

NORWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: April 12, 2021

Board members present: Don Byczek, Supervisor; Joyce Giuliani, Clerk; Kristen LaValley, Treasurer; Dave Solda, Trustee; Mike Steeno, Trustee.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Supervisor Byczek. Pledge was recited.
2. Approve/amend agenda: motion by Solda, second by Giuliani, to accept the agenda as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
3. Citizens' Time: Sue Raiche - presented the board with an original platted map of Vulcan.
4. Approve minutes of March 8th meeting: Motion by LaValley, second by Steeno, to approve minutes as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
5. Financial report: reports for March and end of fiscal year were reviewed.
6. Bills for approval: list of bills to be paid was discussed. Motion by LaValley, second by Solda, to pay bills as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
7. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Update on blight properties: there are currently 3 cases that have been referred for legal action. Our Zoning/Blight Enforcement Officer is frequently monitoring these sites and discussing problems with the owners. There are 4 more cases that will be investigated in the near future. One of these is United Abrasive in the Industrial Park. There is a high level of chromium on site. The Michigan Department of Environmental, Great Lakes, and Energy has been contacted regarding this problem. Soil samples will be obtained and sent for testing for lead, asbestos, zinc and chromium.
8. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Charter internet/cable tv franchise: Charter Communications files for a cable television franchise renewal in the township. There are 110 customers. There is an option for the township to charge a franchise fee to customers between 1% - 5% upon renewal. There is no fee currently being charged. Consensus agreement by the board was to renew the contract as it has been in the past, with no franchise fee being charged.
 - b. Solar array project update: there are problems with the mining company that previously leased the land. Project is on hold due to legal issues.
 - c. Cemetery projects up this year:
 - i. Trees - 4 big trees and 3 small trees still need to be removed. The contractor from last year does not want to finish the job. Byczek contacted Chris St. Vincent who gave him a quote of \$12,000 to remove the trees and \$2,000 for stump grinding. Motion was made by Joyce, second by Steeno, to contract with Chris St. Vincent for tree removal and stump grinding work. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
 - ii. Roads -Byczek will get quotes from Midwest Asphalt and Bacco for road repair
 - iii. Power washing of headstones - 5 blocks completed last year, will get at least 5 more blocks completed this year depending on worker availability.

- iv. Flag poles - some of the poles for the avenue of flags are bent. Byczek will contact Mike Zanoni to see what can be done with them.
 - v. Painting of the cross - Byczek will get quotes to have the cross refinished and the cement base repaired.
 - vi. Fill sunken graves - work to be done if there is enough help available.
- d. District 5 Road paving project: the county has sent 3 different proposals on the road work. The only difference between the 3 is the length of the area they will repave. The county will have the final decision on which proposal they will accept. Motion was made by Solda, second by Steeno, to accept all three bids that the county has sent so the project can be awarded as soon as the county decides what they will do. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
 - e. Assessing contract: motion was made by Giuliani, second by LaValley, to renew our assessing contract with Triple A Assessing from April 15th, 2021 thru April 15th, 2023. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
 - f. Covid 19 Stimulus funds: Norway Township will receive approximately \$140,000 of Covid 19 relief funds. There may be restrictions on what it can be used for. Half of the amount will arrive this year and the other half next year. We have until 2024 to spend it.
 - g. Spring Clean Up - the board decided to hold the annual spring clean up from Thursday, May 13th thru Sunday May 16th this year. Location will be at the same site as last year. Giuliani will contact Midwest Asphalt and Great American Disposal for dumpster rental. There will also be a small dumpster for scrap tires. The cost of any scrap tires we collect will be reimbursed through the Scrap Tire Reimbursement Grant.
 - h. Prioritize road projects for the next 3 years: we will need to let the road commission know what roads we plan on doing for the next 3 years. Board members are urged to check out the local roads and present their suggestions.
 - i. Fencing at ballpark: there have been incidences of vehicles driving in the park area at the ballpark. Byczek will talk with contractors to come up with some ideas for installing fencing or barrier posts in this area.
 - j. Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition memorandum of understanding :the Memorandum of Understanding between local business and the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition expires on 4/30/21 We have received a renewal form to remain with the group. Motion by Steeno, second by Solda, to remain a partner of the Wild Rivers Invasive Species Coalition. All ayes. Passed 5-0.
9. Citizens Time None
10. Committee reports: None
11. Board member comments: **Byczek** - 1) we have received 2 applications for summer workers so far. No one hired yet. 2) working on updating the Master Plan. It will be reviewed by the Planning Commission. 3) attended a meeting regarding a county-wide GIS mapping project. Nothing will change at our local level if it moves forward. **Giuliani** - 1) the cemetery records project is moving along well. Approximately half done at this time. 2) handouts regarding the Eurasian Milfoil Treatment at Lake Mary were passed out.

12. Facility Manager Comments: None

13. Adjournment: Being no further business, motion was made by Giuliani, second by Steeno, to adjourn. All ayes. Passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Next meeting will be May 10, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.

Joyce Giuliani