

# MILLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: December 5, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Millen Township Hall

## 1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

## 2. Roll Call

- a. Board: Denny Smith – Supervisor, Barb Bartlett – Treasurer, Cathy Ostrander – Clerk, Jeff Somers – Trustee  
Absent: Scott Kosal - Trustee
- b. Other Attendees: Randy Thompson, Kathy Thompson, Terry Small, Rodney Cordes, Mike Davio

## 3. Public Comments –

- a. Randy Thompson discussed 7.9% CPI in 2023 which means for State of Michigan this will be the first year since 1994 that the State of Michigan will levy 5% since that is the less of CPI or 5%. As a result, the millage reduction fraction will only be reduced after the 7.9%.
- b. Assessing Reform by the State determined that the assessment notices will be 2-sided in the future (fine print details on the backside). More area for the Township to add information. Whitlock quote provided to print tax is \$713.60.
- c. 2023 Board of Review notice will be posted on the Township door and the Township website prior to the March 2023 meeting. Thompson recommend to have the assessor post directly to the millentownship.com website. Motion by Somers and second by Bartlett to send forms directly to our website owner instead and he will post. Motion carried.
- d. Supervisor Smith – asked to be notified of any new Board of Review member training in the future. BOR will have one new member.

## 4. Reports

- a. Clerk:
  - i. Motion to approve meeting minutes Township Board November 7, 2022. Motion by Somers to approve minutes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartlett. Motion carried.
  - ii. Proposal 22-2 – Legalize Early Voting and ballot drop box requirements will have budget impacts (Ballot Box installation w/security cameras and 10 days of early voting election worker pay).
- b. Treasurer:
  - i. General Income Fund: \$77,163.95
  - ii. Road Fund: \$44,356.09
  - iii. Fire Fund \$0
  - iv. ARPA Fund \$39,724.42
  - v. Total: \$161,244.46
  - vi. Motion to accept Treasurer Report, subject to audit. Motion to accept subject to audit by Somers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ostrander. Motion carried.
  - vii. Motion to pay bills, subject to board's post-audit policy authorizing payment: Checks #11625 - 11651 Wages, EFPTS, Consumers, FOE (rent), Alcona County Review, Rick's Tree & Stump, John's Home Maintenance, C & M Electric, Election Source, Quill, Election Inspectors, Alcona County Treasurer. Motion by Somers and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartlett to approve. Motion carried.
  - viii. Treasurer and Clerk Balance – Yes
  - ix. Budget Review – December 31 will have adjustments and be presented at the next meeting.
- c. Road Committee: No updates.
- d. Zoning/Planning: Gillies (emailed update for meeting)
  - i. Ordinance 22-01 enforcement by the sheriff. Signed ordinance sent to Sheriff Stephenson.
  - ii. Solar Ordinance from Green Twp. review and comparison – Gillies is in the process of reviewing other Township Solar Ordinances.
- e. Cemetery Sexton Update – B. Bartlett
  - i. Limited work at the Cemetery grounds due to cold weather.

- ii. Working on the cemetery record updates.
- f. Fire Department – Chief Cordes
  - i. Presented the new air packs for the Board to review. Showed the size/weight difference of the new bottles. New hold more air and are much smaller than the old system. New connection is snap fit verses old threaded attachment. \$1030 tank, \$6173 Scott 3M Air pack. A grant of \$5000 goes toward the upgrade.
  - ii. New pagers required due to 911 system change in the next year. Cordes is working on grant to support the new pagers. Each pager is \$1000.
  - iii. Building work continues. Upstairs near completion and downstairs is completing the drywall work. A temporary furnace is installed upstairs until construction is completed.
  - iv. Local volunteer departments face many new requirements to maintain their State licensing with regard to reporting and ongoing online training. Local internet in the area makes this challenging. Also, Cordes highlighted that limited to no hands-on training is available which is concerning.
  - v. Supervisor Smith expressed interest in supporting the 911 Board and look for County Commissioners to support better training.
  - vi. Cost increases and interest rate increases on Commercial loan for Fire station were noted.
  - vii. Monthly calls are 2 med runs with sled, 1 chimney fire, 2 control burns and 14 other runs.
- g. Alcona County - T. Small
  - i. Small is working on the Alcona dams with Consumers Energy regarding potential rate increases. Consumers opened a meeting for public opinion and received feedback. Consumers is not making money on the dam and now the cost to maintain the structure for spill way control is an issue. More discussion to follow.
  - ii. Smith requested to confirm that the PILT money is in the County budget plan for 2023 as approved by County previously.
  - iii. Smith asked Small to cover the EMS/911 concerns. Small asked to have the Townships to come to the County Board of Commissioners to voice concerns. Next meeting is December 7 at 1pm. Requested Small to support the Township at the meeting.

## 5. Unfinished Business

- a. Unpaid Taxes - Personal Property Tax of BC Bar – Certified letter sent to Jim Scott at home address. Letters have been rejected. Supervisor Smith will personally deliver the registered mail to Jim Scott. Letter delivered 11/3/2022. Smith also made a new copy of the L4175 form for exemption. Forms due 2/21/2023 to Randy Thompson.
- b. ARPA Grant– Project Planning
  - i. Cemetery Projects – No updates due to weather.
  - ii. Damaged Pavilion teardown next steps – Electrical removed and still plan to tear down structure this year.
  - iii. Park Tree Trimming required due to Oak Wilt – **Completed** by Rick’s Tree & Stump Removal
  - iv. Park Ballfield Fence Post Repairs and Bleachers repair of wooden seats.
  - v. Stump Removal at the rear of the ballpark leftfield fence is required to clean up area.
  - vi. Remaining ARPA Grant Funded Project Proposals
    - 1. Roof (Shingles replaced) on upper pavilion – **Completed** by John’s Home Maintenance
    - 2. Re-roof the outdoor cement toilet – **Completed** by John’s Home Maintenance
    - 3. Repaint the upper Pavilion – 2023 when weather permits.
  - vii. Spark Grant will also be submitted for future 2023 park projects. Update sent by Kosal to Smith: Minimum is \$100,000 grant. Millen Township is not proceeding due to size of grant.
  - viii. Grant Proposal Writer Company, update on services and associated costs – Kosal. No update.

**6. New Business –**

- a. 2023 Township Board Meeting Calendar – Clerk to sign and post.
- b. 2023 BOR dates to be posted – Clerk to sign and post.
- c. Smith - New Board of Review Member to replace Cassie Miller is Jane Freiberger
- d. Mike Davio – stopped to review the Sanborn property for new construction. It is only a renovation.
- e. Hawes Supervisor Cordes - Consumers Energy, Rich Castle, supported Hawes Twp for the Election power outage and ran on a generator all election. Castle did a great job expediting generator from downstate.
- f. Hawes Supervisor Cordes - Hawes Twp to add a new website.
- g. Bartlett noted this year 150 past due tax bills. Higher than previous years which are typically 100.
- h. Smith thanks BCIA for the Christmas Decorations in town. They look great!

**7. Public Comments –none.**

**8. Adjourn –**Motion to adjourn by Somers, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bartlett. Motion carries.

**\*Next Meetings:** January 2, 7:00 pm - Millen Township Board Meeting

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