

HOWELL TOWNSHIP BOARD ELECTRONIC/ZOOM MEETING

MINUTES

3525 Byron Road
Howell, MI 48855
August 10, 2020
6:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Coddington	Supervisor
Jean Graham	Clerk
Jonathan Hohenstein	Treasurer
Matthew Counts	Trustee
Harold Melton	Trustee
Evan Rudnicki	Trustee
Jeff Smith	Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Supervisor Coddington called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. The roll was called.

Due to the meeting being a Zoom Meeting, there was no Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

August 10, 2020

MOTION by Melton, seconded by Counts, **“TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 10, 2020 AGENDA AS PRESENTED.”** Motion carried by unanimous consent.

JULY 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES:

A) REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION by Hohenstein seconded by Rudnicki, **“TO APPROVE THE JUNE 8, 2020 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous consent. (See July 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes)

CORRESPONDENCE:

No additions and there were no questions.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Michael Tipton, 552 Olde English Circle – Asked if the Board received a letter/petition from dozens of citizens. It did not show on the correspondence list. (Yes, each Board member has a copy of the letter. It will be addressed under the Supervisor’s Report.)
- Judith Minton, 552 Older English Circle - Wanted to know if there will be any testing of the waste water at the WWTP due to the high positivity of cases of COVID in a manufacturing facility within Howell Township. (Will see what the manager of the WWTP plant has to say during his report.)
- Andrew Hamm, 14 Santa Rosa Drive – Went to the last Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting and wanted a vote to remove ZBA Member Tim Boal. He was told at that meeting that type of issue needs to be taken to a Township Board Meeting. Mr. Boal has civil lawsuit against Mr. Hamm. Mr. Hamm states that he has a civil lawsuit against Mr. Boal. Mr. Hamm states he is being harassed by Mr. Boal and trying to use his position on the ZBA to harass him even further. He is requesting that Mr. Boal be removed from the ZBA. He believes that the Zoning Ordinance Enforcers are overstepping their authority. He states that they are unlawfully asking him to remove a trailer that is parked on a private road. Mr. Hamm also states Mr. Boal has threatened him to end the lawsuit. (He was told to put his concerns in writing. This issue is not on the agenda so no action will be taken at this meeting.)
- Shane Fagan, 30 Santa Rosa Drive – Agrees with Mr. Hamm who feels Mr. Boal needs to be removed from the ZBA and to take action in regards to Mr. Hamm’s issue.

- Tim Boal, 66 Santa Rosa Dr. – Stated he wanted to reply to Mr. Hamm’s statements. States his position on the ZBA has nothing to do with Mr. Hamm. He would like the ordinances be enforced as written.
- Eric Keranen, 54 Henderson Road - Would like to know where he can obtain information about the proposed development going across the street from his home. His main concern is the entrance to the development will be straight across from his driveway. (We will try and put together an informational packet. The main entrance to the development would be off Oak Grove Road.)
- Mr. Hamm, 14 Santa Rosa Drive – Stated that Mr. Boal is slandering his reputation.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. WASTER WATER TREATMENT – AERATION BASIN REPAIRS

James Soper from the WWTP, 1) addressed an earlier question about testing for COVID. He stated that he has not heard of any testing for COVID. He will look further about testing. 2) Showed a power point presentation about money being spent for the Biolac Basin System at the WWTP. It has been 15 years since the system was taken out of service and emptied for repairs. He explained how the system works. There are indicators that lead him to believe the liner is damaged and the diffuser style is obsolete. Explained what has taken place in preparation for the repairs and what will take place to finish the project. There will be no discharge into the river during the repairs. Repairs should take approximately 2 weeks. The estimated cost is \$40,277.78. Mr. Soper took questions from the Board.

B. FINANCIAL REPORT – BRENT KILPELA

Gave a synopsis on the following:

Revenue and Expenditure Report for Howell Township, period ending 06/30/2020. General Fund - All categories met or exceeded expectations except for permits due to COVID shut down. Expenditures in all departments were at or under budget. Accomplishments: Day to day operations, 3 laptops for elections, Eagleview Pictometry was purchased and implemented, 6 staff computers were purchased, safety glass was installed at the counter, PPE supplies, hired code enforcer officer and funded the HARPA membership and future park development. Road Fund – Road accomplishments include Fisher Road, Owosso Road and Henderson Road. Byron Road was repaved, that funding comes from the 2020/2021 funds. Sewer/Water has a surplus funds due to Chestnut Woods paying their connection fees. This is the new development going in on M-59. Also, Oak Grove Meadows paid the rest of their connection fees. Expenditures – Major purchases included Influent Sampler and UV Module at the WWTP, engineering on updating the Grand River Lift Station. The surplus goes towards paying the principal on the annual bond payment. Because of COVID, many of our larger water users have been shut down. Explained the Cash Flow Using Budgeted Revenue. Explained the Cash Flow Using Historical Average Revenue spreadsheet. Explained spreadsheet for the General Obligation Bonds. We still have bond payments until 2027. Of importance: land sales, connection fees and water usage.

C. HOWELL TOWNSHIP HALL MAINTENANCE

Treasurer Hohenstein reported that there has been some plumbing issues. J Mills Plumbing is the only plumbing company who would deal with hand digging that needs to be done because of a crack in the line at cost of \$4,000.00 if no other unforeseen problems occur. Other issues to resolve are installing 4 industrial toilets; 3 in the women’s bathroom and 1 in the men’s bathroom at a cost of \$2,206.60. Discussion followed on adding a cushion on the amounts to allow for unforeseen problems that could occur. **MOTION** by Graham, seconded by Melton, **“TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM J. MILLS PLUMBING FOR SEPTIC REPAIR NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000.00.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous consent. **MOTION** by Graham, seconded by Melton, **“TO ACCEPT THE BID FROM J. MILLS PLUMBING FOR INSTALLING 3 NEW TOILETS IN THE WOMEN’S BATHROOM AND 1 NEW TOILET IN THE MEN’S BATHROOM, NOT TO EXCEED \$3,000.00 TOTAL.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

There are a lot of cracks in the Township driveway. 4 bids were submitted. Discussion took place. **MOTION** by Rudnicki, seconded by Melton, **“TO ACCEPT ALAN’S ASPHALT MAINTENANCE, INC.’S BID FOR SEAL COATING, REPAIR AND REPAINTING NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500.00.”** Discussion followed. Motion carried by unanimous consent.

REPORTS:

A. SUPERVISOR:

(Supervisor Coddington reported on the following items)

- Taken several phones calls dealing with the gun range, the developments and some legal matters.
- There is a request for a petition to be on the agenda concerning the Annex Group. Will put together an informational packet and post on the website with links to other informational sites. Will put on the agenda for next meeting as informational and frequently asked questions, but not as a Public Hearing.

B. TREASURER:

(Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the following items)

- Working on getting some Township owned buildings demolished. This is a lengthy process.
- A resident has complaints about Layton Road being slimy due to the limestone that was put down in 2018. The Road Commission recommends adding 21 Natural (crushed stone). It is hard to find, but will get bids for next year.
- Some residents on Fisher Road would like the speed limit reduced on a certain portion that is right after Oak Grove Road and before the curve. The Road Commission looked into it, but the Michigan State Police said no. There will be no change to the speed limit.
- Researching about getting Broad Band Internet throughout the Township. The map from Comcast shows a fairly good coverage for the Township, but it is very costly to get it brought to your house. Will look into possible getting some grants. However, the southwest corner of the Township has the worst coverage. There is a possibility for a State Bill that with a Special Assessment to be able to bring it to that area.

C. CLERK:

(Clerk Graham reported on the following items)

- Election ~~were~~ ^{was} very busy. Many more applications are coming in for the November Election. Suggested to have an extra person come in to help with processing ballot requests the last two weeks before the election.

D. ZONING:

(See Zoning Administrator Daus’s prepared written report)

E. ASSESSING:

(See Assessor Kilpela’s prepared written report)

F. FIRE AUTHORITY:

(Supervisor Coddington reported on the following items)

- Re-elected officers. There was no change.
- Approved the replacement of the Chief’s vehicle.
- New Fire Chief starts this Friday.
- There has not been a Deputy Fire Chief appointed at this time.

G. MHOG:

(Trustee Counts reported on the following items)

- With June being a hot month there was a 64% increase in water usage from June 2019.
- Walked through the preliminary designs for the 24 inch main coming out of the plant.
- Further discussion on the Earl Lake Road Project in Oceola Township for residents who are requesting to connect to the water lines.
- Fire hydrant painting is continuing.

H. PLANNING COMMISSION:

(Trustee Counts reported on the following items)

- See Report in packet.
- Concerns about the Annex Projects.

I. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS (ZBA):

(Trustee Rudnicki reported on the following items)

- Two applicants for accessory buildings. One applicant was denied because there was no show of hardship. One applicant was granted based on hardship.

J. WWTP:

(Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the following items)

- See prepared written report in packet.
- Received an email from the manager of the Grand River Pump Station, stating they are hoping to get started within the next week.

K. HAPRA:

(Clerk Graham reported on the following items)

- Showed a picture of the planned building going up at Oceola Township.
- The pool staff has been let go. The exercise person has been let go. They are running on limited staff.
- Most of the Melon Fest will be virtual and you will need to look on line for details.
- Howell Aquatics Fitness Center will be permanently closing due to loss of revenue because of COVID 19. Contract between the schools and HAPRA has been broken.
- Howell Township Residents can still go to the Bennett Center to get their 2 free park passes per household.

L. PROPERTY COMMITTEE:

(Treasurer Hohenstein reported on the following items)

- Nothing new to report.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

- Glen Larsen, 302 Dar Chester Drive (outside Howell Township) - Believes that the building project going up near him will decrease his property value.
- Mike Tipton, 552 Olde English Circle – 1) agrees with Trustee Counts about the pool being an asset to the Township. 2) Wanted to know about the COVID expense. (There was a slowdown in building permits because of COVID and there was also an expense installing protective glass at the counter and purchase of PPE.) 3) Wanted to know about the trend of the budget surplus over the last 5 years. 4) Stated the workers did a great job conducting the August Election. There will be a higher

turnout for the November Election. 4) Stated that he would have liked the letter that was submitted and signed by many residents concerning the Annex Group Project that was submitted to the Township Board be included in the Board Packet. 5) Has concerns about the drainage issue from this project.

- Shane Fagan, 30 Santa Rosa Drive – Asked if the Township Board of Trustees have any concern about sending the Zoning Code Enforcers and putting residents at risk because they were not wearing mask. (This issue will be addressed.)
- Judith Minton, 552 Olde English Circle – Would like the Board to look at the list of people who have concerns against the Annex Group Project and the Gun Range Project. Wants more information available for the public.
- Andrew Hamm, 14 Santa Rosa Drive – Wanted to know if the Code Enforcers will be addressed about how they came to his home. (Yes, this issue will be addressed.)

DISBURSEMENTS: REGULAR AND CHECK REGISTER:

MOTION by Hohenstein, seconded by Rudnicki, **“TO APPROVE THE REGULAR DISBURSEMENTS AS OF AUGUST 5, 2020 CHECK REGISTER AS PRESENTED, ALSO ANY CUSTOMARY AND NORMAL PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH.”** Discussion followed. Motion carries by unanimous consent.

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION** by Counts, seconded by Hohenstein, **“TO ADJOURN.”** Motion carried by unanimous consent. The meeting adjourned 8:37 p.m.

As Presented: _____

Howell Township Clerk
Jean Graham

As Amended: _____

As Corrected: _____ X _____

Mike Coddington
Howell Township Supervisor

Dated: _____ 09.14.2020 _____

Debby Johnson, Recording Secretary