

Waverly Township
Regular Board Meeting
42114 M 43 Hwy., Paw Paw, MI, 49079

April 6, 2023

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7 PM by Bob Reits who also led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Introduction of the board: Bob Reits, Supervisor; Tony Millek, Trustee; Tom Fleetwood, Trustee; Starr Houston, Clerk; Linda Bloom, Treasurer. Also present, Harold Schuitmaker, Attorney and Lori Reits, Recording Secretary.
3. Sheriff Report: Computer report of calls for all agencies shared with the group. There has been a pit bull attack on October 23. The person was injured and had to receive rabies treatment. There is discrepancy as to whether the dog has died, so be on the lookout for brown and white pit bull running loose. The attack occurred in the 29000 block of 41st. St. Resident wondered if the Deputy could check on the animal laws for next meeting.
4. Agenda: Additions, Corrections, Approval: Motion made by Millek to accept the agenda as presented. Seconded by Fleetwood. All in favor, Motion passed.
5. Minutes from March 1: Additions, Corrections, Approval: Motion made by Millek to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Fleetwood. All in favor. Motion carries.
6. Supervisor: Comments/Reports
 - a. Letter of appreciation received from Paw Paw Fire Department shared with the audience. Thanks for \$1000 donation for the firefighter's family and thanks to Tony Millek and Bob Reits for their emotional support in a difficult time.
 - b. Blight issues: Letters going out to offenders and will attempt to insert letter reminding them of township clean-up. Attorney states that the courts do not want to prosecute these cases and assign court time well into the future. He will keep up with letters.
 - c. Van Buren Conservation District donation. Kallie Marshall from VBCD present and she states that they take household cleaners, batteries, Styrofoam. They also accept tires. They will be accepting these things on June 24. Supervisor states that they have made a \$500

donation to VBCD to cover the cost of taking trash to the transfer station for all Waverly Township residents. A small yellow flyer had gone out in the tax bills. If you did not receive one, they are available in a holder near the Clerk's office. Kallie states that the state is working to update the solid waste management plans. Paw Paw Township is working to enlarge the transfer station and be able to accept more waste. They are working on obtaining a grant for this and a letter of support from Waverly would be helpful. She is wondering if Waverly would want to do a grant match. She also stated that if you see tires on the side of the roads, please take note of the location and let VBCD know, and they will pick them up.

- d. Summer clean-up and tire collection is the first Friday and Saturday of June. There will be trailers for tire collections and we will be accepting tractor tires this time.
 - e. Township has set aside \$15,000 this Spring for repair of headstones in Austin Cemetery. Patton Monuments will be working on this again.
 - f. Township is in the process of getting bids for roof on the township hall as well as painting the outside of the hall to match the new building.
7. Clerk Starr Houston: Comments/Report:
 - a. Financial Report for March 2023. There was \$29,748 paid to vendors and salaries. There was a total of \$41,999.90. Motion made by Houston to pay the bills. Seconded by Millek. Bloom, yes; Fleetwood, yes; Reits, yes; Millek, yes; Houston, yes. Motion carries.
 8. Treasurer Linda Bloom: Comments/Report. There is some discrepancy between the county and the township relating to taxes. They are both working on it. It appears to be an issue with the computer program used to track these.
 9. Trustee Tom Fleetwood: Comments/Report.
 - a. Planning and Zoning March meeting: The bulk of the meeting was about the site plan changes for Stroebel. There was a change as they wanted to add outdoor drying to the site plan. They were given a 10-day permit to do so. They will need to add sound barrier. Bernie Wilcox from the Planning and Zoning stopped by as did Tony Millek. They reported that the noise level was "not bad" and the odor was also not oppressive. Stroebel is aware that this is a one-time approval. Any permanent changes would need a new site plan. No work was done on

the Master Plan. Members of the audience raised concerns that the Planning and Zoning Commission does not have authority to approve changes. They thought that the Commission would need to present that to the Township Board for approval or denial. Attorney states that the Commission has the authority to approve the permit and any site plan changes would need to go before the board.

10. Trustee Tony Millek: Comments/Report.

- a. Fireboard: There were 3 calls for Waverly Township. The PPFD wants to order a new pumper. The original quote was over \$1million. After revamping the design of the pumper, the price came down to \$855 K. There will be enough in the equipment fund to cover this new pumper when it is completed in 2 years.
- b. Roads. There have been many places where there has been water over the roads due to the amount of rain we have received. Audience wonders if there will be any ditching done this year to help with the water issues. Tony states that \$10K is set aside every year for ditching, however that does not get very much done. Township will be resurfacing 8 miles of roads this summer. This will be mainly Bellware and Oxford Estates subdivisions. Anyone having lawn damage from this Winter's plowing may call the Van Buren County Road Commission and they will repair it.

11. Harold Schuitmaker, attorney: Comments/Reports. Working with MTA on the trailer on 37th St. Courts are hesitant to evict people from their homes. Township will need to submit an electronic report on how they intend to use the ARPS funds. It can be changed at any time.

12. Unfinished Business: None

13. New Business

- a. Jack Brown. Outdoor drying of marijuana needs to wait until the syrup season is over. He will call Dave at Stroebel to let them know when he is finished. Planning and Zoning granted them 10 days to do this.
- b. His business has been in the township for 31 years. No one notified him that Stroebel would be doing outdoor drying. Would like the marijuana ordinance to prohibit outdoor drying. Planning and Zoning will be working on that.

14. Board Comments:

- a. Tony: Meetings seem to be out of hand. There needs to be constructive discourse. Any discussions between 2 people need to take place after the meeting.
 - b. Tom: He becomes stressed when the residents say that Planning and Zoning approved marijuana. It was voted on by the state residents and was approved by 4 out of 5 residents of Waverly Township. The Township Board approved what would be allowed in the township and tried to be mindful of the residents' concerns. Planning and Zoning has been given the task of working on ordinances and site plans.
 - c. Bob: At the beginning when marijuana was being approved in the township there was no opposition. Now there is a great deal of opposition after the fact. He thought that the meetings between the growers and residents were positive at the beginning and now that seems to have fallen by the wayside. Cooperation seems to have stopped.
15. Public Comments: The board needs to remember that they work for the people. Attorney needs to research the legality of Planning and Zoning granting the permit for outdoor drying. If outdoor drying was not on the approved site plan, it was illegal at the beginning and illegal now.
16. Adjournment. Motion made by Fleetwood to adjourn. Seconded by Millek. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 PM.