

MILLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, October 4, 2021

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Millen Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call –

- a. **Board:** Supervisor Smith, Treasurer Bartlett, Clerk Ostrander, Trustee Kosal, Trustee Somers
- b. **Other attendees:** Rodney Cordes, Dr. Robert Turek, Ron Siegel, Mike Davio, Rich Gillies, Terry Small

3. Public Comments –

- i. **Dr. Robert Turek - Vaccine Mandate Resolution 2021-007.** Supervisor Smith requested a review with the Township attorney prior to presenting for a roll call vote. Clerk Ostrander to submit.
- ii. **Mr. Ron Siegel – All Band.** Ron Siegel discussed the potential for the ARPA funding to be spent on broadband for Millen Twp. Siegel asked for an update on township’s plan. Siegel stated All Band is currently designing solutions and would like to return at the next meeting with a proposal which includes cost and number of additional customers that would be served (that are not currently). Siegel highlighted that a single township will not have adequate ARPA funds to cover entire township broadband infrastructure. All Band is considering building fiber from the Lake of the Greens east to Barton City. Copper line does not provide the band width required. All Band is considering using wireless technology that is conducive to rural areas (dense trees) and/or fiber to the doorstep. Focused on Alcona and Alpena counties. All Band considering Erikson Technology, with wireless to begin. Identify a tower location to design and determine how many customers this can serve. Millen has \$40K and Hawes \$90K ARPA funding that could be combined. All Band suggested to go to Alcona County to request a match funds of the townships. Siegel checking with local contractors in order to keep costs down. Curtis, Mitchell townships also under review currently. Focus is on full time residents especially with school age children. Plan may be to start with 100 Mb wireless LTE technology and bring fiber as a continuation. NEMCOG, MTA should be contacted to see if there is a templated contract to be used by the townships for ARPA funds/agreements. Heat Map under review. AirSpan and Erickson Tech both quoting to All Band to get best proposal. Trying to design over the winter to be ready to break ground in the spring.
 - a. County Mapping for All Band - **Smith comment:** Alcona County has been mapping available broadband.
 - b. Emergency Broadband Benefit – **Smith comment:** Low-income families requiring assistance could take advantage of this benefit if aware. This is another tool to help expedite the broadband connectivity. Stressed that there are school-aged children that need the connectivity now. **ALL BAND:** Affordability is part of the benefit. Surprised how few are using the benefit. \$50/month benefit towards the \$60 monthly cost of All Band (\$10/month cost after Emergency Broadband Benefit).

Kosal question: LTE All Band vs. LTE Verizon?

ALL Band Answer: Verizon is on higher frequency due to size/resources of the company. All Band uses smaller focused area technology that provides better function in a smaller area of focus. All Band encourages Millen to consider working with Hawes Twp.

iii. **Other comments not on agenda** – none.

4. Reports

a. Clerk:

- i. Motion to approve meeting minutes, August 2, 2021 (corrected printing). Motion to approve by Somers, 2nd by Kosal and motion carries.
- ii. Motion to approve meeting minutes, September 7, 2021. Motion to approve by Kosal 2nd by Somers and motion carries.
- iii. Winter Newsletter - Topics Due October 25, final copy review November 1, Twp. Meeting

b. Treasurer:

- i. General Income Fund: \$83,800.57
- ii. Road Fund: \$86,208.31
- iii. Total: \$170,008.88
- iv. Motion to accept Treasurer Report, subject to audit. Motion to approve subject to audit by Somers 2nd by Kosal and motion carries.
- v. Motion to pay bills, subject to board's post-audit policy authorizing payment: Checks #11272- 11290; Wages, EFPTS, Consumers, FOE (rent), Stout Mowing, Everett Leeseburg (Burials), Clerk/Treasurer Internet, USPS; Met-Life (pension). Motion to approve by Somers 2nd by Kosal and the motion carries.
- vi. Treasurer and Clerk Balance – Yes
- vii. Budget to Actual Review – Treasurer reports no overages or budget updates.

c. Road Committee

- i. Cemetery Tree Removal along Burns Road. No additional work by the county. Somers removed tree logs from cemetery.
- ii. 2021 Road Project Progress – Walker Road Update. Road is still very rough. Project is not completed yet. Road Commissioner Campbell stated that the roughness will be addressed once all the ground asphalt material has been added. The ground asphalt will stop at the crushed limestone end of the road near Stout. The County will complete a final grade of the road and then roll the material. The finished surface should be like McConnell Road. If Walker Rd. remains rough, the county will come out to grind the road surface.
- iii. Smith asked for coverage of the October 13th, 4:15 pm – Rural Task Force Program, Future Economic Planning for Alcona County Transportation Projects. Somers to cover the meeting.

d. Zoning/Planning

- i. Blight/Unlicensed vehicles stored in yards – Davio.
 1. Burgess Road blight – Clean-up in progress
 2. 1600 Walker Road Blight – clean-up in progress.
 3. Complaint by Kevin Panterra at 942 Cordes Rd Truck/Junk Tires – Pickup has been removed. Issue closed.
- ii. Jewell Lake Dr. Fire Damaged Property – Davio. Believes property may be sold although there is no record at the county. Smith requested another letter be sent to the current

owner as they are also not mowing the yard. Owners should be reminded that it has been over one year since property was damaged.

- iii. 1739 Jewel Drive white house in disrepair – No update from owner. Smith requested letter to owner by Davio.
- iv. Ordinance updates – Gillies
 - 1. 21-03 Short Term Rental Properties –T. Small stated the 30-day review completed by the County. Now this ordinance will come to Board.
 - 2. 21-01 Small Building – 30-day review completed by the County.
 - 3. 21-02 Amendments only 30-day review completed by the County.Gillies noted that the Z&P meetings are done for this year unless there is a special meeting called.

e. **Cemetery Sexton Update –**

- i. Bartlett ordered temporary markers for unmarked graves. Those will be placed.
- ii. Winter cleanup time is near. Bartlett noted that it's been 6 months since dilapidated items removed from graves were stored in the shed for claiming. Those items will now be disposed of by the sexton.

f. **Fire Department – Chief Cordes** – Electrical final inspection on station complete. Heating/plumbing final inspection is scheduled for next week. Cameras to be added while the walls are open. Good month of progress made on the building.

g. **Alcona County -T. Small –**

- i. Alcona County is in process of closing the jail.
- ii. County Building is using new check-in process. More security updates are coming to the county building. EMS building updated. Sheriff's department also changing.
- iii. County watching the broadband as it develops and what the plan becomes.
Smith Comment: A lot of people need the broadband. Requested that Terry does not take a wait and see approach. Please look at serviceability and be proactive with broadband. We cannot wait until spending due dates to have a plan.
Kosal Comment: County is waiting for the service providers to get in line for the funding opportunity. Millen only has All Band approaching Board. Many smaller companies are running copper which does not meet the ARPA requirements for funding.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. **ARPA –Project and Expenditure Report**, Due April 30, 2022
- b. **Grants, Kosal** - Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan awarded the township \$1000 for BC Park tree trimming.

Smith: Two bids for tree removal received. Rick's Tree Service (1/25/2021) to trim and remove all trees. Griff's Tree removal service also made bid. Rick's Tree Service was best bid of \$4800 for Park tree trimming. Cemetery trimming has been delayed at this time until county completes road tree trimming. Motion to accept Rick's Tree Service bid by Kosal pending follow-up that price is still good. Bartlett 2nd and motion carries. Insurance copy is requested with final agreement.

c. **Updates to Risk Manager Recommendations**

- i. Barton City Park Ordinance (21-04) – Final Board Review/Approval. Roll call vote recorded. AYE – Smith, Ostrander, Bartlett, Kosal, Somers. Nay – none. Approved/Effective 10/04/21

- ii. Park Use Agreement Attorney feedback/review/approval – Delayed. Need feedback from attorney.
 - d. **Pavilion #2 Damage** – Construction review required and may delay to spring.
 - e. **Unpaid Taxes** - Personal Property Tax of BC Bar is still outstanding and will be reviewed at the next meeting
6. **New Business** – none.
7. **Public Comments** – none.
8. **Adjourn** – Somers made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Kosal and motion carries.

***Next Meetings:** November 1, 7:00 pm - Township Board Meeting

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk, Cathy Ostrander