

**Leighton Township Board**

**Regular Meeting**

**April 13, 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; Also present: Township Attorney Cliff Bloom
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bultsma to approve the minutes from March 9, 2023. All members voted yes; motion carried.
5. **Agenda:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Fennema 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 51 calls in March; 108 YTD.
  - C. **Deputy's Report:** n/a.
  - D. **Drain Commission Report:** n/a.
  - E. **Planning Commission Report:** Hooker reported on the Planning Commission meeting that occurred the prior evening. A special land use request was considered and approved. There was a site plan review for a new industrial building. Continued discussion and public comment on Galloway Landings; lighting was approved and a new agricultural barn was approved.
  - F. **Board of Appeals Report:** n/a.
  - G. **Building Inspector's Report:** 8 permits issued last month bringing the year-to-date total to 11, with an average cost of \$380,936.00.
  - H. **Library Report:** Faith Miedema reported on library activities.
  - I. **Green Lake Sewer Report:** Annual meeting ~~will be~~ **was** March 15, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Leighton Township Hall.
  - J. **Correspondence:** A local person came to the office and asked about the possibility of sidewalks on 12<sup>th</sup> Street to the library now that the speed limit has increased.
7. **Public Comment:** None.
8. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. **Library Contract:** Motion by Fennema, support by Bonnema to approve the Second Amendment to the Leighton Township Library Lease Agreement. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Fennema, Bonnema, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Hooker. Nays: None. Motion carried.
9. **New Business:**
  - A. **GRI Moline rezoning recommendation from Planning Commission:** The engineer and attorney for GRI Moline made presentations. Public comment was heard from audience members. Jim Gort, who resides at 1163 144<sup>th</sup> Ave, expressed concerns about the capacity capability of the local schools and water and sewer utility fees. Perry Slagter, who resides at 4238 Linda St, expressed concerns about sewer rates and stated that although the Wayland Union School system welcomes new students, an influx of a large number of students all at once would be difficult to accommodate. The board held discussion on the project. Motion by Fennema, support by Wolbrink to tentatively deny the rezoning request from GRI Moline/DJ Vanderslik to rezone the property commonly known as 4501 Division Avenue and also as Permanent Parcel No. 03-13-007-04-00 from the current AG-Agricultural zoning district designation to the R-3 and O/I zoning district designations contingent upon the Township

Planner and Township Attorney drafting a Resolution to that effect and such Resolution being adopted by the Township Board at a subsequent meeting. Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Hooker, Bultsma, Wolbrink, Fennema, Bonnema. Nays: None. Motion carried.

- B. Softball Association Meeting Update:** Clerk Fennema attended the Moline Softball Association meeting that occurred on March 27 and updated the board regarding that meeting. The ball association has a grounds person that will tend the fields this year, but not the rest of the park and school. Clerk Fennema requested bids for the lawn care from the companies Leighton Township already contracts with for our other properties. Only one bid was received. Clerk Fennema will reach out to other companies to get bids before a decision is made. Discussion was had regarding some needs/wants at the park. Discussion was tabled; the board would like to schedule a workshop with the ball association to come up with a priority list/wish list and plans.
- C. Allegan County Road Commission:** The Road Commission has reached out stating an overage of \$13,144.53 to the previously communicated cost of approved projects in Leighton Township. Motion by Bonnema, support by Hooker to approve the overage. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- D. WAEMS Subsidy:** Discussion was had regarding the substantial 35% subsidy increase from WAEMS and what the Leighton Township's options are. Motion by Wolbrink, support by Bonnema to pay the \$30,349.05 subsidy amount under protest. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- E. Marihuana Ordinance Amendment:** Motion by Wolbrink, support by Bultsma to send the amendment to the Planning Commission for consideration and a public hearing with the board's recommendation. All members voted yes; motion carried.
- F. Training on Planning Practices at Salem:** Some members of our boards and commissions attended training recently and the question was raised whether the township pays the individual for training. It was stated that we have not in the past. There was no further discussion.
- G. Spring Park Clean-Up:** Supervisor Wolbrink suggested a community park clean-up day at the old Moline School property on May 6, 2023 from 10 a.m.- noon. Clerk Fennema double checked that it did not interfere with the Moline Ball Association's activities or clean-up days.
- H. Bills:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve current listed bills in the amount of \$90,207.84. All members voted yes; motion carried.

**10. Public Comment:** Steve Shoemaker and David Young had questions regarding public vs. private EMS services and the cost and service differences for residents. Clerk Fennema asked about the parking lot paving bids. Supervisor Wolbrink had not gotten sufficient responses from companies contacted. Clerk Fennema inquired about the possible creation of an extra gravel parking area for election workers.

**11.** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to adjourn. **Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m..**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk