



GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

11/13/2023

7:00 PM



- 1) Call to Order by Hunt at 7:00 PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- 3) Roll Call: Present – Hunt, Gustman, Budde, Deater and Conley Absent - None
- 4) Public Comment Gary Evans asked if the Board had any action to take related to the bills signed by the house and senate related to wind and solar projects which preempt local control, and if MTA has issued advice. Hunt responded that MTA has been lobbying on behalf of Townships. Conley stated the Township may need to update its ordinance.
- 5) Agenda was approved as amended. Motion by Deater, Supported by Conley. I/F 5-0
- 6) Minutes:
 - a) From the regular board meeting of 10/9/2023 were approved as amended. Motion by Gustman, Supported by Deater. I/F 4-0 with Hunt abstaining.
 - b) From the election commission meeting of 10/9/2023 were approved as presented. Motion by Gustman, Supported by Conley. I/F 4-0 with Hunt abstaining.
- 7) Treasurer's report of 10/31/2023 was approved as presented. Motion by Conley, Supported by Deater. I/F 5-0
 - a) Fund Balance = \$427,293.15
 - b) Restricted Balance = Folkema \$10,204.10 ARPA \$126,190.90
 - c) Balance Available for Township Operations = \$290,898.15
- 8) Old Business:
 - a) Acker Lake Project Update: Hunt reported trees are in the process of being taken down and the entire project should be completed in about 1.5 weeks.
 - b) Blight Case: Hunt reported we were not awarded legal fees in a blight case we have been litigating in court; however, he stated our attorney believes there are mitigating factors that warrant re-addressing the matter and the related stipulation agreement via a new motion. Our attorney will only charge the Township filing fees (no attorney fees) to revisit the matter via a new motion.
 - c) Future Land Use/County Master Plan: Hunt is handling our response to the County's revision draft.
 - d) ARPA Commitment: Hunt is researching requirements to ensure proper compliance within stipulated due dates and required "commitment" of our projects and related contracts under the State's program.
 - e) Special Assessment District (Fire Services) update: Conley reported she has received the technical manual and has begun researching the requirements, advantages, and disadvantages of implementation, and will report back to the Board with more information next month.
 - f) Land Grant Opportunity (Walker property): Hunt will provide an update next month.
 - g) Snowplow contract: Motion by Hunt, Supported by Conley to award the contract to Rick's Trucking & Excavating. I/F 4-0. Opposed by Gustman due to concerns of violation of bid policy. Bid policy was reviewed and no violation found. Motion stands as passed.
- 9) New Business:
 - a) MTA meeting November 29th: will be hosted by us. Hunt will be coordinating preparations.
 - b) Hesperia Newsletter: no input was offered for the Winter publication.
 - c) Charter/Spectrum Video Services Contract: was received and the Board has many questions. Hunt will follow up and advise.
 - d) MPSC Video Service Questionnaire/Survey was received, and we did not participate.

New Business - Continued:

- e) V&V Assessing Optional Invoice was received for the purchase of 6- inch images for public use on the GIS web service. Discussion held related to advantages and the cost. Conley shared Marily Bowman’s (assessor) feedback in support of purchasing the images stating the benefits to facilitating proper assessment. Hunt will follow up with our assessor and advise the Board further next month.
- f) Utility Scale Wind/Solar Bills Resolution in opposition to local control preemption: this resolution was not adopted as the bills passed the house and senate already. Conley suggested the Planning Commission take up the issue, reviewing our current ordinance and determining any revision necessary to ensure we are aligned with the State regulating authority, and that our local authority not be further jeopardized. Holcomb agreed and will take this to the Planning Commission and advise the Board accordingly.
- g) CD renewals: Gustman inquired of the Township timeline for spending ARPA funds and general funds as she will be renewing related CDs. Board agreed she should consider 9 months up to 1 year investment.

10) Committee Reports:

- a. Fire Board meeting minutes were shared by Deater.
- b. Library Board meeting minutes were shared by Holcomb. Holcomb will also follow up with the library director on information they want to include in our newsletter.
- c. Planning Commission did not have a meeting.

11) Correspondence / Communication Inquiries:

- a) Hazard Mitigation/Disaster Plan (County): Hunt reported he is handling and has discussed with the County and advised the Board that we are participating in their plan.
- b) Opiate class action lawsuit settlement notice was received.
- c) Roads 184th/Wilke: complaint about poor road conditions was received from James Kibart.
- d) DTE Public Hearing will be held Wednesday – contact Gustman for details if interested.
- e) Township Newsletter: Gustman shared the Newfield Newsletter and asked for feedback related to switching up our own newsletter’s format. Positive feedback was given on the Newfield format.

12) Bills & Payroll: Motion to pay by Deater, as amended to include \$720 to Election Source for the test deck and preliminary and public accuracy testing. Supported by Gustman. I/F 5-0

13) Board discussion/comment:

- a) Sign Ordinance: Conley reported she researched ordinances against “obscene” language signs and found prohibition to be unconstitutional.
- b) Blight Ordinance: Conley recommended revising the blight ordinance to specifically address recovery of legal fees. Hunt stated the MTA local chapter, along with input from a prosecuting attorney, is working on a blight ordinance that may be favorable to townships’ position in Court, and that he prefers to wait to amend our ordinance until after the local MTA group finalizes their work. The Board agreed. Conley emphasized our Board should not lose sight of the suggested amendment for recovery of legal fees.
- c) Election of November 7, 2023: Conley reported we had 112 voters and 65 of those were by absentee ballot.

14) Meeting adjourned with a motion by Deater, Supported by Conley at 8:39 PM. I/F 5-0

