

Leighton Township Board

Regular Meeting

October 14, 2021

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Supervisor Wolbrink at 7:00 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Present: Fennema, Wolbrink, Hooker, Bonnema; Absent with notice: Bultsma
4. **Also in attendance:** Cliff Bloom, Township legal counsel.
5. **Minutes:** Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to approve the minutes from September 22, 2021. All members voted yes; motion carried.
6. **Agenda:** Motion by Fennema, support by Bonnema to approve the meeting agenda with the addition of New Business Item of Final Plat Approval for Harvest Meadows Phase 3. All members voted yes; motion carried.
7. **Reports & Correspondence:**
 - A. **County Commissioner's Report:** n/a
 - B. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Weston reported 29 calls in August, spoke about recruitment efforts and Fire Safety Month presentations at local schools
 - C. **Deputy's Report:** Supervisor Wolbrink reported that Deputy Bernard Austhof is no longer our Leighton Township Deputy and has been replaced by Dylan Schmidt.
 - D. **Drain Commission Report:** n/a
 - E. **Planning Commission Report:** Hooker reported that Classic Transportation and Midwest Sign received site plan approvals at Wednesday's meeting. A special use permit was granted for a resident to conduct CPL classes at his property.
 - F. **Board of Appeals Report:** n/a
 - G. **Building Inspector's Report:** 6 new permits in August; 33 year to date; average cost \$344,679.
 - H. **Library Report:** Faith reported on library circulation and activities.
 - I. **Green Lake Sewer Report:** n/a.
8. **Public Comment:** None.
9. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A. **Library Construction:** Construction has begun and is on schedule.
 - B. **New Fire Engine 12:** New engine should be here by June 2022.
 - C. **140th Bridge Deck Replacement:** Supervisor Wolbrink has remained in contact with Allegan County Road Commission.
10. **New Business:**
 - A. **GVL Excavating – 1-92 Ordinance Amendment Request:** Motion by Wolbrink, support by Fennema to enter into closed session with township attorney to discuss confidential documents pursuant to the 1-92 Ordinance amendment request. Roll call vote: Yeas: Wolbrink, Fennema, Bonnema, Hooker. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Wolbrink, support by Bonnema to close the closed session. Roll call vote: Yeas: Wolbrink, Fennema, Bonnema, Hooker. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Gary Schenk, attorney for GVL Excavating, spoke regarding the mining and eventual development plans for the property owned by his client at 329 144th Ave. In order to begin, they are asking for the board to amend Ordinance 1-92 to allow mining operations on an improved road. Mr. Schenk said that they would comply with the 5 requests the Planning Commission made regarding this operation, including posting a bond for the road. Andy Moore, Township Planner spoke regarding the condition and age of the road and the bond that would be needed. Attorney Bloom asked Gary Schenk to commit to a letter of credit instead of the bond. Mr. Schenk replied that although a letter of credit is harder to come by, every effort will be made to obtain that. Trustee Hooker asked about haul routes with east to 2nd Street preferred and Attorney Bloom asked how that would be communicated to other drivers and companies. Gordon Van Laan of GVL Excavating spoke about his understanding of the township's concerns and of his respect for the community and township and his desire to maintain the road integrity during this process.

Motion by Fennema, support by Wolbrink to direct the Township attorney and the Township Planner to tentatively move forward with drafting and amendment to the mining ordinance 1-92 to be reviewed at the next Township Board Meeting. All members vote yes; motion carried.

- B. 425 Agreement with Hopkins:** Discussion regarding the request by Mark Evans, Hopkins Township Supervisor (not present), to enter into a 425 agreement with Leighton Township. Township resident David Young addressed the board and stated that Hopkins Township has entered into a 425 agreement with the village of Hopkins already, and no longer needs the 425 they have requested of Leighton Township. This information could not be confirmed at the meeting. Motion by Wolbrink, support by Hooker to cease and desist all activity regarding entering into a 425 agreement with Hopkins Township. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- C. Resolution to establish an Industrial Development District for Classic Transportation:** Motion by Wolbrink, support by Hooker to approve resolution 2021-10-14 to establish an Industrial Development District for Classic Transportation. Roll call vote: Ayes: Fennema, Bonnema, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: none. Motion carried.
- D. Snow Removal Bids:** Only one bid for snow removal was received from Pott's Landscape Management LLC. The bid was reviewed and found to be satisfactory, however the Township neglected to ask for salt for township/library lot and walkways in its request for bids. Motion by Hooker, support by Wolbrink to accept Pott's Landscape Management LLC's bid to snowplow the Township/Library at \$86 per time, Fire Station #1 at \$50 per time and Fire Station #2 at \$54 per time with an additional fee that is yet to be inquired about for salt at the Township/Library. All members vote yes; motion carried.
- E. Harvest Meadows Phase 3:** Township Planner Andy Moore spoke regarding everything being in place for this phase of the development. Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve the final plat for Harvest Meadows Phase 3. All members vote yes; motion carried.
- F. Pickle Ball Court Proposal:** Resident Brian Ballone spoke to the board about considering the possibility of installing a Pickleball court on township property.
- G. Planning Commission Positions:** Supervisor Wolbrink presented details regarding 2 candidates to fill vacant Planning Commission seats. Motion by Wolbrink, support by Hooker to appoint Bradley Geers and Matthew Van Duyn to the Planning Commission until 12/31/2024. Roll call vote: Ayes: Fennema, Bonnema, Wolbrink, Hooker. Nays: none. Motion carried.

- H. MTA Supervisor’s Professional Development Retreat:** Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to fund Supervisor Wolbrink’s attendance (\$330) and lodging (\$109/night plus taxes) at the MTA Retreat scheduled for October 28 & 29. All members vote yes; motion carried.
 - I. MTA Treasurer’s Professional Development Retreat:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to fund Treasurer Bultsma’s attendance (\$330) and lodging (\$109/night plus taxes) at the MTA Retreat scheduled for October 26 & 27. All members vote yes; motion carried.
 - J. Bills:** Motion by Hooker, support by Wolbrink to approve current listed bills in the amount of \$98,737.97. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- 11. Public Comment:** Resident Faith Miedema commented about visual obstruction to the north of the Township/Library driveway; Supervisor Wolbrink said that he would contact Allegan County Road Commission. Steve Shoemaker inquired about the status of the Hooker Cemetery clean up following August’s storms.
- 12.** Motion by Wolbrink, support by Hooker to adjourn. All members voted yes; motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk