

# Watertown Charter Township

12803 S. Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge MI 48837 | (517) 626-6593

May 18, 2020 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting Minutes

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The electronic meeting was called to order at 7:00PM by Supervisor John Maahs with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor John Maahs, Clerk Deborah Adams, Treasurer Janice Thelen, Trustee Chad Cooley, Trustee Todd Hufnagel, Trustee Holly Madill, and Trustee Ron Overton.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Township Manager Jennifer Tubbs and Planning Director Andrea Polverento.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ken Mitchell, Clinton County Commissioner, made his monthly report to the Board.

Andrea Zielinski, 8460 W. Howe Road, candidate for Watertown Township Treasurer, introduced herself.

Richard Turcotte, 6980 W. Eaton Hwy, stated that he received a letter from the treasurer that was inappropriate because it contained a personal endorsement of the treasurer's daughter. Mr. Turcotte felt that it was not the first time that the treasurer had exercised questionable judgment, and wanted her to apologize, reimburse the township and be censured by the township board.

Treasurer Thelen responded to Mr. Turcotte's comments to say that the letter went out at her expense and no township funds were expended.

Mr. Turcotte also stated that the township has a great plan for walkability, but there has been little progress, and it should be a priority for the citizens.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Trustee Cooley, seconded by Treasurer Thelen, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Hufnagel, Maahs, Overton, Thelen, Cooley, Madill, Adams

No: None

Motion carried.

## **AGENDA APPROVAL:**

Item 7 was added: Treasurer's Letter

Motion by Clerk Adams, seconded by Trustee Cooley, to approve the agenda as amended.

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A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Maahs, Overton, Hufnagel, Cooley, Madill, Thelen, Adams

No: None

Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

### 1. April 20, 2020 – Regular Meeting

Motion by Trustee Madill, seconded by Trustee Hufnagel, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 20, 2020.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Hufnagel, Overton, Cooley, Thelen, Madill, Adams, Maahs

No: None

Motion carried.

## APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Supervisor Maahs noted that an additional bill list had been emailed to board members that afternoon.

Motion by Trustee Cooley, seconded by Treasurer Thelen, to approve the bill lists dated May 18, 2020, as presented.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Madill, Cooley, Hufnagel, Adams, Maahs, Thelen, Overton

No: None

Motion carried.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 1. Planning Commission Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals

Motion by Trustee Overton, seconded by Trustee Hufnagel, to concur with the recommendation of the Planning Commission and re-appoint Charles Openlander as the Planning Commission Representative to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a one-year term.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Maahs, Overton, Hufnagel, Cooley, Madill, Thelen, Adams

No: None

Motion carried.

### 2. 2019 Southern Clinton County Remaining Fund Balance

Motion by Treasurer Thelen, seconded by Trustee Cooley, to authorize the 2019 Southern Clinton County Municipal Utility Authority remaining fund balance of \$17,562 be transferred to the township sewer maintenance accounts at SCCMUA.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Madill, Hufnagel, Maahs, Adams, Overton, Cooley, Thelen

No: None

Motion carried.

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## **PUBLIC COMMENT, continued:**

Clinton County Sheriff's Deputy Matt Dedyne made his monthly report to the board.

### **3. Suspension of Non-Essential Spending**

Motion by Trustee Hufnagel, seconded by treasurer Thelen, to temporarily suspend non-essential township spending for three months and to re-evaluate the suspension at the August 17, 2020, Board meeting.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Cooley, Thelen, Adams, Overton, Maahs, Madill, Hufnagel

No: None

Motion carried.

### **4. COVID 19: Building and Grounds Presentation**

Township Manager Tubbs made a power point presentation to the Board regarding safety precautions in the township hall for staff and visitors.

No action taken.

### **6. Recycling Recommendation**

Granger Representative S. Truman discussed the township's recycling program and suggested that residents who wish to recycle be directed to Granger's Wood Street facility. Any unmanned sites are not workable at this time.

No action taken.

### **5. Township Parks Recommendation**

Motion by Trustee Overton, seconded by Trustee Hufnagel, to prepare the parks and unlock the gates at Heritage Park and Gloria Miller Looking Glass Valley Park allowing vehicles to enter the park for access to the boat launches, trails, and general walking from 8am to 8pm daily in compliance with State of Michigan Executive Orders and the Center for Disease Control guidelines.

A roll call vote was recorded as follows:

Yes: Cooley, Hufnagel, Adams, Madill, Thelen, Maahs, Overton

No: None

Motion carried.

### **7. Treasurer's Letter**

A statement will be placed on the home page of the township's website stating that the letter mailed by the treasurer to residents was a personal letter from her, was not prepared at township expense, and that the township takes no position with regard to candidates for office.

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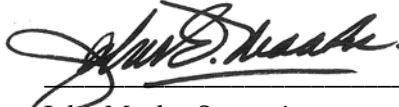
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## DISCUSSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trustee Madill pointed out that there were actions being taken in the township in connection with the non-motorized plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The electronic meeting was adjourned at 8:49PM.

Date approved: June 15, 2020

  
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John Maahs, Supervisor

  
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Deborah Adams, Clerk