

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
June 9, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Chad VanSyckle, Treasurer Melissa VanSyckle, Clerk Penelope Ypma, Trustee Mike Altoft, Trustee Jake Ypma.

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle. (no power due to storms).

Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh Smallwood donated \$1,000 to the township for fire protection and \$2,000 to the Dowling Library to be used towards the children's reading program.

MINUTES: Without objection or correction, the April 12, 2020 and May 12, 2020 minutes were approved. Moved by J. Ypma, supported by M. Altoft. All ayes. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report provided. No discussion. Approved as read. Treasurer VanSyckle reported moving the money market from Fifth 3rd Bank to Mercantile Bank. Treasurer VanSyckle reported moving \$50,000 from the general fund to a 6 month CD.

CLERK'S REPORT: Clerk Ypma reported that all registered voters will receive an application to receive an absentee ballot for the August and November Election due to COVID-19. The State will reimburse the township for postage on applications that were sent, minus anyone who is already on the clerk's permanent list. Those AV applications were mailed a week ago. In preparation for the August Election, PPE supplies have been ordered. Clerk Ypma reported that these unexpected expenses were not in the planning in our 2020-21 election budget. Other concerns are coming from Election Inspectors regarding the risk in working future elections due to COVID. Clerk Ypma reported that two new election inspectors have been recruited. New hires are Dane Barnes and Elaine Alward. All election inspectors will attend a 2-year certification training this month. Clerk Ypma reported an interview with the *Banner* regarding absentee applications going to residents who have moved from the address where the applications were sent years ago. As Blue Zone Rep., Clerk Ypma reported that every Friday beginning now through June 26th, from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m., at the Dowling Library, anyone is eligible to pick-up a free bag of fresh vegetables.

APPROVE WARRANTS: Moved by, P. Ypma, supported by C. VanSyckle, to approve payment for checks #12205-12227 in the amount of \$14,681.30. No discussion. All ayes. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Amend Noise Ordinance – due to power outage, copies of a draft with decibel chart could not be printed. It was reported that the decibel chart comes from the recommendation of MTA, as well as the prosecutor and sheriff's department. The ordinance would be policed by the sheriff's department who reports having a decibel reader. Tabled until July regular board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

TRANSFER OF MARIJUANA LICENSE- Clerk Ypma reported receiving an email from a real estate agent who reported having a client who was interested in the purchase of a grow operation within the township. As reported by the grower involved who was in the audience, said the business is not for sale. It was reported by growers in the audience that current owner licenses are not transferable.

HALL RENTAL- due to COVID-19, the hall rentals were cancelled. The board discussed if we should open or keep it shut down. Clerk Ypma will contact our cleaning employee for input regarding disinfecting between rentals and report back next month.

DUST CONTROL – it was reported to Supervisor VanSyckle that some residents are not happy with the application of one pass down wide roads. Supervisor VanSyckle will contact the road commission.

MIXER ROAD APRON – Trustee Ypma reported that he received a call from a resident on Mixer Rd. who stated the apron approach is too short. Trustee Ypma spoke to Jake Welch, Barry County Road Commission, who reported the cost to expand the approach would be as follows:

50—100 feet \$10-20,000 and to the top of the hill, it would cost \$50-60,000. Supervisor VanSyckle reported that he would contact residents on Mixer Road to see if they are interested in an assessment to pay for the approach.

OUTDOOR FARMER’S MARKET: Treasurer VanSyckle reported that she would like to have a farmer’s market on the property of the township. Tabled until July regular board meeting.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT: Commissioner Heather Wing was absent.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: Sheriff Dar Lear was present and presented a report. Shawn Benner reported his provisioning center has opened. Mr. Benner reported that once his business starts producing a profit, he is willing to donate to the township. Laura Kingma, Dowling Library President thanked Josh Smallwood for the donation to the library. Ms. Kingma thanked the board for the help in getting their sump pump drained properly. Ms. Kingma reported that the library will open with limited hours due to COVID-19. Gary Storm questioned the noise ordinance in addition to questions regarding a road pan for the horses driven by the Amish in our community. Shawn Benner invited the board to tour the provisioning center after our board meeting. The board accepted the invite.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

Chad VanSyckle, Supervisor

Date

Penelope J. Ypma, Clerk

Date