

## Leighton Township Board

### Regular Meeting

January 12, 2023

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Supervisor Wolbrink at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Present: Fennema, Wolbrink, Hooker, Bonnema, Bultsma
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve the minutes from December 15 & 29, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. **Agenda:** Motion by Fennema, support by Bultsma to approve the meeting agenda with the change of moving New Business item #1, Bob Genetski, to present before Unfinished Business and adding meeting minutes of December 29, 2022. All members voted yes; motion carried.
6. **Reports & Correspondence:**
  - A. **County Commissioner's Report:** n/a.
  - B. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Weston reported 30 calls in December, bringing the total for the year to 412. Training is happening on new engine 1313, will be in service soon.
  - C. **Deputy's Report:** n/a.
  - D. **Drain Commission Report:** n/a.
  - E. **Planning Commission Report:** Hooker reported that a site plan and special use permit were approved for Mersino Dewatering at 4665 Division. The discussion regarding GRI Moline LLC's rezoning request was tabled for research re: Sewer and Public Safety concerns.
  - F. **Board of Appeals Report:** n/a.
  - G. **Building Inspector's Report:** 0 new permits in December keeping average cost of \$431,210.00 for the year; 31 permits issued in 2022.
  - H. **Library Report:** Faith Miedema reported on library activities.
  - I. **Green Lake Sewer Report:** Annual meeting will be March 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Leighton Township Hall.
  - J. **Correspondence:** Leighton Township is grateful to receive Gun Lake Casino revenue sharing in the amount of \$18, 183.00.
7. **Public Comment:** Representatives from Wayland Area EMS, Steve Deer (Leighton Twp), Kevin Travis (Watson Twp) and Henry Reinart (Monterey Twp) presented financial plan and subsidy request to the Board, explaining reasons for significant increase and answering questions.
8. **Bob Genetski, Allegan County Clerk:** Clerk Genetski gave County Clerk update and annual report to the board and audience, along with brochures re: free property fraud protection from the County.
9. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. **Library Contract:** New contract details have been discussed and will be presented to the library board at their meeting on January 16 before having the attorney finalize the contract.
  - B. **New Fire Engine 13:** Training has begun on new engine and it should be put into service soon.
  - C. **Updated Snow removal/mowing RFP for website:** No new RFP available at this time.
  - D. **Tree Trimming:** The pine trees at Station 1 require trimming and the contracted lawn service has been contacted to trim trees and dispose of branches. Motion by Bultsma, support by Fennema to contract Schafer Tree Service out of Dorr to remove the Station 2 willow tree in the spring for \$3050. All members voted yes, motion carried.

- E. **Wellness Park Grant:** Jaci and Rachel attended zoom meeting on January 5 and got details on the grant. The agreement does require a significant financial contribution on the township's part; discussion regarding whether pursuit of this type of project would be money well spent at this time.
- F. **Happy Camper Escrow:** Discussion regarding whether the contract requiring Happy Camper to completely evacuate the property by December 26, 2022 was honored. There were still items on the property for days after December 26<sup>th</sup>. A walk of the property revealed other items that need to be cleaned up. Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to table the decision of returning any escrow funds to the seller until property is cleaned up and the board knows what the cost of that clean-up will be. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- G. **Public Comment:** Tom Miller told the board that Mr. Austin was unable get the property at 1148 144<sup>th</sup> Ave. cleaned up by the December 26, 2022 deadline due to his work, and that some of the items he left on the property did not belong to Mr. Austin. Mr. Miller also told the board that Mr. Austin did not make a lot of money on the sale of the property.

**10. New Business:**

- A. **Allegan County Road Commission:** Supervisor Wolbrink was in attendance at the annual primary millage meeting and reported planned paving project for 144<sup>th</sup> Ave between Division and 12<sup>th</sup> in Leighton Township.
- B. **Zoning Board of Appeals:** Motion by Hooker, Support by Bonnema to appoint Ron Schrottenboer and James Kooistra as alternate members to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term expiring 12/31/2025. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- C. **Wayland Ambulance Board:** Discussion regarding appointment of Leighton Township Firefighter Tim Rose to the WAEMS Board. Tabled discussion until a review of the WAEMS Bylaws can be reviewed to determine if Tim Rose can represent Leighton Township, as he lives just inside Wayland City limits.
- D. **MTA Conference:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to have up to three board members attend the MTA Conference in April. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- E. **Budget Workshop:** Tentative Date January 18, 2023 at 4 p.m. at the township hall.
- F. **MAMC & MMTA Institutes:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to send the Clerk and Treasurer to continue their education at their respective institutes this spring. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- G. **Bills:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bultsma to approve current listed bills in the amount of \$185,840.43. All members voted yes; motion carried.

- 11. Public Comment:** Steve Shoemaker made comment regarding 1148 144<sup>th</sup> Ave, specifically the escrow account and asked questions regarding the plans for the property, expressed criticism of the purchase and made comments regarding census data projections. Tom Miller spoke in favor of the township purchasing the property at 1148 144<sup>th</sup> by saying it was good for the community and a good use of funds.

- 12.** Motion by Hooker, support by Bultsma to adjourn. **Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk