

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
At the OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL
October 10, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Desmond Pike called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, in attendance were John Feuerstein, Joe Borek, Paula Byrne, Desmond Pike and Lynda Sower. Desmond followed with the Pledge of Allegiance then an opening prayer.

The agenda was approved with additions, one under Unfinished Business the second under New Business, Motion by Joe Borek supported by John Feuerstein passed 5-0

Opening Public Comment: Jeff Hunter addressed two ordinances to be discussed. Resident Kristie Walls also addressed the board and gave them her support for their hard work. James Conley added his comments that he too opposes the 'noise ordinance.'

Approval of minutes from September 12th Board Meeting as written. Motion to approve by John Feuerstein, seconded by Paula Byrne, all were in favor, motion passed 5-0

Approval of payables and payroll – brief discussion on whether the bill for the electric repair due to the power surge has been received. Lynda confirmed that it was just received. Payroll and payables made by Paula Byrne, supported by John Feuerstein all were in favor motion passed is 5-0.

Treasurer report, None

Communications, None

Township deputy not present, sent his report for September, 24 calls, 5 criminal and 3 crashes. Also included a note that the deer are on the move and to be cautious.

Cemetery Committee has not met lately and our next scheduled meeting is later this month.

Ionia Commissioner David Hodges reported on the actions at Ionia County Board Meeting, this year a large amount of money will go towards their pension fund, to start moving it in the right direction. The County had two MDOT resolutions, one for Clarksville Kiefer project the other one for the Potter Road project. They addressed three County policies one for employee benefits, one was for leave and the other one was a travel policy.

Zoning Board of Appeals, no meeting

Planning Commission worked on a green energy survey to be sent out to all tax paying township residents regarding the upcoming solar initiative being put forth by the State of Michigan to be 15% solar compliant along with the governor's 2030 state mandate where she would like to be 60% solar in six years. Larry Mercer attended a conference with a 3-hour presentation on solar energy.

Zoning Administrator, Larry Mercer made his report available.

Larry stated that the Township needs to make sure we know what they want, so that when the state comes in and they say they are going to do it, that that Township can say here is how we want to do it. It's something that we're going to want to have as part of the Master Plan. The Township will need to

figure out where to put the battery energy storage systems, designate certain areas and create an ordinance around it. The Township needs to grow its ordinance as the technology of this industry grows. There isn't 40 years of data of how these things work, or 40 years of industrial size batteries and the battery energy storage system. Where will these go? Will they be allowed in RC, AG or in industrial? The Township will need the survey information back from the taxpayers.

Joe Borek made a motion to approve mailing the green energy questionnaire to all the taxpaying residents of the Township, Lynda Sower supported. A roll call vote was taken, John Feuerstein, no; Joe Borek, yes; Paula Byrne, yes; Desmond Pike, yes; and Lynda Sower, yes; passed 4-1.

Unfinished Business:

Shed: Tentatively on hold

Cleanup tabled, waiting for information, Township has handled their end, Larry will follow-up.

New Business:

Public Gathering Ordinance

Desmond read out loud the new ordinance to repeal the Otisco Township Outdoor Gathering Ordinance and the effective date the old ordinance will no longer be in effect, and to be published in the Daily News.

A motion to rescind the public gathering ordinance and replacing it with new rescind ordinance and put it in the paper to have a public hearing next month. Motion by John Feuerstein supported by Joe Borek to repeal the 2015 Public Gathering Ordinance and replace with the rescind ordinance. Board agreed to publish in the Daily News and hold the public hearing at the November meeting and take a final vote in November.

Noise Ordinance

Motion by Joe Borek to repeal the Noise Ordinance, seconded by Desmond Pike. Roll call vote, Desmond, yes; Paula, yes; Joe, yes; John, no Lynda, no; motion passes 3-2.

Halloween at Otisco Township Hall

Joe Borek suggested the Township do something for Halloween to show a little gratitude to the residents. He thinks it would be nice if all the board members were there in costume and the Township invites the resident's inside for a drink of cider and donuts. Smyrna at one time use to serve cider and donuts to the residents. He gave an estimate of \$150 to \$200.

Meeting adjourned - 8:30

Respectfully submitted

Laura J Staats