION ITEMS:

a. Supervisor's Report - Report of file

b. Clerks Report - N/A

c. Treasurer's Report - Report on file. Also stated now would be a good time to look at making the move to new accounting software. Reminder that the next budget meeting is on February 3, 2020, at 10 am.

d. Trustee Huizenga Report - Praise to the police department.

e. Trustee Sherrer Report - Planning Commission to meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm. Requests that this be published.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

General	\$291,981.02	Road Fund	\$846,703.53
Fire Fund	\$470,917.54	Ambulance Fund	\$30,220.13
Trust and Agency	\$2,860.11	Tax Fund	\$137,261.46
North Lake	\$14,127.78	House Fund	\$48,578.01
Police Fund	\$239,162.57	Saddle Lake Fund	\$30,772.95

PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

Butch expressed concerns with the new poverty ticket policy for transfer station usage. C. Case expressed support of the VBISD Special Education Millage to appear on the March ballot. K. Corke expressed concern over the dispute between the fire department and the Clerk regarding payroll.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Meeting Minutes 12/17/2019
- Budget Minutes 1/6/2020
- Expenditures

It was moved by Supervisor Norton 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 - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

It was moved by Trustee Huizenga and supported by Trustee Sherrer to approve the agenda as with changes: add item 6 under new business to determine action needed following Clerk resignation. Vote: All ayes. Motion passes.

Discussion Items:

Hours of operation may change and will need to be addressed after all positions filled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Snow Plowing Bids

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Trustee Huizenga to accept the snow plowing bid of LCP for the remainder of the season. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

2. Amend Road Commission Resolution

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Trustee Huizenga to adopt the amended Request for Improvements on Primary Road System CR 388 VBCRC Policy 2011-01 resolution. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

3. Sexton Contract

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Treasurer Gruss to accept the 1099 Contract for the Sexton for 2020. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION TO SELL EXCESS REAL ESTATE

Tabled due to certification needs of Clerk.

2. Electrical Inspector

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Trustee Huizenga to contract with the MTS electrical inspector for 2020. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

3. Appoint New Treasurer

It was moved by Trustee Huizenga and supported by Trustee Sherrer to appoint Rhonda Collins to the remainder of the Treasurer term. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - abstain, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - no. Motion passes.

4. PC Attorney

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Trustee Huizenga to retain Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber, and Kaufman, PC's Catherine Kaufman as the attorney of record for the Planning Commission. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

5. Automatic Door opener Front door (ADA Compliance)

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Trustee Huizenga to approve the addition of automatic door openers on the front door of the Township Hall. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

6. Clerk

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Trustee Huizenga to accept the resignation of Clerk S. Corke. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

It was moved by Supervisor Norton and supported by Trustee Huizenga to accept S. Corke's pay rate for contract services in support of the Township Clerk position. Roll call

vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passes.

It was moved by Trustee Huizenga to appoint Supervisor Norton as the temporary FOIA Coordinator. Support not obtained. Motion withdrawn.

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Trustee Huizenga to appoint Christy Case as the temporary FOIA Coordinator. Roll call vote: J. Huizenga - yes, B. Sherrer - yes, K. Gruss - yes, S. Corke - absent, L. Norton - yes. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

K. Corke expressed concerns over public accesses being marked on Master Plan maps. He also expressed concerns over the lack of contracts with those that train to volunteer for the fire department as the township puts resources into training them and they don't stay. D. Rawson states that he is about to have his final electrical inspection and hopes that the change of inspectors will not impact his job. M. Luken asked if there are still plans for a ramp at the transfer station.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Trustee Huizenga - Would like the board to craft a letter of appreciation to Stacey Corke for her services.

Trustee Sherrer - States that she felt that Treasurer Gruss always seemed to have the best intentions.

Treasurer Gruss - Provides a brief goodbye statement and positive comments about each member of the board. Thanks the community for the opportunity to serve them.

Supervisor Norton - Wishes Treasurer Gruss well on her next venture. Thanks everyone on the board for the hard work.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 9:55 pm by Trustee Huizenga and supported by Trustee Sherrer. Vote: All Ayes.

Next Meeting February 18, 2020, at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Christy Case, Clerk on January 28, 2020.

Board approved on at February 18, 2020 Regular Meeting.