

BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

RANDY WILCOX – SUPERVISOR
KAREN HENDRICK – CLERK
BONNIE LENT-DAVIS – TREASURER
DAVID FUSS – TRUSTEE

MEMBERS ABSENT:

ROBERT FLYNN – TRUSTEE

OTHERS PRESENT:

LAUREN RINVELT – Alto/Bowne Fire Department
LEIGH CHICK – 84TH Street
KIM CULBERTSON – Wingeier Ave
JEFF & KATIE WHEELER – Alden Nash SE
JOHN ELENBAAS – Cemetery

The regular monthly meeting of the Bowne Township Board was held on Monday, April 15, 2024, in the Historic Township Hall located at 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE, Alto, MI 49302. Supervisor Wilcox called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2024 Board Meeting, noting all changes. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Motion by Clerk Hendrick to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried

MONTHLY BILLS DUE & PAYABLE FOR April 2024:

Motion by Clerk Hendrick the monthly bills be allowed and paid for April 2024. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S COMMENTS:

2023 Tax season is closed out.

CLERK’S COMMENTS:

The Special election for Lowell and Thornapple Kellogg Schools.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

We have been invited to attend a visit to the Bio Digester that is North of town. It has been built by SKS; the same company contracted to build the one in Bowne Township. Look for an update at next month’s meeting.

A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to have all agenda items by the Thursday @ 3:00 PM two weeks prior to the Regular Monthly Board Meeting, so packets can be available the Thursday prior to the meeting on Monday. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried.

BOWNE TOWNSHIP FIRE REPORT:

Bowne Township ran 19 calls in March. It is Brush Fire season. Kore Hi Com will be making a fillable form on our website for burn permits. A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve Chance Bossler as a new hire to the department. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried. There will be 4 people attending Fire School Training from May through September.

FREEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Freeport Fire ran 20 calls in March and 2 were in Bowne Township.

P.C.I. of MI INC. REPORT:

There were 5 building permits issued for new construction during the month of March totaling \$1,722,049.00.

MINUTES: DDA, Planning Commission, Historical Commission:

SEWER REPORT:

Josh Maynard of Infrastructure Alternatives gave an update on the sewer maintenance of the aerators and a recap on the upcoming improvements being made to the sewer system.

OLD BUSINESS:

MERS: Board members with investments in our previous pension plan have signed documents to carry out direct roll overs to the MERS.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve PA116 Applications from Tom and Annie Oesch, Jeff and Brenda Oesch, and Goble Land & Livestock LLC. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 Treasurer Lent-Davis-as she did not have information to make an informed decision. Motion carried.

New Business Items Tabled:

Skyline Electric Quote – Replacement of office lighting

BSA Software Upgrade

Bid request for new Auditors

Fire Millage Discussion

A Motion by Supervisor Wilcox to approve the Cemetery Bid by Jeff Elenbaas at a rate of \$5,400.00 for the season (May – October 2024) with prorated charge of \$900.00 for November. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion carried.

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A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve Pat's Premier Lawncare to continue to provide lawn service for the Township Office and adjoining Buildings, the Fire Station, and Colby Park. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion carried.

A Motion by Treasurer Lent-Davis to approve the cost-of-living wage increase of 4% for Dennis McKelvey, Township Assessor, for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion carried.

A Motion by Trustee Fuss to increase the meeting per diems for Trustees to \$100.00 per meeting. Supported by Clerk Hendrick. Motion Carried.

A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to increase the per diem for the Planning Commission members to \$80.00 and Chairperson to \$100.00 per meeting. Supported by Supervisor Wilcox. All in favor; Fuss, Wilcox, Hendrick. Opposed; Lent-Davis because we went from \$40 to \$80. Motion Carried.

A Motion by Trustee Fuss to increase the per diem for the Zoning Board of Appeals members to \$80.00 and Chairperson to \$100.00 per meeting. Supported by Clerk Hendrick. All in favor; Fuss, Wilcox, Hendrick. Opposed; Lent-Davis. Motion Carried.

A Motion by Supervisor Wilcox to make the 2024/2025 payment to the Freeport Fire Department for the sections they respond to in Bowne Township. Supported by Clerk Hendrick. Motion Carried.

A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve the 2024 Maintenance Fee for the Bowne Mennonite Cemetery to LaDean Schrock. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried.

Fire Milage discussion tabled until May while we collect additional information.

Logic and Accuracy testing for the upcoming election is April 23, 2024 to be held in the Historic Hall.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Culbertson for the last 30 years she has served on the Township's Historical Commission, not only the interior, the exterior, the carriage shed and the schoolhouse. For years she has brought her own mower and mowed around the school house, weed whipped, done the displays, and even put in her own money and is she the only person that will work for her community for free and for the better of her community. She just wants everyone to know at this very minute she is feeling under loved. She does not understand why the historical commission as an entity of township she wants to advocate for herself and wants us to know that she works alone and sometimes her work goes unnoticed. The

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Township would pay someone \$80 to sit for an hour at a meeting. She is speaking her mind and she is frustrated.

Leigh Chick brought to our attention that the "Important dates" on the website are formatting incorrectly on mobile devices. Leigh has and continues to serve on boards without compensation. To give a 50% raise for the Planning Commission members is outrageous and would like it noted. Leigh would also like to get additional information on PA116. What is it and where can she find additional information on PA116.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Treasurer Lent-Davis will bring a resolution to the May meeting for an increase in the sewer rates.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Clerk Hendrick to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:38 P.M.