

On Tuesday, December 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Town Board Chair Greg Anderson called the regular monthly Town Board meeting to order. Other Supervisors present were Eugene Stoeckel, Jim Kusler, Mark Riverblood and Thomas Duden.

Approve Minutes

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Mark Riverblood to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 regular monthly meeting as printed. Motion Carried.

Approve Financial Report

A motion was made by Jim Kusler and seconded by Mark Riverblood to approve the Financial Report for November 2018 as submitted. Beginning Balance of Township funds was \$679,593.72; total receipts of \$6,888.37; total disbursements of \$17,483.70; leaving a balance of \$668,998.39. Motion Carried Unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business on the agenda.

New Business

The first item under New Business was Resolution 2018-7 Charitable Gambling for Moonshine Bar. Chairman Anderson stated that item needs to be taken off the agenda. The Livonia Fire Department called the Clerk and was no longer requesting the Resolution.

The next item on the agenda was Resolution 2018-8 Designating Polling Place for Special and Township Elections. Eugene Stoeckel motioned to accept Resolution 2018-8, Mark Riverblood seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Jim Kusler motioned to approve Resolution 2018-9 Appointing Absentee Ballot Board for Special Election and Township Election. Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Eugene Stoeckel motioned to approve the following Election Judges for the Special Election and the Township Election: Clerk of Elections / Head Election Judge: Connie Wubben, Election Judges: Jeanette Oakes, Pat Osterkamp, Linda Boettcher, Carol Carling and Kaitlin Kittock. Jim Kusler seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The next item on the agenda was to approve the 2019 Pay Schedule. Eugene Stoeckel suggested to keep both the Town Board supervisors and Chairman, and the Planning Commission Chair and members at the same rate of pay, increase the maintenance position from \$17.50 to \$19.00 per hour, Road Maintenance from \$12.00 to \$13.50 per hour, Road Grader Operator from \$20.00 to \$22.00 per hour, Snow Plow Operator-Primary from \$22.50 to \$24.00 per hour, Snow Plow Operator-Secondary from \$18.00 to \$20.00 per hour, Election Judges stay at \$12.00 per hour, and increase the Clerk/Treasurer from \$25.00 to \$26.00 per hour, with an added increase in PTO hours, from 60 to 100 hours, with medical coverage remaining the same, and Deputy Clerk stay the same at \$14.00 per hour.

Thomas Duden stated that \$26.00 is high for 30 hours a week, for the Clerk position. Eugene Stoeckel said that is why he kept the amount less than the average for Clerks who are working 40 hours per week. Mark Riverblood disagreed that was too much because it is a professional position which also holds the position of Treasurer and Head Election Official. Greg Anderson stated that hourly wage is still less than the neighboring cities and townships.

Jim Kusler motioned to accept Supervisor Stoeckel's wage suggestions. Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion. Motion Carried with Thomas Duden opposed.

Mark Riverblood motioned to approve the 2019 Fee Schedule. Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Eugene Stoeckel motioned to approve the Annual AWAIR Report. Mark Riverblood seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Jim Kusler motioned to correct Resolution 2018-5 (Denying CUP) to read 2018-6 (Cul-de-sacs Moratorium). Eugene Stoeckel seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Open Forum

Joel Minks stated he was at a County meeting today and they decided not to abandon County Ditch #1.

Supervisors Report

Mark Riverblood stated that the annual weed report was filed. He is also waiting to hear from the City of Princeton regarding the Fire trucks.

Jim Kusler gave an update regarding the Township Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. Stoeckel gave an update on the Airport Advisory Committee and the City Planning Commission.

Thomas Duden read a letter (Exhibit A) that he wrote addressing a previous letter (Exhibit B) he received from Greg Anderson. Mr. Duden asked that Mr. Anderson stop harassing him. Mr. Anderson stated that he was not harassing him, he simply sent him a letter because he felt some issues needed to be addressed. Mr. Anderson stated he felt Mr. Duden previously insulted a township employee and that the matter should be addressed. Mr. Duden played a message that Mr. Anderson left regarding the resignation of Larry Ziebarth. Mr. Anderson stated the message was the truth and asked when he sent that. Mr. Duden said the message was from June. Mr. Anderson stated that he has not contacted Mr. Duden since that date and has no contact with his family for 8 months. Mr. Anderson stated that he sent the letter because he felt like an employee issue should have been resolved privately first before insulting them in public.

Mark Riverblood stated that it is customary to address issues outside of the regular agenda when it makes sense to do so. If there is a day to day problem it should be addressed with the Clerk first and then the pertinent information can be brought to the meeting.

Mr. Anderson stated that as far as the extra monthly meetings for Supervisors, it has always been that way, and because Mr. Duden refuses to attend extra meetings, other Supervisors have to attend three instead of two. Everyone from the County to the State legislature attends extra meetings over and above their elected position.

Greg Anderson gave an update on the Fire Advisory Board.

Clerks Business

The Clerk stated that the CUP for Shipwreck reached its one year review. Eugene Stoeckel motioned to keep the annual review on and look at it again next year. Thomas Duden seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

The Clerk stated that she received an updated recycling contract and it was the same as last year. Eugene Stoeckel motioned to renew the recycling contract with the County. Jim Kusler seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Eugene Stoeckel asked the Board if they wanted to advertise the Planning Commission opening since Haley Wubben put in her resignation. Eugene Stoeckel motioned to advertise immediately for the position. Mark Riverblood seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Deputy Tony Erholtz gave an update with what is happening in the Township.

Approve Payment of the Bills

A motion was made by Mark Riverblood and seconded by Eugene Stoeckel to approve payment of the bills, Check numbers 12245-12276. Motion Carried.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Eugene Stoeckel and seconded by Mark Riverblood to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Wubben
Clerk/Treasurer

Attendees: Joel Minks, Dave Persing, John Roxbury, Jr., Richard Reiman

Exhibit A

Mr. Anderson, the actions by yourself, have caused you to overstep your powers of authority. No Other board member has contacted me in any shape or form. This is not your township. This is a board, we may not see eye to eye on certain issues, but the harassment against my family and myself needs to come to a stop. The phone calls, the mailed letters, all need to stop. I am asking this of you. Please stop with aggression words my family and myself.

Township supervisors are charged with the duty to make decisions based on behalf of the town and have the responsibility to see that the town fulfills its duties to the state and town residents.

Supervisors are responsible for choosing a chair..... The person appointed to the chair performs certain duties in addition to the usual responsibilities of a supervisor..... The chair is NOT automatically granted some superior or independent authority over the other supervisors. The chair often takes on more tasks than the other supervisors, but the assignment of additional tasks MUST NOT be mistaken for the power to control a matter. (Please reference pages 22-23 of the Manual of Town Government Minnesota Association of Townships)

If you need to contact me regarding an issue, please email it to me. I feel no need to have any verbal communication between the two of us outside of our monthly meetings. I apologize if my job and my farm come first, I guarantee the township will still be there, and the motions will be passed regardless of how I think and vote on the outcome.

Dear Mr. Duden,

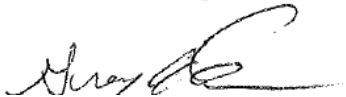
I feel it is my obligation as a fellow Town Board Supervisor to bring attention to some comments that were made by you at the last Town Board meeting.

I felt that you insulted a Township employee by asking if he planned to 'do a better job than he did the last time'. If there was a problem with the way the mowing was done, all you would have had to do was make a phone call to the Clerk or myself and the issue would have been addressed. Likewise, if a road was not getting graded, a phone call could have been made to correct the problem. We cannot correct a problem if we are not made aware that there even is one. I also checked with the grader operator and he told me that he has not been grading the roads any less than normal. He has been doing the same amount that he has over the last 26 years. The road that you live off of is done the same as any other roads in the Township. I feel that as Supervisor's we should contribute more to the monthly meetings than just the problems about the road they travel most frequently.

I'm not sure you understand how important our part-time employees are to this Township. The road workers are a very crucial part of this Township. It is very difficult to find someone good who can be trusted and is willing to work hours that are very inconsistent yet very demanding. They are also seasonal workers and if they keep getting insulted, they will not come back when the need demands.

We are supervisors for this township and need to work together as a team. And in that respect, I feel that it is unfair to your fellow Supervisors that you refuse to attend any extra special meetings. Each one of the Supervisors, with the exception of yourself, attend an extra meeting a month, and two other Supervisors attend a total of 3. I do not feel that this is fair because every other Supervisor also has a 'real job'. I have always felt that it is the responsibility of an elected official to go above and beyond for the benefit of the Township and its residents.

I am not trying to 'pick on' anyone, I simply wanted you to be aware of the issues. I take pride in this Township and would hope that anyone else serving on the Board would also take pride in it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mark Duden', written in a cursive style.