

# **FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP**

## **May 8, 2018**

The regular meeting of the Franklin Township Board was called to order at 7:30 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 were approved as presented. The Treasurer reported income of \$3,831.02 and expenses of \$109,130.38. Kelley moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and bills submitted for payment. VanValkenburg supported the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Board discussed annual expenses for the Building Department that are shared with Cambridge Township. Whitehead moved to approve \$200 to Cambridge Township for the annual use of the laptop for field work and \$100 for the MADCAP annual subscription used for reference codes for the Building Dept. Kelley supported and motion carried 5-0.

Whitehead moved to note in the minutes that the name has been changed on the application the Board approved on January 9, 2018 for Blue Skies Brewery to Chateau Aeronautique Winery for a micro brewer license. Moore supported and motion carried 5-0. The Michigan Liquor Control Commission notified owner Lorenzo Lizarralde that two entities cannot be licensed in the same building. The Chateau Aeronautique Winery will hold the micro brewer license and will do business as Blue Skies Brewery.

The Board had previously discussed a request by Building Official Bruce Nickel to raise all of the Inspector's wages to keep them in line with Lenawee and Jackson Counties. Whitehead moved to approve the wage increase for the Building, Electrical, Mechanical and Plumbing Inspectors from \$40 to \$50 per inspection plus \$10 per inspection for mileage effective June 1<sup>st</sup>. Moore supported and motion carried 5-0.

Supervisor Platt presented additional lawnmower bids:

1. Napoleon Lawn & Leisure-\$8,099 (John Deere Z920M ZTrak)
2. Bader & Sons-\$8,272 (John Deere Z920M ZTrak)

Kelley moved to approve the bid from Napoleon Lawn & Leisure for \$8,099 and trade in the Township's JD F680 w/bagger for \$1,000. VanValkenburg supported and motion carried 5-0.

Nickel reminded the Board the deadline to clean up the former Bear's Lair property on U.S. 12 is May 15.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

VanValkenburg reviewed a proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment to permit indoor sales of items otherwise permitted to be sold as a conditional use. VanValkenburg said Region 2 advised the County Planning Commission to recommend disapproval due to the wording of the open air business. However, upon further discussion the County Planning Commission recommended approval with staff comments. Franklin Township Attorney Fred Lucas changed the wording on the proposed amendment. VanValkenburg moved to adopt Ordinance #18-1 Amendment to Section 7.03.13 of the Zoning Ordinance. Moore seconded. Roll call vote: VanValkenburg-yes, Kelley-yes, Moore-yes, Whitehead-yes, Platt-yes. Motion carried 5-0. The Supervisor declared the ordinance adopted and will become effective 30 days after publication.

Platt reported to the Board that he and Planning Commission Chairman Greg Wise visited a large 160 acre solar farm near Bowling Green, Ohio among other sites which provided insight regarding solar farm operations.

It was noted that an observation tree tower with canopy walk is being considered by Hidden Lake Gardens.

Platt said the Michigan Dept. of Treasury is proposing changes to local assessing by requiring quality standards that each assessing district must meet, on their own, in cooperation with other local units, or through the county.

Platt announced that Karle Nursery recently replaced a dead tree between the Township Hall and Franklin Cemetery with a new tree in memory of Dick Carter.

Nickel said on May 2 FEMA began the 90 day appeals process for properties designated in a flood plain. Nickel said it did not appear any property in Franklin would be included in the flood plain area.

Public comment was offered and having no further business the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Sue Whitehead  
Franklin Township Clerk