

**Leighton Township Board**

**Regular Meeting**

**December 14, 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: Bultsma, Bonnema, Hooker, Wolbrink, Fennema
4. **Minutes:** Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to approve the minutes from November 9, 2023 with corrections. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **Agenda:** Motion by Bonnema, support by Fennema to approve the meeting agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.
6. **Reports & Correspondence:**
  - A. **County Commissioner's Report:** n/a
  - B. **Fire Department Report:** Chief Weston reported 45 calls in November, 438 YTD. A mutual aid contract with Caledonia Fire is in the works. The Fire Department has put an EAP in place to serve the needs of employees and their families to begin January 1<sup>st</sup>. A special thank you to the organizers of the Green Lake 5K for the \$750 donation that will be used to replace uniforms.
  - C. **Deputy's Report:** n/a.
  - D. **Drain Commission Report:** n/a
  - E. **Planning Commission Report:** Trustee Hooker reported 3 topics at Planning Commission:
    - Approved facility expansion for Walinga
    - Galloway landings – tabled decision, waiting for more information
    - GVL – mining expansion –tabled.
  - F. **Board of Appeals Report:** n/a.
  - G. **Building Inspector's Report:** 4 permits issued last month bringing the year-to-date total to 47, with an average cost of \$351,166.00.
  - H. **Library Report:** Faith Miedema reported on November library events and activities. The new community garden beds are being installed.
  - I. **Green Lake Sewer Report:** Bultsma reported that Joe is working on the fence and the roof. Trustee Hooker mentioned that we should look at the doors on the maintenance building for repair or replacement.
7. **Correspondence:** Clerk Fennema mentioned the correspondence that went out to every voting household in the Township detailing the changes in election law and gave details about the 2024 elections.
8. **Public Comment:** n/a
9. **Unfinished Business:**
  - A. **Township Paving/Additional Parking meeting was June 7:** Supervisor Wolbrink has been unable to connect with Brandon. Will be seeking out other options.
  - B. **Township Generator Update:** There is a fuel delivery problem. Working with contractors to get it fixed.
  - C. **Ball Park Survey:** Will discuss budget for fencing.
  - D. **Patrol hours for Township Deputy:** Tabled. Supervisor Wolbrink has reached out and only received feedback from one of the local schools.

**10. New Business:**

- A. Board appointments:** Motion by Wolbrink, support by Bonnema to re-appoint David Gould to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Steve Shoemaker to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning Commission for a three-year appointment to expire 12/31/2026. Motion carried unanimously.
  - B. Tax Collection:** Treasurer Bultsma informed the board that she appointed the Deputy Treasurer, Annie S., to take her place to collect taxes on December 26, 2023 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
  - C. 145<sup>th</sup> St. Gate:** Discussion with residents that live near the gate about vehicles driving around the gate. Concerns that this creates a safety issue. Trustee Bonnema will reach out to GVL regarding the placement of a large rock to block the widest opening to prohibit cars from going through. If rock fails to fix the problem, the board will consider having a permanent pole placed.
  - D. Meeting Room Monitor:** The monitor in the meeting room needs replacing. Quote from Mosstele reviewed. Installation fees seem high, Clerk Fennema to investigate if that included moving monitor. Motion by Bultsma, support by Hooker to accept the quote for up to \$4838.75 and replace the monitor. Motion carried unanimously.
  - E. Treasurer Training:** Motion by Fennema, support by Hooker to approve the Treasurer attending training January 18-19, 2024 for \$500 plus food, lodging and mileage. Motion carried unanimously.
  - F. Budget Workshop:** Budget workshop has been scheduled for January 17, 2024 at 2 p.m. at the township hall. The Public Hearing will be at 6 p.m. prior to the regular board meeting on March 14, 2024.
  - G. Bills:** Motion by Hooker, support by Bonnema to approve current listed bills in the amount of \$71,532.46. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11. Public Comment:** Heard from Faith Miedema regarding speeders in Moline near the Christian School around school dismissal time.
- 12.** Motion by Hooker, support by Fennema to adjourn. **Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Fennema

Leighton Township Clerk