

**Bridgeton Township
Regular Board Meeting
Monday, April 25th, 2022**

The purpose of this meeting is to conduct Township business. Comments from the audience will be limited to times when the Supervisor opens the meeting to public comment. When public comment is allowed, please limit your responses to 3 minutes so everyone gets a chance to speak. Please refrain from speaking when the Board is conducting their business. If you find that you have comments/suggestions/ questions that need further discussion, please call the Supervisor at 231-747-0416 to set up an appointment to talk in length. Also, communication forms are available by the door that you may fill out to continue the conversation.

****NOTICE CHANGE TO AGENDA: IN ORDER TO RUN MEETINGS MORE EFFICIENTLY, CHANGES TO THE AGENDA HAVE BEEN MADE. A THREE MINUTE PUBLIC COMMENT WILL NOW BE OFFERED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE MEETING ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY TOPIC WILL STILL BE OFFERED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING. WE ASK THE PUBLIC TO PLEASE REFRAIN FROM TALKING, ASKING QUESTIONS OR RAISING YOUR HAND TO BE CALLED ON AT ALL OTHER TIMES DURING THE MEETING****

I. Routine Business

- A. Call to Order / Pledge – Supervisor Barnhard called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- B. Roll Call – Thompson present, Dore present, Barnhard present, Holmes present, Szczepaniak present. All members present
- C. Approve Agenda – Motion made by Holmes to approve the agenda as amended; additions include preapproval of election supplies, Newaygo County Sheriff Office River Patrols and Egelston Fire Department Bill seconded by Dore Motion passes 5-0
- D. Approve 2022 Budget meeting minutes – Motion made by Holmes to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Barnhard Motion passes 5-0
- E. Public Comment: Agenda items only. Please limit comments to three minutes- Supervisor Barnhard spoke on changes to public comment to this month's agenda.
Comment was brought up about a light being placed in the cemetery for the flag and making sure the Township had proper securements for the flag.

II. Action Items

- A. Consent Agenda: Treasurer's, Assessor's, ZA's reports, Planning Commission March 2022 Minutes
-Motion made to approve by Thompson, seconded by Szczepaniak Passes 5-0
- B. Clerk's report: Clerk Szczepaniak read the reports. Total bills for April: \$19,834.21
-Motion by Holmes to approve the Report, Barnhard seconds. Passes 5-0
Copies of the report are available upon request.
- C. Approve hall rental for May 14th only – Supervisor Barnhard spoke on an issue regarding an existing rental agreement that conflicts with our postponement of rentals for hall updating. Barnhard motions to approve to allow this rental only, Thompson seconds. Passes 5-0
- D. Terminate Hall Coordinator position while not renting out hall – Discussion was had regarding elimination of the Hall Coordinator position while the hall is not being rented due to future renovation plans. Motion to suspend the position made by Barnhard, seconded by Szczepaniak Motion passes 4-0-1 (Thompson abstains from vote)
- E. Planning Commission vacancy – Due to Chairperson VanBelzen resigning a position was open on the planning commission, the position was advertised to the Township. Supervisor Barnhard would recommend that Kathleen Clough is appointed to the position. Motion made by Dore, to appoint Kathleen Clough to the Planning Commission, seconded by Holmes. Motion Passes 5-0
 - a This will leave an opening in the ZBA. Letters of interest can be submitted at the Hall Tuesday & Thursday from 1pm to 3pm
- F. Solar light for cemetery flagpole – Issue has arisen with the flag raising and lowering times, a light will be needed to always leave the flag up. Purchase Motion made by Dore to allow up to \$100 to spend for a flag, light, and hardware. Seconded by Thompson. Passes 5-0

- G. Hourly workers wage: Increase from \$12.50 to \$15.00 – Due to rising costs of living, Holmes motions to raise wages for all hourly employees, Dore seconds. Passes 5-0
 - Motion to bring raise retroactively to April 1st for all employees. Motion by Holmes, seconded by Dore. Passes 5-0
- H. Deputy Clerk: Regular hours at hall – Supervisor Barnhard motions to pay Deputy Clerk for 4hrs a week at \$15/hr. for office hours work. Seconded by Dore. Passes 4-0-1 (Szczepaniak abstains)
- I. Tax Assessor’s letter of resignation and advertising for replacement- Assessor Hicks has submitted a formal letter of resignation, the position will need to be advertised to find a replacement. Barnhard motions to spend for advertisement of the opening, Thompson seconds. Passes 5-0
- J. ARPA Workshop: Schedule meeting to review plans for hall purchase of cemetery software, electronic sign, etc. (voluntary) – Supervisor Barnhard spoke on scheduling a workshop for allocation of ARPA Funds to be held on Saturday 21st of May @ 1pm. Motion made by Barnhard to set the date as written, Thompson seconds. Passes 5-0
 - This meeting will not be a regular Board meeting and only ARPA Fund spending will be discussed. No actions will be taken at this meeting, only ideas for use by Board and public.
- K. Debit card for township – Holmes spoke on issues regarding opening a Township Debit card, which include opening of a smaller value account to attach to it. This will help keep Township funds secure in the event of fraud. Barnhard motions to open the second account, with a limit of \$1,000 at a time. Holmes seconds. Passes 5-0
- L. Old cookbooks – In working to clean the hall of rummage and waste it was discovered that the Township has old cookbooks which were once sold as a fundraiser. Dore would like to purchase these books at the original cost of \$9/book. Barnhard motions to approve the sale, seconded by Thompson. Passes 4-0-1 (Dore Abstains)
- M. MRWA request for donation - \$235 per year to donate to the watershed motion made by Holmes, seconded by Thompson.
- N. Gmail accounts on website – New township website offers Gmail accounts that can be linked through the website and would allow for better transfer of files between officials after elections as positions change. Clerk Szczepaniak spoke on the options available to the board regarding when a good time to purchase this would be and how it could help with future FOIA requests relating to email transactions in the Township business. No action was taken on this topic at the time.
- O. Brooks Creek replacement: access to Maple Island Boat Launch – Road work scheduled for this summer will heavily affect the traffic flow of Maple Island and 128th as well as the boat launch at the Maple Island access. Discussion was then had over if launch workers would be hired this year, it was realized that we would still need workers for this year. Contracts will need to be signed this year again for all employees after changes are made to reflect the possibility of lower traffic flow.
 - Motion made by Holmes for; Candy Bowden, Victor Nelson, and Melissa and Jeff Avery to be hired as the launch workers for the 2022 Launch Season. Seconded by Barnhard. Passes 5-0
- P. Supervisor’s phone – Supervisor Barnhard will need a replacement line as Verizon has dropped coverage of the existing phone line the Township covers; the line will be used for Township business. Thompson motions for the replacement line at the monthly expense of \$50/month for the Supervisors phone. Holmes seconds. Passes 5-0
- Q. Newaygo County Sheriff River Patrol – The County Sheriff is again requesting our regular yearly payment of \$2,300.00. Holmes motions to pay the \$2,300 for River Patrol, Barnhard seconds. Passes 5-0

III. Information Items

- A. Bob Dore: Planning Commission overview – Dore spoke on the meeting minutes. Junk ordinance is in review with the lawyer to make changes and help enforcement. Multiple zoning applications are in for review, agricultural processing special usage.
- B. Bryan Kolk: County Commission report – Kolk absent from meeting, no more detail given.
- C. Jodi Nelson: Sexton/Parks Manager
 - 1. Packer Pride Clean-up: Thursday, April 28th from 8am to 11am the school will be bringing in a group of middle schoolers to help clean the cemetery and hall grounds.

2. Outside company to lay specialized cemetery slab for larger headstones- Discussion was had regarding usage of slabs in place of poured concrete for monuments and sizing of them to stay within the ordinance limits.

D. Clerk Postage Usage- Clerk Szczepaniak spoke on the high cost of stamps for this month. To be used for replacement voter cards from the redistricting of the Township.

E. Issues with cemetery headstone sizing brought to the board for discussion. Out of Ordinance headstones to possibly be allowed. To be reviewed for next month.

IV. Future Items for Consideration

A. Election Inspector training: Board of Commissioner's room in White Cloud Tuesday, April 26th 1-5pm.

V. Board Comments

No comments from the board

VI. Public Comment: Non-agenda items only. Please limit comments to three minutes.

Townspople spoke over the amounts given to the Muskegon Watershed Committee, requests were made for additional funds to be given.

Asking for extra road enforcements for the roads detoured from the Maple Island project.

Possible new hire for assessing position spoke on the position opening, Bridgeton resident as well as the Assessor currently for Sheridan Township.

Request was made for road work help on Filbert Ave.

VIII. Adjournment: Thompson called for adjournment @ 8:37pm. Seconded by Barnhard. Passed 5-0