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COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP

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

Columbia Township Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

Location: Columbia Township Hall

Date: February 18, 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, R. Collins, C. Case, L. Norton

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer supported by Treasurer Collins to approve the agenda with the change of adding New Business #9, street light assessments.

Voice vote: All Ayes

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Trustee Huizenga supported by Trustee Sherrer to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call vote: Huizenga - yes, Sherrer - yes, Collins - yes, Case - yes, Norton - yes

INFORMATION AND REPORTS:

- Fire Dept. Report (in packet)
- Sheriff Dept. Report (in packet)
- Life EMS (in packet & verbal)
- Assessor's Report (in packet)
- Trustee Sherrer (in packet)
- Clerk Case (in packet)
- Senior Services (verbal)
- County Commissioner (in packet & verbal)
- Road Commission (in packet)
- Trustee Huizenga (verbal)
- Treasurer Collins (in packet)
- Supervisor Norton (in packet)

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PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE BOARD:

K. Gruss welcomed Collins and Case. Commented about how township boards are intended to work.

G. Gruss asked if assessments will be going out soon. Asks why we need a blight officer. He states it is not a good use of township funds. Also firmly believes a uniformed officer should address all blight issues.

L. Miller asked if her letters of interest had been received by the Supervisor.

K. Corke states that the board is concerned about getting sued so no one wants to enforce. The problem is the board does not step up.

J. Armstrong stated that the board gave him the runaround about documents he wished to see. He read a document he states was posted on a website and from the Supervisor.

K. Gruss thanks the Clerk for posting the packets online. Expressed that the administrative assistant hiring process should have been public. Questions the recommendation to add a blight officer due to cost to citizens. Requests that employee reviews be attended by the Clerk as well. Would suggest evaluating town hall hours moving forward.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. RESOLUTION TO SELL EXCESS REAL ESTATE

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Treasurer Collins to approve the resolution to sell excess real estate resolution number 2020-01 as presented.

Roll call vote: Huizenga - yes, Sherrer - yes, Collins - yes, Case - yes, Norton - yes

2. Recommendation for Administrative Assistant

It was moved by Clerk Case and supported by Trustee Sherrer to hire Katie Multhauf as the Township Administrative Assistant at the rate of \$15.00 per hour beginning on February 24, 2020.

Roll call vote: Huizenga - yes, Sherrer - yes, Collins - yes, Case - yes, Norton - yes

3. Adult Use Marihuana – Report and direction to committee

Met on Wednesday, February discussed the needs of the committee to hold community forums. Needs advertising funds. Information sessions that would include an expert would provide a presentation and allow for feedback after. Next meeting is Saturday the 29th from 10 am to 12 pm.

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NEW BUSINESS

1. **Budget Amendment**

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Trustee Huizenga to approve the amended budget for the 2019/2020 fiscal year as presented.

Roll call vote: Huizenga - yes, Sherrer - yes, Collins - yes, Case - yes, Norton - yes

2. **CONSUMERS ENERGY COMPANY ELECTRIC FRANCHISE ORDINANCE**

It was moved by Trustee Sherrer and supported by Trustee Huizenga to approve the Consumers Energy Company Election Franchise Ordinance number 12.100.

Roll call vote: Huizenga - yes, Sherrer - yes, Collins - yes, Case - yes, Norton - yes

3. **Planning Commission and ZBA opening advertising**

It was Moved by Supervisor Norton and Supported by Trustee Sherrer to post the Planning Commission and ZBA openings in the newspaper.

Voice vote: All aye.

4. **Security Policy – 1st Reading**

Presented to board.

5. **Records Management Policy – 1st Reading**

Presented to board.

6. **Employee Handbook – 1st Reading**

Presented to board.

7. **Computer and Internet Use Policy - 1st Reading**

Presented to board.

8. **Recommendation for Blight Officer**

It was moved by Clerk Case and supported by Treasurer Collins to table until Monday, February 24 Special Meeting.

Voice vote: All aye

9. **Street Light Assessments**

Trustee Sherrer requested that the board evaluate street assessment in and outgoing funds.

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CORRESPONDENCE /ANNOUNCEMENTS

J. Huizenga announced his 59th wedding anniversary.

BOARD COMMENTS

Trustee Sherrer - Would like to recognize Ada and all the commodities volunteers. Senate bill regarding gravel mining call your representative.

Trustee Huizenga - Would like to thank K. Gruss. Says he is doing good. He will run again if the people of the township want him to.

Treasurer Collins - Thanks K. Gruss for helping.

Clerk Case - Thanked the board for appointing her and stated that the November 2019 meeting minutes will have a note attached to them stating that they were approved late due to the previous Clerk not completing the minutes prior to her resignation.

Supervisor Norton - Announced that one of the pending lawsuits was dismissed. She thanked the new Clerk and Treasurer for their work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Huizenga and supported by Clerk Case to adjourn at 8:45 p.m.

Voice vote: All ayes

Next Regular Meeting March 24, 2020, at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Christy Case, Clerk on February 22, 2020. Draft, ready for approval.