

KEENE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

February 13, 2024 7:00 pm

Keene Township

Present: B Schafer, B Hulliberger, C Wojcik

Absent: T Hardy, T Lewis

The meeting started at 7:06 pm with the pledge.

Approval of last month's minutes: Brett made a motion to accept the minutes from 1-9-24 and Corey seconded. All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Public Comment: Bob commented that the Planning Commission will be meeting on 3-5 for public hearings and 3-19 and 4-17 for special meetings and 5-8 regular meeting.

Treasurers Report: Taylor was absent due to father's heart attack and she was with him at the hospital.

Clerks Report: Tami was absent due to a preplanned vacation.

Regarding the bills: After some discussion, Brett made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$13,415.23 except noting that an IRS bill was missing from the stack but was on the list. Corey seconded the motion. All in Favor, Motion Passed.

Planning Commission Report: Corey outlined what they did at the February 6 meeting and the work ahead of them.

Zoning Administrator Report: Jeanne read over her report of zoning activities done in January.

Committee Reports:

Survey: It was discussed that two of the survey committee members are now Planning Commissioners, so this makes a quorum of five of them on the committee where only three of them can be on it. That makes it a problem with the Open Meetings Act because it would be a "meeting" and it was noted that a committee cannot do work by email but must meet in person at a public location. The short survey will be presented to the Board and they will work on it.

Cemetery: There was a discussion on what information was given to Brett. Does the cemetery software have a subscription that must be periodically paid? No one knew the answer and the software has not been shown to Brett. Robert had taken Brett to the cemetery once to show markers and so forth. More information is needed.

Technology: Cori and family are ill. She had hoped to do a projection test. It is planned to get a large white board to put on the wall that could be used to draw on and project on. She is working on a grant and with the insurance company on cameras.

Street Light: The design is complete, a new pole on the east side will be put up. Transformer size will increase and work expected to begin around March after paying the \$100 cost and

signing the paperwork. The west pole will not be replaced anytime soon so we can replace the light on it. It is hoped to do both lights at the same time.

Supervisor Report: Ionia County Road Dept said they are reviewing the dual stop signage at Sayles and Whites Bridge, will replace the painted chevrons on the M-91 curves and new striping will be done on Potters when the weather is suitable for painting. He was provided with a map of the next few years of road work by the ICRD and will put that on the wall. Bob will make copies of the Spectrum/Charter franchise map on the wall after purchasing a cork board. Some funds should be transferred from ARPA to general fund to purchase the election computers and a new Township computer. Estimated cost was between \$3000 and \$5000. Brett said he would like to see new front fences in the cemeteries and paid for by this fund. Some trees need trimming. It was noted that a spread sheet or other record needs to be made for all expenditures of ARPA. Bob showed a map he was given from ITC, owner of the electric transmission lines, showing roughly that they plan to build new high electricity lines from the lines along Richmond Rd south to the Hawley substation with easements of 160 ft wide, then go farther south 15 miles through Boston, Berlin and Campbell Townships. It is to absorb the future energy from a nearby wind energy project and our future solar project. Fire Dept. update. The pay scale was brought up to be area competitive, a pumper truck will be replaced this year and another truck in 2 years. Costs are between \$550,000 and \$810,000 and we pay 16% of all costs. The fire millage was discussed and other details of planning our share of these upcoming costs. Insurance carrier has submitted a group of documents they would like the Township to follow. There was discussion on what detail to do on them and more information will be requested. A budget workshop (and short survey) date was discussed and a tentative date set for February 29 if everyone can meet then.

Public Comment at End: Bob said the audit is complete and the PILT funds resolved. There is a copy in the office. It was asked if the auditors were going to do a Board presentation like the last auditor used to do? Some were in favor of a presentation and Bob will check on finding a date. Another asked if some of these maps could be put on the website. If they are PDF's, then they can, and Jeanne will find a place for them.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Minutes taken by Jeanne Vandersloot