

1
2 **MINUTES - PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP Regular Meeting**
3 **March 10, 2021; 6:30 PM at Township Hall**
4

5 CALL TO ORDER

6 The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Supervisor Stoneburner.
7

8 ROLL CALL

9 Members present:

10 Clerk Goebel, Supervisor Stoneburner, Trustee DeVries and Trustee Doster
11

12 Members absent: Treasurer Pence
13

14 There were also 12 members of the public present.
15

16 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR TROOPS

17 All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and a
18 moment of silence for our troops.
19

20 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

21 Review of the agenda.

- 22 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, support by Clerk Goebel to approve the agenda as**
23 **amended (corrected dates); all ayes, motion carried.**
24

25 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 26 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries, support by Trustee Doster to approve the minutes**
27 **from the Board Meeting on February 10, 2021; all ayes, motion carried.**
28

29 Commissioner's Report

30 Not in attendance
31

32 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for the
33 Recording Clerk.)

34 A letter from Chet Berkimer, 11493 Lakeshore Dr. was read by Clerk Goebel. Mr. Berkimer
35 wrote about the condition of Merlau Ave. and the need for it to be repaired and not just
36 patched. He requested that this repair be done using existing road funds.
37

38 BUDGET HEARING

- 39 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support by Trustee Doster to open the budget hearing; all**
40 **ayes, motion passed.**
- 41 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support Clerk Goebel, to correct the dates**
42 **from 2020 to 2021; all ayes, motion carried.**
43

44 Clerk Goebel went through the resolutions #2021-2 through #2021-5 prior to voting on each.
45
46

47 **Establishing Board Salaries**

- 48 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and support by Supervisor Stoneburner to adopt #2021-**
49 **2/Trustee; roll call vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, adopted.**
- 50
- 51 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and support by Supervisor Stoneburner to approve**
52 **#2021-3/Supervisor; roll call vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent,**
53 **adopted.**
- 54
- 55 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and supported by Supervisor Stoneburner to adopt**
56 **#2021-4/Clerk; roll call vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, adopted.**
- 57
- 58 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner to adopt #2021-**
59 **5/Treasurer; roll call vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, adopted.**
- 60

61 **General Appropriations Act**

62 Clerk Goebel explained the General Appropriations Act.

63

- 64 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to amend the General Appropriations Act to include the**
65 **proposed modifications, support by Supervisor Stoneburner; roll call vote, all**
66 **ayes, except Treasurer Pence was absent, adopted.**
- 67
- 68 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support by Supervisor Stoneburner to adopt #2021-6; roll**
69 **call vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, adopted.**
- 70

71 **Prairieville Township Investment Policy**

72 Clerk Goebel read the resolution for the Prairieville Township Investment Policy #2021-7.

73

- 74 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and support from Supervisor Stoneburner to approve the**
75 **investment policy; roll call vote, all ayes with Treasurer Pence absent, adopted.**
- 76

77 **Personnel Pay Schedule 2021-2022**

- 78 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to adopt the Personnel Pay Schedule from April 1, 2021 to**
79 **March 31, 2022, support by Supervisor Stoneburner; roll call vote, all ayes with**
80 **Treasurer Pence absent, adopted.**
- 81

82 **Township Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022**

83 Clerk Goebel summarized the schedule pointing out one possible conflict in November 2021. It
84 was left and will be dealt with at the time if necessary.

- 85 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and support by Trustee DeVries to adopt the Township**
86 **Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022; roll call vote, all ayes except Treasurer Pence**
87 **was absent, motion carried.**
- 88

89 **Township Hall Closed Schedule for 2021-2022**

90 This schedule has changes to office closings for the fiscal year mainly around holidays.

91

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, support by Trustee Doster, to accept the holiday schedule; all ayes except Treasurer Pence was absent, motion carried.**

Public Comment

There was no public comment for the Budget Hearing.

- **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner, supported by Clerk Goebel, to close the budget hearing and open the regular meeting; all ayes, motion passed.**

FIRE REPORT

The report was given by Chief Pence and a copy will be kept on file.

PARK'S REPORT

Parks and Recreation Chairperson Joanna Haneckow gave a brief report. She highlighted the big projects that will be starting in the near future. There was a request from Trustee Doster to work with Barry and Ross Township about the smelt fisherman on Gull Lake. Chairman Haneckow explained there was a policy and suggested they need to post that information. Supervisor Stoneburner supported this idea.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Thompson gave the police report, and a copy will be put on file. This is his last meeting before retirement, and he said it has been a pleasure to work with the township. Supervisor Stoneburner thanked him for all of his work. There will be a get together in the future to honor him.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

The Board of Review was completed today, and Supervisor Stoneburner thanked that board for an excellent job of making people feel comfortable and providing help when they could.

He introduced Jim Dull, County Drain Commissioner, to give an update on what is going on around the lakes. Mr. Dull updated both Crooked Lake and Pine Lake. At both lakes, no work can be done until July because of fish spawning. They are requesting a change to this so work could be done in May between spawning schedules.

At Crooked Lake they were allowed to continue pumping during the winter. The purpose of this was to stabilize the lake over the winter at the current level. This has been effective. Everyone in the Watson district will be included in the Cloverdale District. The Crooked Lake project has spent almost 2 million dollars up to this point.

Last summer at Pine Lake they tried test pumping but the DEQ shut them down. They got a permit in January after an onsite visit and hope to test pump sometime in March before the fish start to spawn. They are also looking at pumping to a gravel pit on Doster Road which would save them from going to Gun River. This would be a less costly way to pump water off the lake but would first need to be tested. Mr. Dull did not have an estimate of costs for Pine Lake at this time.

136 Everyone involved is invited to days of review. It is an opportunity to see what your costs may
137 be. The days and areas will be posted on the Drain Commissioner's website
138 https://www.barrycounty.org/departments_and_officials/officials/drain_commissioner/index.php
139 and the Prairieville Township website <http://www.prairievilletwp-mi.org>.

140 TREASURER'S REPORT

141 The treasurer's report will be put on file.

142

143 TRUSTEES' REPORTS

144 Trustee Doster - nothing currently

145

146 Trustee DeVries - ZBA appointment will be later in the agenda. There are 2 Fridays left for the
147 existing recycling program. April will start a new program. Trustee DeVries will be selling
148 punch cards on the next four recycling days to make it convenient for people.

149

150 CLERK'S REPORT

151 Parks have been active; 20 tickets went in the coffers from violators. He received bids for a
152 new server and other dated equipment. He suggested thinking about replacing these during
153 this next fiscal year.

154

155 APPROVAL OF BILLS

- 156 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel, support by Trustee DeVries, to pay bills in the**
157 **amount of \$15,786.44; all ayes, motion carried.**

158 NEW BUSINESS

159

160 SBCSA: Rates, Rotating Member

161 Laurie Tamez and Scott Monroe from SBCSA (Southwest Barry County Sewer Authority) were
162 in attendance. Ms. Tamez gave a report on finances. The cash reserve is lower than what
163 upcoming needs are. To avoid a special assessment, they are suggesting increasing rates
164 \$5.50 a month or to \$120.00 a quarter. This increase would go into a capital improvement fund
165 for future needs. The last increase was 15 years ago. They foresee that improvements will be
166 an ongoing thing. Money would be invested at the best rates. Currently our sewer rates are
167 lower than most around.

168

169 Questions:

170 Trustee DeVries asked if there was a way to get up to the \$5.50 increase a month over a few
171 years. He was concerned about requesting too much additional money during these stressful
172 times. Answer: you are initially losing out and it would then have to be done every year.
173 Unfortunately, there is never a good time to ask for more money. Mr. Monroe stated there
174 could possibly be a compounding yearly verbage that only goes in front of each township once
175 if that is needed. They are open to all ideas, but he does think the one time is a wiser way to
176 go. This affects over 2300 households including 850 in Prairieville. Clerk Goble asked about
177 adding homes to the sewer system. Mr. Monroe said it does help but the number could plateau
178 eventually. The lakes sewer systems are 26-27 years old. Clerk Goble also asked about
179 maintenance and costs. Answer – piping has a long life and as many repairs as possible are
180 done in house to save money. How long do you anticipate the increase to be for? It is the hope

181 it could last 15-20 years. There is no crystal ball, but Mr. Monroe and Ms. Tamez feel confident
182 that it will go a long way.

183
184 Supervisor Stoneburner shared that he supports this as it has to be done and sooner is better
185 than later.

- 186
187 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to approve the recommended rate to \$40 a**
188 **month for SBCSA, support by Clerk Goebel; roll call vote, Aye: Clerk Goebel,**
189 **Supervisor Stoneburner, Trustee Doster, Nay: Trustee DeVries, Absent: Treasurer**
190 **Pence. This motion was approved.**

191 There was an explanation about the roving board member proposed changes from Mr. Monroe.
192 By not having a rotating board member each township has an equal say. Currently the rotating
193 board member puts a rift through the sewer authority by giving the upper hand to their
194 township.

- 195
196 • **Motion by Supervisor Stoneburner to approve Resolution #2021-8 Amendment #3**
197 **of the SBCSA Articles of Incorporation allowing elimination of the roving board**
198 **member, support Trustee Doster; roll call vote, all ayes in attendance, motion**
199 **carried.**

200 Fire Department Requests

201 The Fire Department has requested a battery charger. This will allow them to keep all batteries
202 charged and give room for growth.

- 203 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to approve purchase of the MSA Bank Battery charger at**
204 **a cost of \$731.00, support by Trustee Doster; all ayes, motion carried.**

205 The Fire Department also requested a laptop computer replacement with support from IT
206 Wright.

- 207 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel to purchase a Dell 5410 no dock computer and software**
208 **for a total of \$1080, supported by Supervisor Stoneburner; all ayes, motion**
209 **carried.**

210 Final Budget Amendments

- 211 • **Motion by Clerk Goebel and support by Trustee DeVries to adopt these**
212 **amendments for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, all ayes, motion carried.**

213 ZBA appointment

214 Trustee DeVries gave an update from the meeting. The meeting had to be tabled because of
215 issues and questions with lot. Rebecca Harvey brought up question if township could have 2
216 members on both the Planning Commission and ZBA. The answer was no. Myron Kokx has
217 decided to resign from the ZBA and Richard VanNiman is willing to take over the permanent
218 position on ZBA.
219

- 220 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries to accept Myron Kokx's resignation from the ZBA**
221 **immediately, support from Clerk Goebel; all ayes, motion carried.**
222
- 223 • **Motion by Trustee DeVries to appoint Richard VanNiman a permanent member of**
224 **ZBA and become the liaison between Planning and Zoning and the ZBA, support**
225 **from Supervisor Stoneburner; all ayes, motion carried.**

226 PUBLIC COMMENT (3 minutes per person) (Please state your name and address for the
227 Recording Clerk.)

228 Bob Pence

229 14470 Kane Rd.

230 Mr. Pence thanked Supervisor Stoneburner for getting gravel on Kane Rd.

231

232 Richard VanNiman

233 12710 Merlau Ave.

234 Mr. VanNiman thanked Laurie and Scott from SBCSA for attending, told Chief Thompson he
235 will be missed and thanked Jim Dull for his presentation.

236

237 Board Comments

238 Supervisor Stoneburner:

239 Bill, thank you for your time and your friendship. I appreciate how everyone was prepared
240 tonight.

241

242 Treasurer Pence:

243 Absent

244

245 Clerk Goebel:

246 Thank you Chief and the other guests tonight. Thank you, Ted, for your assistance.

247

248 Trustee Doster:

249 Bill, thanks even though you beat me to retirement!

250

251 Trustee DeVries:

252 Thank you, Richard, for taking over the ZBA, thanks Scott and Laurie for coming out, thank
253 you Jim for your presentation, Bill thank you for everything and thank you to everyone for
254 attending the meeting.

255

256 Adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

257

258 Respectfully submitted,

259

260

261 MaryAnn Bliss DeVries