



Bridgeton Township Board Monthly Meeting Minutes (Approved)

November 25, 2024

I. Routine Business

- a. Call to Order/Pledge – Supervisor Mansfield calls the meeting to order at 7:00pm, starting with the Pledge
- b. Roll Call – Board Members Present: Dore, Kossen-Priddy, Mansfield, Petropoulos, Herman-Hinton
- c. Approve Agenda – Herman-Hinton motions to approve agenda with the following changes/updates: change Consent Agenda #4 from August to November PC minutes, add #6 Petty Cash to Treasurer’s Report, Information Items under Zoning Administrator add #3 ZBA report, New Business add J. FOIA Coordinator, Add Closed session after public comment to review cell tower lease, Petropoulos seconds. Passes 5-0
- d. Approve October 2024 Meeting Minutes – Kossen-Priddy motions to approve October 2024 Meeting Minutes Herman-Hinton seconds. Passes 5-0
- e. Public Comment: Agenda Items – Joe Howes PC Chair requests to speak during the Zoning Administrators report.

II. Action Items

- a. Consent Agenda – Herman-Hinton motions to approve Consent Agenda excluding Assessor’s October 2024 report, Kossen-Priddy seconds. Passes 5-0
- b. Treasurer’s Report
 - i. Treasurer Petropoulos stated the Treasurer’s report is missing and will be emailed to the board on November 26, 2024 and will be read at the December 2024 board meeting.
 - ii. Monthly reconciliation with the clerk – September 2024 Debit Card, September 2024 Fire Fund, and September 2024 Road Fund reconciliations provided by Clerk Kossen-Priddy and reviewed by Treasurer Petropoulos
 - iii. Tax withholding receipts –
 1. 941 – Copy of payment receipt provided to the board
 2. State of Michigan – quarterly payment only, no payment required
 3. UIA – quarterly report only, no report required
 - iv. Herman-Hinton motions to approve petty cash on hand in the amount of \$250.00 and to use the current lock box on hand, Kossen-Priddy seconds. Passes 5-0
- c. Clerk
 - i. Election – Clerk Kossen-Priddy gave an overview of the November 5, 2024 election and thanked the Election Inspectors for their very long day. Clerk Kossen-Priddy also reported on how the generator was installed at the perfect time due to a power outage before the election while working on absentee ballots and a power outage on election day. With the generator the township hall was fully operational with no interruptions to the election.

- d. Cemetery and Parks Committee Report
 - i. Cemetery activity report – Clerk Kossen-Priddy reported two foundation orders
 - ii. Dead tree removal update – Tim Priddy reported it took several attempts to reach Beaver Tree Service. They gave a six week timeframe to remove the trees. Hyland Property Management is concerned that their price may increase on the quote provided for filling in the sunken graves and for the tree stump removal if delayed until spring.
 - iii. Parks/Boat Launch – Tim Priddy reported issues with the ramp at the Bridgeton launch reported by fisherman that will need to be looked at next summer. Tim Priddy spoke with fishing guides at the Bridgeton Launch that said the Bridgeton Launch is the nicest launch they have visited. Jim Schuiteman removed the stumps at the Maple Island launch that was discussed at the Maple Island Lease workshop.

III. Information Items

a. Bryan Kolk

- i. Commissioners report – Bryan Kolk gave the county report
- ii. Zoning Administrator's report – Bryan Kolk gave the Zoning Administrator's report including interest in another cell tower in the southwest corner of the township not on township owned property.
- iii. Marty Isenhardt reported on the recent Zoning Board of Appeals meeting concerning a barn for the Boyd property, copy of the report provided to the board.
- iv. Joe Howes the Planning Commission Chair spoke at the meeting as a private resident concerning the zoning of renewable energy. Joe requested that the township board join the lawsuit against the state with other communities. Herman-Hinton motions to approve Joe Howes, PC Chair, follow up on the lawsuit and report back to the board, Petropoulos seconds. Passes 5-0

b. Township Ordinance Follow-Up Complaints – Planning Commission Member Clough reported that Bryan Kolk and her followed up on the letters sent to the properties in violation of the camping ordinance. Out of 19 only 6 properties were not in compliance. One of these properties received a waiver for hunting season. Bryan Kolk will be following up with next steps.

c. Planning Commission overview – Trustee Dore stated that Joe Howes discussed what happened at the planning commission meeting. Supervisor Mansfield asked if anything else was discussed at the Planning Commission meeting, Trustee Dore said nothing else was discussed.

IV. Old Business

- a. Road projects – Supervisor Mansfield reported that the previously approved estimate from the road commission for 112th had been returned signed from the road commission, copies were provided to the board.

- i. W South River Rd – road commission updated previous estimate and divided it into two parts
 - 1. From Fitzgerald Ave going east approximately 1.5 miles - \$164,000.00
 - 2. From Stone Rd going west approximately 1.5 miles - \$164,000.00
 Herman-Hinton motions to approve quote for \$164,000.00 to overlay S River Dr from Stone Rd going west, Kossen-Priddy seconds. Roll call vote Dore – no, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes, Kossen-Priddy – yes. Passes 4-1
 - b. Maple Island lease agreement – Herman-Hinton reported on the workshop that was held.
 - i. Next workshop scheduled for December 17, 2024. Herman-Hinton will confirm the workshop date and time. Watch Facebook and the website for updates.
 - c. Survey of residents update -Petropoulos reported that the survey has been completed and will be mailed with the winter tax bills. They can be filled out online or on the paper copy.
 - d. Website update – Herman-Hinton reported on the upcoming ADA requirements for websites and that she is meeting with the new website host on November 26, 2024.
 - e. Second budget workshop scheduled for December 3, 2024 4:30pm
 - f. Update on Brooks property – Bryan Kolk recommends speaking with the attorney, possibly have him attend a board meeting in December or January. Bryan Kolk will discuss with Cliff the attorney.

V. New Business:

- a. Bookshelf bid – Herman-Hinton requested a resident build bookshelves for the hall offices. Jim Schuiteman offered to work with Tim Priddy to build the shelves. Herman-Hinton will follow up with Jim Schuiteman.
- b. Defibrillator – Herman-Hinton will do more research after resident input resident suggestion the defibrillator have a maintenance program
- c. Evaluate Wi-Fi needs for offices – Herman-Hinton reported on Wi-Fi needs for office printers and a secure Wi-Fi for township official use
- d. Microphone/Speaker System – Herman-Hinton will gather more information and report back at the December meeting
- e. Assignments
 - a. Board of Review – Herman-Hinton motions to appoint Tony Alvesteffer, Jim Schuiteman, and Tim Priddy, Mansfield seconds. Roll call Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes, Kossen-Priddy – yes. Passes 5-0
 - b. Zoning Board of Appeals – Herman-Hinton motions to appoint Tony Alvesteffer, Marty Isenhardt, and Kathleen Clough, Petropoulos seconds. Roll call Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes, Kossen-Priddy – yes. Passes 5-0. Letters of interest for the alternate position will be requested via the Township Facebook page and the Township website.
 - c. Planning Commission – Herman-Hinton motions to approve Kathleen Clough, Jim Schuiteman, Joe Howes as Chairperson, DeAnn McClintock as Secretary, and

Robert Dore as Township Board Representative, Mansfield seconds. Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos -yes, Kossen-Priddy – abstain. Passes 4-0-1. Letters of interest for the alternate position will be requested via the Township Facebook page and the Township website.

- f. Supervisor Laptop – Mansfield motions to approve purchase of a laptop for \$429, Herman-Hinton seconds. Passes 5-0
- V. Treasurer resignation – Mansfield motions to accept Jaime Holmes resignation effective November 21, 2024, Herman-Hinton seconds. Roll call vote Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Kossen-Priddy – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes. Passes 5-0
- VI. Treasurer letter of interest received from Linda Petropoulos. Herman-Hinton motions to appoint Linda Petropoulos to the treasurer position through November 20, 2026. Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton -yes, Petropoulos – abstain, Kossen-Priddy – yes. Passes 4-0-1
- VII. New Board Member Training Herman-Hinton motions to approve \$450 for Trustee Herman-Hinton, Clerk Kossen-Priddy, and Supervisor Mansfield to attend MTA Training in Muskegon on December 10, 2024, Petropoulos seconds. Passes 5-0
- VIII. Deputy Supervisor Pay Kossen-Priddy motions to approve \$100.00/month salary for a Deputy Supervisor, Herman-Hinton seconds. Passes 5-0
- IX. FOIA Coordinator – Herman-Hinton motions to advertise for a FOIA Coordinator on the Facebook page and the township website, Petropoulos seconds. Passes 5-0
- X. Board Comments – Herman-Hinton read a resident note concerning the fire millage. Discussion concerning the fire millage costs of approximately \$70,000.00/year with tax revenue at \$30,000.00 - \$35,000.00 from the current fire millage. Herman-Hinton asked if it was legal to move money from the general fund to the fire fund to pay fire contracts, Clerk Kossen-Priddy responded that yes it is legal however at a rate of \$70,000.00/year the general fund will run out of money to cover the contracts. A resident asked what would happen now, Supervisor Mansfield stated that residents would most likely be billed directly for these services. Supervisor Mansfield asked about a special election for the fire millage, Clerk Kossen-Priddy responded that this is a possibility however the township would have to pay all costs related to that election. Trustee Dore asked if we did a special election for the fire millage would we be able to add the Treasurer's position to that election, Clerk Kossen-Priddy will look into that and report back at the December meeting. Trustee Herman-Hinton read the attached statement aloud.
- XI. Public Comment: Deputy Jason Fritsma followed up on Bryan Kolk's county report and asked if anyone had any questions. Resident asked if there were any changes coming in the Sherrif's department, Deputy Fritsma was not aware of any changes. Trustee Dore asked about a bad accident on Maple Island, Deputy Fritsma did not have any information on the accident.
- XII. Kossen-Priddy motions to approve closed session to discuss privileged and confidential information from the township attorney at 8:39pm with Bryan Kolk and Planning Commission Members present, Mansfield seconds. Roll Call vote Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes, Kossen-Priddy – yes. Passes 5-0
- XIII. Mansfield motions to return to open session at 9:03pm, Dore seconds. Roll call vote Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes, Kossen-Priddy - yes. Passes 5-0

- XIV. Mansfield motions to Move to tentatively approve the lease agreement with New Cingular Wireless as presented subject to final approval of the leased area by the Township Board and authorize the Township Supervisor to take all actions consistent with this motion, Dore seconds. Roll call vote Dore – yes, Mansfield – yes, Herman-Hinton – yes, Petropoulos – yes, Kossen-Priddy – yes. Passes 5-0
- XV. Adjournment: Herman-Hinton motions to adjourn meeting at 9:05pm, Dore seconds. Passes 5-0



Ann Marie Kossen-Priddy, Clerk

12-18-24

Date Signed



Jason Mansfield, Supervisor

12-19-24

Date Signed

November's Board Meeting Addresses to the Residents

Introduce myself,

Name

Active w/Township Sept 2021, holding positions.

My preferred operating method is honest.

- Bridgeton has been my home for 65 years, I lived here when it was great, which it still is. Does it need fixes and upgrades, yes it does.
- What it also desperately needs is positive leadership and involvement of its residents.
- I'm asking the residents to understand that this is basically a new board that is just trying to do the best to move the residents and the township forward in a positive direction. Are we going to make mistakes,
Yes, we are.
Are those mistakes intentional or malicious,
No, they are not.

I'm asking that this board be treated with respect & kindness and we in turn will do the same.

- Ann Marie, Linda & I walked into the biggest mess one could imagine. It's difficult not to finger point when you become the one that must answer for the extreme negative end results.

WHAT TO DO. TAKE A BREATH, THEN FOCUS ON MOVING FORWARD.

The best way to restore order, is to do everything by the book "Follow the rules", to the best of your ability. Understanding that, the first stages of most clean ups tend to look and feel chaotic. Things tend to get worse before getting better.

The foundation of my 38 years of work experience was based on organization along with documentation. What was handed to us by the previous boards was less than 35% of either of those things.

- The amount of time and effort spent by Ann Marie, Bob and Linda up to this point is astounding. Let's not forget the time and support that their families have contributed.
- On an end note: We are not looking for praise for a job well done or even a pat on the back. What we are expecting is respect, kindness, understanding & support.

"Draw a line in the sand, and move forward".

Thank you