

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
At the OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL
November 14, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Desmond Pike called the Otisco Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 pm, in attendance were John Feuerstein, Joe Borek, Paula Byrne, Desmond Pike and Lynda Sower. Desmond Pike asked Commissioner David Hodges to open with a prayer. Desmond Pike thanked Commissioner Hodges and the township fellowship stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Desmond Pike called for the approval of the agenda with additions, added under New Business E approve the 2024 meeting dates, and F two weeks before the meetings mail out agenda and minutes to Board Members for review. John Feuerstein moved to approve the agenda with changes, seconded by Paula Byrne, motion passes 5-0

Public Comment; Jeff Hunter addressed that he heard a rumor that either Dave Sheid or Ben Jonas is going to build the new addition to the Township Hall. Supervisor Pike replied that Ben Jonas was not interested in building hall, he has his work lined up for next year and is not interested.

Kristie
Christie Walls asked about ordinances being available on the township website. They had been there in the past, three or four years ago. She asked if we could do something about getting those back on the website so the public has means to find them without having to come into the office and request copies. Del Pike, Desmond's deputy, stated that the Zoning Ordinance Book has been on the website. He did not believe we have ever had the ordinance book on the website. When the Township moved from the previous website only the Zoning Ordinance book files were there to be transferred. He stated that is something the Township will have to do; produce the ordinance book files in a PDF format to put on the new website.

Approval of Minutes; Motion by Paula Byrne supported by Lynda Sower to approve the October 10th minutes, no discussion, all in favor, motion passes 5-0.

Payables and Payroll; Motion to approve moved by Joe Borek supported by Paula Byrne; no discussion, motion passes 5-0.

Communications; Halloween Hot Dog Party – Thank you to Joe Borek for cooking up the hot dogs. Joe Borek thanked those that came out in the cold to share in the Halloween fun. This may become an annual event.

Reports:

Township Deputy, not present, no report available.

Assessor, see printed report, she will be invited to attend a future meeting.

Cemetery Committee, No meeting, no report.

County Commissioner, David Hodges gave an update on the employee changes and employee benefit changes at the Ionia County Road Department. "It's running smooth, as Township supervisor you're going to like dealing with the new people".

Planning Commission; discussion on keeping the Gathering Ordinance, input was the Township should keep it. Additional discussion regarding the Wind and Solar survey being sent out. Proposal is that we just keep the current ordinance. If the survey is to go out in the upcoming tax statement Paula Byrne and her deputy will have to insert them hand by hand. Paula Byrne will need to find out from Ionia County if there is a deadline that needs to be met to still get the survey inserted into the tax bills before they go to the Ionia

Add: Treasurer Report provided

County Post Office. The bills are already being printed. Paula Byrne will call Ionia County and notify the Planning Commission of the dates.

Zoning Board of Appeals; no November meeting, there will be a December meeting.

Hall Expansion Committee; no report except that neither David Scheid nor Ben Jonas will be doing the construction.

Unfinished Business; None

New Business; disposal of old drop box, Desmond Pike called for a motion and approval to dispose of the old township drop box. A suggestion was made to take seal bids on it next month. Lynda Sower commented that she liked its size compared to the size of the new boxes, it was larger and held manila envelopes and legal-size papers. It was determined that the township will hold on to the old drop box for the time being.

Public Gathering Ordinance Hearing; public meeting closed at 7:33 pm. Darwyn Hassert and Dan Stephens are representing the Planning Commission, the ordinance has good points for the gatherings in the community, some problems like people leaving trash on the roadside or persons property. The ordinance allows us to collect ~~A~~ \$500^{to be} held in an escrow account, it is to be returned, unless there has to be clean-up after the event, or gathering. The point of the ordinance is that people have a stake in the event or gathering to go back and clean up their mess. We can't take a deposit of \$500 without an ordinance. Close Public Hearing at 7:39 pm.

Public Gathering Ordinance - Board discussion; The ordinance doesn't affect family gatherings, graduations, other private events, the only thing it affects is events you charge an admission fee to or if you have alcohol. Motion made by Lynda Sower that we leave the ordinance with no modifications, supported by Paula Byrne, brief final comment, "When has a gathering permit ever been denied?", the answer was "never." No permit has been denied, the township has added some conditions on some gathering permits when issued. Motion passes 4-1.

Goals for 2024 Desmond Pike and Del Pike are starting to think about the 2024 budgets and where the township needs to put money and maybe where the township doesn't need to put money. They would also like feedback from the residents of Township and asked for suggestions to be brought to the December meeting. Budget Meetings to be scheduled after first of the year, in January and February.

2024 Meeting Dates; motion by Paula Byrne supported by John Feuerstein to approve the meeting dates for 2024. Motion passes 5-0

Agenda and Meeting Minutes Two Weeks Ahead; Joe Borek stated that Planning Commission folder has the minutes and agenda about two weeks before the meeting so there is time to review. Desmond Pike stated that he will attempt to have the agenda available ahead of time, also noting that there are last minute additions and subtractions to the agenda. John Feuerstein felt seven days was enough time before the meeting; Paula Byrne also said a week prior to the meeting was acceptable and asked about emailing or mailing the agenda to Board Members.

No closing Public Comment.

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Borek supported by Paula Byrne, passes 5-0
Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted
by Laura J Staats