

**Leighton Township Board**

**Regular Meeting**

**February 9, 2023**

1. **Call to order:** Meeting called to order by Supervisor Wolbrink at 7:02 p.m.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call:** Present: Fennema, Wolbrink, Hooker, Bonnema, Bultsma
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bultsma to approve the minutes from January 12 & 18, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. **Agenda:** Motion by Bonnema, support by Hooker to approve the meeting as presented. All members voted yes; motion carried.
6. **Reports & Correspondence:**
  - A. **County Commissioner's Report:** Supervisor Wolbrink received a request from Commissioner DeYoung that Leighton Township consider a resolution of support for actions regarding the County Broadband Expansion. Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to adopt **Resolution #: 2023-02-14** supporting **123NET's Application for the Realizing Opportunities with Broadband Infrastructure Networks (ROBIN) Grant Program toward the Allegan County Broadband Wired Infrastructure Expansion Project.** Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker. Nays: None. Motion carried.
  - B. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Weston reported 32 calls in January. Engine 1313 is in service. Leighton Fire Department accepted the resignation of Caleb Kiefer.
  - C. **Deputy's Report:** n/a.
  - D. **Drain Commission Report:** n/a.
  - E. **Planning Commission Report:** Hooker reported that the Planning Commission voted to tentatively deny the rezone request by GRI Moline LLC. A rezone and site plan preliminary introduction to multiple projects at Galloway Landings was presented.
  - F. **Board of Appeals Report:** n/a.
  - G. **Building Inspector's Report:** Leighton Township did not receive January permit info from PCI in time for this meeting.
  - 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:** None.
7. **Public Comment:** Tom Miller wished to thank the Leighton Township Fire Department for their quick and professional response to his home recently. He also asked about the possibility of sidewalks in Moline being added and/or extended since the speed limits have increased in town. There was some discussion regarding the current sidewalk ordinance.
8. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. **Library Contract:** After meeting with the Library Board and coming to agreement on the details, Rachel has emailed the township's attorney so that the contract can be updated to reflect the mutually agreed upon terms.
  - B. **Updated Snow removal/mowing RFP for website:** No new RFP available at this time. Since bids have already begun to arrive for summer services, no workshop has been scheduled.

- C. **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; this is scheduled to happen in February. Schafer Tree Service out of Dorr will remove the Station 2 willow tree in March.
  - D. **Happy Camper Escrow:** Motion by Wolbrink, support by Hooker return the escrow funds to the seller less the \$4,855 cost of clean-up for the property and legal fees incurred after the December 26 closing date. and the board knows what the cost of that clean-up will be. All members voted yes; motion carried.
  - E. **Wayland Ambulance Board:** Supervisor Wolbrink confirmed that the WAEMS bylaws do not exclude Tim Rose from serving on their board while he is a firefighter for Leighton Township. Motion by Wolbrink, support by Fennema to appoint Tim Rose to the WAEMS Board position representing Leighton Township. All members voted yes; motion carried.
9. **New Business:**
- A. **Township Drive/parking lot lights:** Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to accept the bid from Windemuller Electric for \$9,600 to install new LED lights along the driveway and parking lot at the Town Hall/Library. All members voted yes; motion carried.
  - B. **Dust Control Bids:** Motion by Hooker, Support by Fennema to accept the bid from SWB Enterprises LLC for 2023 Dust Control Contract. All members voted yes; motion carried.
  - C. **2023 Road Construction:** Motion by Fennema, support by Bultsma to approve road projects on 137<sup>th</sup> Ave. from Divison to .5 miles east of 9<sup>th</sup>, 146<sup>th</sup> Ave. between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets, and Wren Dr, Nuthatch, Green Ridge Dr. and Oakwood from Warbler to Mesa Street. All members voted yes; motion carried.
  - D. **2023 Poverty Exemption Resolution:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to adopt Resolution No. 2023-02-13 establishing policy and guidelines for use by the Board of Review for granting poverty exemptions. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker. Nays: None. Motion carried.
  - E. **Township Board Wage Resolutions:**
    1. Motion by Bultsma, support by Bonnema to establish the Township Supervisor's salary at \$25,000 beginning April 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
    2. Motion by Bultsma, support by Fennema to establish the Township Trustees' salary at \$4,600 beginning April 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
    3. Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to establish the Township Treasurer's salary at \$35,400 beginning April 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
    4. Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to establish the Township Clerk's salary at \$35,400 beginning April 1, 2023. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
  - F. **Fire Department Position:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to enter into closed session to discuss employment negotiations with the Fire Chief and Deputy Chief. All members voted yes; motion carried. The board went into closed session at 8:15 p.m. Motion by Wolbrink, support by Hooker to re-convene the regular meeting and come out of closed session at 8:37 p.m. All members voted yes; motion carried.
  - G. **Bills:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve current listed bills in the amount of \$33,505.95. All members voted yes; motion carried.

**10. Public Comment:** Nick Tolbort, who lives on 144<sup>th</sup> Ave in Moline, asked again about sidewalks or shoulders along 144<sup>th</sup>, and who pays for them.

**11.** Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to adjourn. **Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk