

## OTISCO TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING

### Preliminary Minutes

Otisco Township Hall, 9663 W Button Road, Belding, MI 48809

June 13, 2023, @ 7:00 PM

Supervisor Desmond Pike called the meeting to order and took roll call, in attendance were John Feuerstein, Joe Borek, Paula Byrne, and Desmond Pike, not present was Lynda Sower. Desmond followed with an opening prayer and then all stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was reviewed and approved with a few additions and passed 4-0

There was a brief discussion regarding hiring Laura Staats to take the minutes for tonight's meeting because Lynda Sower is absent and to be the recording secretary for any other meeting where Lynda Sower is absent. A vote was taken to pay Laura \$80.00 each time she is to take the minutes. A roll call vote was taken and, passed 3 - 1.

Opening public comment – Cara Johnson commented that she felt there was poor prior planning and that there were too many items added to the agenda at the last minute.

Recycling has been suspended for this summer. Desmond spoke with the township's insurance company regarding hazardous coverage which is not covered under the hall's insurance. It is being further discussed regarding liability. At this time individual residents may take their waste recycle materials to a drop-off point on 10 Mile Road in Rockford at no charge. It is hoped that something can be worked out by the fall.

Motion was made and approved for the minutes of the May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting, passed 4-0

Motion was made and approved for the accounts payable, discussion regarding recycling payment, there was not supposed to be recycling in May but Gib Brown came anyway, and passed 4-0

Officer Teft was not in attendance. Desmond Read from the deputy's report that he went on 47 service calls there were 4r criminal calls.

Laura Staats gave a brief cemetery report the Smyrna and Otisco Cemeteries were having tree work done. The Cemetery Committee is still trying to work on moving forward with plans to identify the persons buried in both cemeteries. If the records have been returned to the Township Hall. The committee will also work to determine a labeling or tagging system for graves in both cemeteries using markers or software of some type. Cemetery Committee meeting on June 15 at 7:00 pm followed by the new Hall Committee meeting.

Laura Staats supplied Jeff Hunter with a diagram of a mapping system that would allow people arriving at the cemetery to have a way to locate a loved one's grave within the cemetery if they have not visited before and asked him to supply a quote to the Cemetery Committee at a future date.

Planning Commission reviewed the Wind and Solar survey to be mailed out to Otisco Township residents. They also reviewed a level one home-based business on Hawley Hwy.

Paula Byrne is working with internet provider WIX, they have been doing trial runs, and the website should be up and running soon.

FOIA request information had been added to the township website. This information has been removed from the website at the Clerk's request. The Supervisor will inquire why it was removed when the Clerk returns to the office from her vacation. The supervisor asked for a motion to have FOIA returned to the website. A motion was made and seconded and passed with a roll call vote of 4-0.

Ionia County Road Department assigns house numbers, driveways, and private road permits.

Seely and Ingles Roadway washout, culvert needs replacement at a cost of \$5936.60. A motion was made and seconded for the repair and passed 4-0.

Other preapproved road improvements were briefly discussed including gravel and brining. All road expenditures are within the budgeted amounts. Whites Bridge Road north of M 44 should be fog coated and chip sealed at a cost of \$45 a mile the road is approximately a mile and a half and would be about \$65,000. We have a balance of about \$71,000 in that account.

Resolution # 2023-07? Ionia County Road Department – Tabled requires Lynda's signature.

The position of Deputy Assessor has been given to Larry Mercer who is also the Zoning Administrator. He and one other person applied for the job. Sally Frain our current Assessor made the recommendation to accept Larry Mercer's bid for the position and asked the board to approve him. A motion was made to accept Larry Mercer as the Deputy Assessor. He will assess 200 properties at \$20 per property. He will do this on his own time and schedule.

Cemetery Committee has made it one of their goals to make sure that all the unmarked graves in both of the Otisco Township cemeteries are identified, if possible, to notify families still living in the area that they have family buried there. We hope to set up a system of identification and tracking of each burial to help families locate family members' graves.

Livestreaming of meetings, Paula Byrne will work with IT to set this up. It will be posted to the Townships webpage for viewing.

Roads have been Tabled until next month.

Lyle Schain's work as hall maintenance has been tabled until next month.

Cemetery Records has been tabled until next month.

Dillingham is being handled through the proper channels.

Octagon house is now in the hands of the Ionia County Health Department.

Roadside Mowing will be done twice this year.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded and passed 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laura J Staats