

MILLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 1, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Millen Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call –

- a. Board: Barb Bartlett-Treasurer, Cathy Ostrander – Clerk, Denny Smith – Supervisor, Scott Kosal – Trustee, Jeff Somers – Trustee
- b. Others: Attendees – Rich Gillies, Terry Small, Mike Davio, Christine and Don VonFintel

3. **Public Comments** – Dust control was discussed by Christine and Don VonFintel (Bean Hill Rd property owners). They inquired about dust control improvements due to more side by side ATV traffic. Specifically, asked to increase the reimbursement for next year. Supervisor Smith gave feedback on current dust control measures. He has had discussions with the Road Commission about the dust control not holding up well this year due to the weather. Supervisor Smith reviewed the Bean Hill road project that was under consideration this year which would have added the reclaimed asphalt material and eliminated the dust. Road Commission bid on the Bean Hill project but the project was not selected due to insufficient road funds. Two main road projects utilized this year's road funding.

4. Reports

a. Clerk:

- i. Motion to approve meeting minutes, Township Board July 5, 2022. Motion by Kosal and 2nd by Somers. Motion carried.
- ii. Clerk Mileage approval request – Election Material PU at Alcona County. Motion to approve by Somers, 2nd by Kosal. Motion carries.
- iii. Interest in Website Designer for Township? Trustee Somers to keep working the website. Item tabled until we need that service.

b. Treasurer:

- i. General Income Fund: \$80,501.46
- ii. Road Fund: \$114,186.37
- iii. Fire Fund \$0
- iv. ARPA Fund: \$40,274.42
- v. Total: \$234,962.25
- vi. Motion to accept Treasurer Report, subject to audit Motion by Somers, 2nd by Kosal and motion carried.
- vii. Motion to pay bills, subject to board's post-audit policy authorizing payment: Checks #11504-11547 for Wages, EFPTS, Consumers, FOE (rent), dust control, Alcona County Review, Auditor, Stout's Lawn, US Postal Box, Quill, Election Training, Rick's Tree Service (cemetery); BS&A Software/Assessing, Alcona Co. Treasurer. Motion to pay the bills by Somers, 2nd by Kosal and motion carried.
- viii. Treasurer and Clerk Balance – YES

c. Road Committee –

- i. Request by the Saw Mill on Richardson Road to update the roadway restrictions to support the mill receiving/shipping full loads with slower speeds to enable capabilities of the mill production during road restrictions. No new updates. Supervisor Smith to stay in communications with Campbell at Road Commission.
- ii. Kosal asked – Is there any discussion by the Road Commission to return ARPA funds to the Townships? Terry Small and Supervisor Smith have not received communication that this will happen.

- iii. Smith Commented– A. Scully updated the township on the materials contract from the spring having an issue with one of the vendors. Road Commission is experiencing difficulty getting materials due to a contract issue with petroleum pricing.
- d. Zoning/Planning
 - i. Blight/Unlicensed vehicles stored in yards – Davio. Improvements made. Item closed.
 - ii. Burgess Road blight – No updates.
 - iii. “John’s” – Trask Lake Road near the BC Park is cluttered with yard junk. Item Closed.
 - iv. Condition of the house at back of Park that is needing repair. Davio to check with Harry Harvey on the house condition.
 - v. Davio - One new permit for a house on Kohler road to replace an existing home.
 - vi. Noise Ordinance – Gillies. July 18th meeting passed the ordinance. County Meeting held July 20 voted and passed. Supervisor Smith to now review with Sheriff Stephenson on enforcement.
 - vii. Gillies to update the formatting on the 2021 Ordinances that were passed. Re-publishing in the newspaper to be completed by Gillies.
 - viii. 2018 Solar Ordinance was passed and is complete. Re-publishing in the newspaper to be completed by Gillies.
- e. Cemetery Sexton Update – B. Bartlett
 - i. Burials – 2 cremains and 1 full burial last month.
 - ii. Everett Leeseburg working with Barb on the mapping of the new north area of the cemetery. Bid forthcoming on north section mapping and plot marking.
- f. Fire Department – Chief Cordes. No updates.
- g. Alcona County -T. Small – ARPA Funds/contracts at the County level are under review for improved internet and county is preparing to sign contracts. Kosal - Q: Message on talking points requested of the County so the Townships can stay informed on the progress. Small - A: Focus is to bring improved internet to Millen.
- h. Smith- Q: When does the County review and pass the 2023 budget? Small - A: September to December for adding line item 2023 Budget. Smith to request full PILT funds returned to the Township in July 2023 next year.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Unpaid Taxes - Personal Property Tax of BC Bar. No additional payments received. Personal Property Taxes will be added as a memorandum of record of unpaid taxes by the treasurer at the County.
- b. ARPA – Project Planning.
 - i. Bartlett has requested format for the plan and number of bids as required by ARPA. Feedback from MTA and accountant is that a detailed plan is not required to be filed with the State. Plan can be maintained for audit purposes only. Clerk/Treasure to maintain a common file for Park and Cemetery bids. \$10,000 limit requires multiple bids. Documentation provided for requirements based on project cost. Auditor feedback is current plans are acceptable. Bids and photos will be included in records. Need photos of condemned pavilion (before) and removed (after).
 - ii. Bartlett provided cemetery project details.
 - iii. Kosal to get feedback from BCIA on second Pavilion use and community needs. Feedback from BCIA on using the one pavilion with the temporary fence was positive. Therefore, removing the 2nd damaged pavilion would not cause an issue for future township needs.
- c. Damaged Pavilion - Board Review and decision on damaged pavilion plan with cost information.
 - i. Smith - Jakes Excavating; Waiting on bid by close of business.
 - ii. Smith - Lincoln Sand and Gravel Bid= \$4500 for structure removal. Fence needs to be removed on once side for work. Cement should be saved. Other hardware (lighting) should be saved. Need electrician to bid on removal of the lights.
 - iii. Need plan for the picnic tables in lower pavilion.
 - iv. Davio - Q: Was any grant money used to build the pavilion and is there money to pay back? Previous grants to be reviewed for useful life. Review of records by clerk back to 1988.

Options:

- v. Full Tear Down of Pavilion, keeping concrete (good condition)
 - ~~vi. Rebuild Pavilion~~–Cement to be maintained. Structure to be removed.
 - vii. Repurpose Pavilion Concrete (pickle ball court, basketball court, other?). Future discussion.
 - viii. Update Fencing at upper Pavilion if lower Pavilion removed. Board did not support fence at the top pavilion. Temporary fence can be installed for events as required.
- d. Ordinance to provide clarity of easement rights of parcels around the lake. Kosal – NEMCOG gave feedback that the township does have zoning authority to develop ordinances in subdivisions. Item tabled for more discussion.
- 6. New Business –**
- a. Dust Control Reimbursement Increase request – Christine VonFintel. (See Public comments.) Clerk/Treasurer to add to budget discussion for next year.
 - b. Township Attorney, Review and Board Approval– Tim Gulden to replace Justin Wilson. Mr. Wilson has been slow to respond in the past and Smith recommends that we consider using Tim Gulden for future legal counsel. Feedback from Ossineke township is that he is very responsive. Gulden works on a billable hour (\$200/hr.) and not a single fee. No retainer fee (\$1000.00 previously). Motion by Somers to change the Township legal staff and 2nd by Bartlett. Motion carries. Notification to Wilson by Smith letter.
 - c. Sally Cobb – Efficient Energy resources will replace the electric baseboard heat based on income level. Somers to post on the website. Smith to post on the bulletin boards in town.
 - d. Bartlett – Rick Wohlfeil asked if ARPA could be used on DNR Parks? ARPA may be used for Township and not Federal/State parks. While a good suggestion, Smith recommended that Rick discuss with the Forrest Services in Oscoda to update the park tree trimming and/or boat launch.
7. **Public Comments –** None
8. **Adjourn –** Motion to adjourn by Somers, 2nd Bartlett and motion carried.

***Next Meetings:** August 15th, 6:30 Zoning Board of Appeals and 7:00 pm - Planning and Zoning Meeting
Tuesday (due to Holiday) September 6, 7:00 pm Millen Township Board Meeting

** Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk, Cathy Ostrander*