

Leighton Township Board

Regular Meeting

March 9, 2023

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, Bultsma
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve the minutes from February 9, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. **Agenda:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to approve the meeting agenda as presented. All members voted yes; motion carried.
6. **Reports & Correspondence:**
 - A. **County Commissioner's Report:** n/a.
 - B. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Weston reported 25 calls in February; 57 YTD. Ice rescue training occurred in February as well. Chief is working on creating a fire code for Leighton Township.
 - C. **Deputy's Report:** Deputy Kibby sent report read by Supervisor Wolbrink that there has been an increase in catalytic converter thefts in the area, mainly near 131.
 - D. **Drain Commission Report:** n/a.
 - E. **Planning Commission Report:** Hooker reported that the Planning Commission had a Site Plan Review for Anchor Capital LLC Self Storage that recommended approval to the Planning Commission, who did approve it. A formal denial resolution was adopted by the Planning Commission for the rezone of the property owned by GRI Moline. Public comment was heard regarding Galloway Landings proposal; all decisions regarding which were tabled.
 - F. **Board of Appeals Report:** Meets March 16 at 7 p.m.
 - G. **Building Inspector's Report:** 1 permit issued last month bringing the year to date total to 3, with an average cost of \$316,767.00.
 - 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:** n/a
7. **Public Comment:** Supervisor Wolbrink mentioned that a sign has been constructed for the DLWWA and a plant tour with the fire department is being scheduled.
8. **Unfinished Business:**
 - A. **Library Contract:** Rachel has received the contract back from the attorney and will be communicating with the library for them to approve before bringing it to the township board for approval.
9. **New Business:**
 - A. **Lawn Care Bids:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Bonnema to accept the bid from JJJ turf Care for lawn service at Hooker Cemetery. All members voted yes; motion carried. Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to accept the bids for both Fire Stations and the Green Lake Park from Potts Landscape Management and accept the bid for the Township Offices/Library from Green Lake Landscaping. All members voted yes; motion carried.
 - B. **Pension Resolution:** Motion by Bultsma, Support by Hooker to adopt Resolution #2023-03-09 creating Pension Class #3 for Chief Weston. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.

- C. Deputy Supervisor:** Supervisor Wolbrink expressed a desire to appoint a deputy to assist him with clerical work. Discussion was had regarding hours and budget. Supervisor Wolbrink would like his deputy to work 8 hours per week at the same salary as the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer to be paid out of his operating budget. Motion made by Hooker, support by Bonnema to appoint Kelly Wolbrink to the position of Deputy Supervisor. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: Bultsma. Motion carried.
- D. Banks:** Bultsma presented a list of banks for the Leighton Township to do business with in 2023-24. Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to approve the list of banks presented by the Treasurer. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- E. 2023/2024 Township Board Regular Meeting Schedule:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Fennema to set the regular meeting schedule for 2023-2024 as the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
- F. 2023/2024 Budgets:** Motion by Fennema, support by Hooker to approve the General Fund Budget, the Roads Budget, the Street Light Budget, the Public Safety Budget and the Capital Improvement Budget as presented. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
- G. Amend 2022-2023 Budget:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Bonnema to amend the 22-23 budget in the amount of \$43,054.00. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Bonnema, Fennema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker; Nays: None. Motion carried.
- H. Bills:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve current listed bills in the amount of \$96,249.45. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- 10. Public Comment:** Steve Shoemaker asked about a possible purchase of property to extend the cemetery. Discussion was had about the current amount of room left in the Hooker Cemetery; John Hooker reported that there were many many plots still available. Clerk Fennema presented the board with a request from the Leighton Library to potentially use part of the property on the south side of the library building as a community garden space pending grant approval. Motion by Fennema, support by Hooker to approve the use of the space requested for a community garden project. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- 11.** Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to adjourn. **Meeting adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk