

**OTISCO TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 11, 2022 @7:00 P.M.  
OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Desmond Pike.

Roll Call of Members Present: John Feuerstein, Trustee; Joe Borek, Trustee;  
Paula Byrne, Treasurer; Lynda Sower, Clerk; Supervisor, Desmond Pike

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Short Prayer given by Pike.

Approval of Agenda: Pike had changes for the agenda; in new business, remove a Lowell classic bike race and add Simons Salvage. Borek wanted added f, parking lot salt. Sower moved to approve the agenda with the changes and Borek supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Minutes-December 14, 2021: Byrne moved to approve the minutes and Sower supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Payables & Payroll: Feuerstein wanted to know if there had been any transfers and Byrne stated that the only transfers were from the tax account to the other account for money collect for milages; roads, sheriff, fire. Feuerstein stated that he would like to see these reports. Borek moved to approve the bills and Feuerstein supported. 5-0 approved

Payroll	\$ 9,249.58
Acct. Payable	\$ 5,566.41
Sheriff	<u>\$ 3,498.73</u>
TOTAL	\$18,314.72

Communications: Pike had a list of all the 2022 meeting dates.

**Reports**

Township Deputy: Officer Teft reported that there had been a lot of people stealing the catalytic converters from vehicles. He stated that this was not just a couple of people out there doing this now, but probably a dozen or so. He warned the people to keep a close-eye of where their cars are parked.

Assessor: The Board received a report from the assessor.

Cemetery Committee: Laura Staats reported that there were no meetings. She also stated that they are still looking at a retaining wall at Smyrna Cemetery and trying to find all the graves in the cemetery.

ZBA: Feuerstein reported that they had a meeting and elected the officers for the committee. Joe Tarkowski, Chairperson; Laura Staats, Secretary. Glenn Geiger and Jim Tarkowski; alternates.

Zoning Administrator: The board received a report from the administrator.

#### Unfinished Business:

Light on corner Whites Bridge and Button Rd.: There was a discussion about whether we wanted to help the Ionia County Road Dept which would like the township to pay half of the cost. The total is \$5,985 and we would pay \$2992.50. Feuerstein moved that we pay the 50% and Sower supported. Roll Call Vote – Sower-yes; Byrne-no; Borek-no; Feuerstein-yes; Pike-yes 3-2 approved

Trailer Removal: Pike stated that we were notified by the court that we are to remove the trailer. Pike will get bids for this job.

#### New Business

Simons Salvage: There was a request to renew the Simons Salvage Yard for one year; 2023. Feuerstein moved to accept the renewal and Byrne supported. 5-0 approved

Township participation in Rec marijuana production: Pike started out by saying; he is debating if we want it in the Township. He had some statistics from Colorado about what they had found out about this matter. The Township Board in 2018 Opted Out of the Marijuana. Torin Guenther spoke about wanting to use his Grandfathers building to grow and sell, in Geiger Well Drilling Building. It would be small with only 150 plants at any time and it would be state inspected and regulated by the state. He stated that our township would probably receive \$28,000 in revenue. Several people in the audience also stated their concerns about this project. And they did not want to see us open up the ordinance and change it. In the end Pike ask all the board members if they would like to change the ordinance that we have in place now. All members stated that they did not want to do this and to just stay the way we have had it since 2018. Pike stated "As of January 11, 2022 the Otisco Township Board will remain Opted Out of Marijuana.

Proposed Zoning Ordinance amendment (shipping containers): The change to the ordinance would be in the size of the containers: It was 20ft. by 8ft or 40ft by8 ft. The amendment will be **UP TO A MAXIMUN OF 8.5 FT. BY 53 FT.** Sower moved to accept the changes in wording of the ordinance and Borek supported. Roll Call Vote: Feuertstein-no; Borek-yes; Byrne-no; Sower-yes; Pike-yes. 3-2 approved

Ideas for Township Improvements: retainer wall cemetery  
fill in dirt on south side  
ground penetrating radar  
pave a mile  
tree trimming in Smyrna Cem.  
reorganizing in hall  
handicap assess ability entrance

Budget: first budget meeting will be January 25 @6:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Ross Gregory stated that he had talked to Desmond about the matter on Coyote Trail. The old boards had not taken care of the matter when it should have been done. Gregory had found out that it would cost \$23,000 to pave the first 600 ft. of that road.

Gib Brown wanted to know why the township had to pay for the removal of the Trailer. He was told that they had a meeting with the owner and he has no money to do this now. The Township can put a lien on the property.

Howard Uiterdyk reminded that Borek wanted to know about the salt for the parking lot.

There was a discussion with the board and it was decided that Borek would purchase the salt as needed.

Uiterdyk ask about getting the agenda earlier. He wanted to know about Thomas fencing and berm at business, the township hall foundation, and home on Center St with junk, barn at 9054 Belding Rd.

Tim Wittenbach, Supervisor at Vergennes Township, stated that the ARPA money that we have received that the state has lifted the restrictions on the spending of this money.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By:



Lynda Sower – Otisco Township Clerk