

# **FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**

## **May 14, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Platt, who then led the flag pledge. Present: Supervisor Bob Platt, Clerk Sue Whitehead, Treasurer Terri Moore, Trustees Mike Kelley and Dan VanValkenburg. Absent: none. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as presented. The minutes from the Sand Lake Weed Control SAD Public Hearings #1 & #2 (4/19/19) were also approved as presented. The Treasurer reported income of \$3,653.59 and expenses of \$68,042.67. One additional bill submitted for approval: Accident Fund-\$1,409 (Annual Worker's Comp.). Kelley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and all bills submitted for payment. VanValkenburg supported the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

The Board reviewed the following requests that were received at the Budget Workshop from Bruce Nickel: Add \$300/month for Building Official responsibilities, decrease the Zoning Administrator wage from \$850 to \$800/month, and requested a \$10/month phone stipend for the three inspectors who do not receive any (Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing). Moore moved to approve the Building Official fee of \$300/month and the Zoning Administrator fee was set at \$800/month retroactive to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Whitehead supported. Motion carried 5-0. After a lengthy discussion VanValkenburg moved to approve the \$10/month phone stipend for the Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing Inspectors. Moore supported. Motion carried 4-1. Kelley-no.

VanValkenburg gave a Planning Commission update. The Commission is continuing to work on a proposed Large Solar Farm Ordinance and a Sign Ordinance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Michigan Township Association asked each Township in the State to take a position as a Board as to whether elective Michigan Township Offices should be nonpartisan. Whitehead moved to adopt Resolution #19-07R that the Franklin Township Board is on record in opposition to legislation that would allow Township Board's the option to have its elected offices appear as nonpartisan on the ballot. Moore supported. Roll Call Vote: Platt-yes, Whitehead-yes, Moore-yes, Kelley-yes, VanValkenburg-yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Kelley moved to approve the annual property and liability insurance premium of \$5,473 with no options for 2019-20. Moore supported. Motion carried 5-0.

Whitehead moved to approve a bid of \$23,735.24 from K & B Asphalt (Estimate #16341) for a 1 ½ inch overlay for the Franklin Cemetery drive. VanValkenburg supported. Motion carried 5-0.

Kelley moved to approve a road bid of \$98,335.64 from the Lenawee Co. Road Commission for underseal and asphalt overlay on N. Adrian Hwy (Taylor to US 12). VanValkenburg supported. Motion carried 5-0. This is to be split with Clinton Twp.

The Board discussed and agreed to keep the tax rate at .7369 (L-4029) the same rate as last year and not increase the tax amount.

Supervisor Platt informed the Board that a park grant that Franklin was given in the 1970's was still in effect at the old tennis courts that the Township still owns. The only way to transfer the park grant status is to newly purchased property. In order to satisfy the park grant by maintaining the recreation area, Platt said estimates for (2) proposed pickleball courts have been sought. The proposal is to use 40 ft. of the existing tennis court and put a new surface on it. Platt is seeking estimates at this time.

Zoning Officer Bruce Nickel presented to the Board a Zoning Report that will be a new addition to the agenda each month which outlines zoning violations, site reviews, etc.

Township Assessor Max Griffin was present and stated the State Tax Commission will be doing a re-review in the near future. The Assessor is now holding office hours at the Township Hall each Wednesday from 1:30-4:30.

Under public comment: Rob Martin with property on S. Beebe Hwy suggested the low spot on S. Tipton Hwy needs to be built-up in order to avoid flooding. Platt said he will speak with the LCRC regarding the matter.

Supervisor Platt submitted his letter of resignation, and proposed his last day in office will be June 30, 2019. Bob noted he and his wife Sandy would like to travel more. Bob has served the Franklin Township community as an elected official for nearly 39 years. First, as a trustee for 18 years, then as Supervisor for the last 21 years. Bob said it has been a pleasure to serve with this Township Board and for Franklin Township. Whitehead moved to accept Platt's resignation letter as outlined with many regrets. Moore supported. Motion carried 5-0.

Having no further business the Supervisor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Sue Whitehead  
Franklin Township Clerk