

BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

ORHERS PRESENT:

LAUREN RINVELT – Alto/Bowne Fire Department
NICOLE RUESINK – Alto/Bowne Fire Department
LEIGH CHICK – 84TH Street
KIM CULBERTSON – Wingeier Ave
JIM & KATIE WHEELER – Alden Nash

The regular monthly meeting of the Bowne Township Board was held on Monday, May 20, 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 Trustee Flynn 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 Trustee Flynn to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried

MONTHLY BILLS DUE & PAYABLE FOR MAY 2024:

Motion by Trustee Flynn the monthly bills be allowed and paid for May 2024. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S COMMENTS:

Treasurer Lent-Davis is gearing up for the next tax season. The Summer tax bills will be sent out July 1, 2024

CLERK’S COMMENTS:

Clerk Hendrick is preparing for the upcoming August election. The ballots will be proofed and ordered this week.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS:

Supervisor Wilcox informed everyone that the Kent County Road Commission will be doing work at Alden Nash and 84th Street between May 20 and June 3. Supervisor Wilcox and Clerk Hendrick will be attending the KCRC Summer Picnic at Townsend Park on Tuesday, May 21.

Bloom Specialties was hired to soft wash/power wash our buildings and he completed his work over this past weekend. Supervisor Wilcox explained the benefits of having the siding soft washed versus power washed. Bloom Specialties did a great job and we are very happy with his work.

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BOWNE TOWNSHIP FIRE REPORT:

Lauren introduced Coley (Nicole Ruesink), one of our five probationary firefighters. Bowne Township ran 16 calls in April. Josiah Grimm resigned from the department. Brody McDonald has joined the department. The next session of EMT school is starting and we have five members who will be attending these classes. This is really special as a department. We are seeing a lot of collaboration and partnership within the department and it will be beneficial for them to have each other to lean as they go through the EMT classes. It is really cool and very exciting. Our department is up to 16 people. The electronic burn permit is live on our website and is working out very well. There was no training this month as the instructor was ill. The pancake supper was record breaking both in attendance and in donations. The fire department will be participating in Alto Elementary Field Day and the following week someone will be taking a truck to Alto Elementary for the Touch a Truck event.

FREEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Freeport Fire ran 17 calls in March and 0 were in Bowne Township. The new truck is being diamond plated and is supposed to have the pump installed this week or next. There are high hopes it will be completed within the next 60 days.

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

There were 5 building permits issued for new construction during the month of April totaling \$547,560.00.

MINUTES: DDA, Planning Commission, Historical Commission (None were available)

Historical Commission representative Kim Culbertson wondered if the porch to the school house was going to be power washed, currently it is not. Spring Into the Past brought 125 visitors through the historical buildings. The Alto Elementary Third Graders will be coming on May 29. The Old Bell Project has been bid by Zylstra Construction and Kim would like the bid approved so they can get on his schedule. The bid was for \$3,000.00. The Historical Commission has raised roughly \$2,000.00 for the project. A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve up to \$1,200 to improve the structure and install the bell on the Schoolhouse for the Historical Commission. This amount is in addition to the \$2,000.00 the Historical Commission has raised for said project. Supported by Trustee Flynn. Motion Carried. Supervisor Wilcox will contact Zylstra Construction.

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. We currently have two aerators down and one quote for the cost of repair. Supervisor Wilcox requested Josh seek out one or two more quotes before we approve the repair. A Motion by Clerk Hendrick to approve the new Mission Dialer system, route the antenna outside of the lift station, tie in alarms, power up and test at a

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cost of \$4,750.00. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried. The AT&T phone line that services the sewer can be disconnected.

OLD BUSINESS:

MERS: Gleaners will send checks to Bowne Township for those participants with accounts to be forwarded to MERS.

Ligh Improvements to Township Hall: No additional quotes.

BSA Software: We are looking at upgrading our accounting system to the BSA financial module. It has easier tracking, lots of reports. We have a video call on Thursday, May 23, 2024 to go over the quote and report back to the board. We are doing this at an unusual time as BSA is moving from a .net system to a cloud-based system. BSA is 12-15 months out on their timeline for installation of the cloud-based system.

Fire Milage Discussion: The primary reason for asking about a fire milage was to find out how long it would take to create the language for a ballot. The answer was; very quickly. Treasurer Lent-Davis went on to explain that if we went through with the request and put the milage on the ballot, and it were approved, we are not required to levy the millage unless we need it. Treasurer Lent-Davis brought up the fact that our current milage cannot be used for Operation. It is only for Building and Fire Equipment therefore if we needed to hire additional personnel and pay any sort of benefits, the current milage could not be used for that. Clerk Hendrick informed everyone the milage we have now is for Operation and Equipment. Supervisor Wilcox thinks we should dissect the numbers, do some research, and move forward from there.

NEW BUSINESS:

A Motion by Trustee Flynn to approve the AT&T Metro Act Permit Extension from December 31, 2023 to December 31, 2028, Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried.

Michigan Assessors Association 52nd Annual Conference being held in Mt. Pleasant and the Soaring Eagle Casino Resort for our Assessor, Dennis McKelvey. This would qualify for 12 of the 16 hours required for his annual assessors continuing education, required by the State of Michigan. We are going to table this until June to verify the cost of the seminar and wait to book the room.

Supervisor Wilcox will contact the KCRC about closing the road for the American Legion. They are holding an event in Veteran's Park for the kids to decorate their bikes and the participate in a short parade down Linfield. Following the parade there will be yard games in the Veteran's Park. The Road is expected to be closed for about 15 minutes.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

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PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Kim Culbertson commented on the issues with the new grass in the adjoining field, behind the Historical Museum.

Leigh Chick commented on the website not presenting information correctly on mobile devices as well as the minutes missing from the archives. Clerk Hendrick is working with KHC as time allows to correct said issues.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Treasurer Lent-Davis would like the Supervisor to contact the Chair of the DDA, Planning Commission and Historical Commission as to what our deadline is for meeting information.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Trustee Flynn to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Trustee Fuss. Motion Carried. Meeting Adjourned at 8:17 P.M.