

Leighton Township Board Regular Meeting

January 14, 2021

1. The regular meeting of the Leighton Township Board was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Wolbrink. This meeting was held in person and by teleconference.
2. Members present in person: Bonnema, Bultsma, Fennema, Hooker, Wolbrink.
3. Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve minutes from December 10, 2020 as presented. All members voted yes; motion carried.
4. Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve meeting agenda as presented. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. Fire Lieutenant Randy Cotts presented the monthly fire report which included 39 calls for the month of December. Fire Department training is paused due to COVID-19. Lieutenant Cotts spoke about the Department's focus on recruitment and retention.
6. John Hooker reported that the Planning Commission met Wednesday night and approved the Site Plan Review for VerBerg Concrete. The Commission also set meeting dates and appointed officers.
7. The Building Inspector reported 4 new home permits in December and 52 year to date.
8. Faith Miedema represented the Library and reported that the library is still open for curbside service.
9. No public comment.
10. Steve Wolbrink discussed a recent meeting with the Allegan County Road Commission. Gravel and road maintenance and repair will be completed in 2021. Division between 142<sup>nd</sup> and 146<sup>th</sup> is set to be paved.
11. No new news on the Library expansion project; continuing work on financial details.
12. Steve Wolbrink discussed intention to send communication inquiring about negotiating a purchase to the owner of the property adjacent to the cemetery.
13. Motion by Hooker, support by Bultsma to approve purchase of cameras and microphones for 4 township office computers. All members voted yes; motion carried.
14. Discussion was had regarding a quote for \$1298 for a camera system for the meeting room to assist in virtual meetings. Discussion tabled until next month; less expensive options being explored.
15. Annual initial budget meeting has been scheduled for Thursday, February 4 at 6 p.m. Public budget meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 11 at 6:30 p.m.
16. Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve the current listed bills in the amount of \$51,746.97. All members vote yes. Motion carried.
17. John Hooker discussed the difficulty of having meetings, specifically Planning Commission, virtually. Questions were raised as to the legality of having meetings in person. Steve Shoemaker weighed in as a Commissioner. Options will be discussed with our lawyer prior to next meeting on 02/10/21.
18. Public Comment: Steve Deer asked about the Deputy Supervisor position. At the November 2020 meeting, Mr. Deer was improperly appointed by the board to the position. Steve Wolbrink had not yet taken office at that time, therefore the appointment is invalid. It was clarified that no appointment has been made to the Deputy Supervisor position, and it is not required by law for the Supervisor to appoint a deputy.
19. Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to adjourn. All members voted yes. Motion carried.
20. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk