

Jonesfield Township Board Minutes

June 15, 2020

Supervisor Larry Tibbits called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag – meeting held via video conferencing as allowed by the Governor’s COVID-19 Executive Order.

PRESENT: Tibbits, Nock, Buckley, Parker, Stanley

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Jim Gray – Zoning Administrator, Jason Hannath – DTE Representative, Christopher Patterson – Attorney, Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, Alayna and Emily – Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes Representatives, Jack Doyle – Richland Township Police Chief, Ruth Coppens, Stanley Brown, Lee Glazier and Barry Playford – Jonesfield Township Residents and one unknown person logged into meeting and Peter Sinclair.

PERMITS: Electrical Permit 06-20-J, Susan Roe/Phil’s Electric

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comments – None.
- III. Additions to Agenda – None.
- IV. Approval of minutes from the May 18, 2020 Board Meeting – Trustee Nock made motion to approve. Clerk Stanley seconded. Carried.
- V. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Report – General Fund - \$91,133.83, Trash Fund - \$63,022.63, Police Fund - \$75,271.86, Water Fund - \$222,691.25 and Wind Fund - \$6,025.00.
 - b. Police Report – Richland Township Police Chief Doyle reported that the police activity has been back to normal. Reported that there was an incident where Office Shields’ bike had been damaged and will need to be replaced. Old police car is for sale – going through the procedures that the Village of Merrill use when selling used equipment.

- c. Jim Gray – Zoning and Code Enforcement – Jim reported that he has two properties that will be receiving letters regarding their tall grass. He is also still working with the other two properties that have been reported on at previous meetings.

VI. Reports from Commissions/Boards/Committees:

- a. Planning Commission – Trustee Nock reported that the Planning Commission met on May 20, 2020. They reviewed the submitted engineering proposals regarding the upcoming wind special use permit. Planning Commission member, John Siler, has retired and will be replaced with new member, Mark Gath. Planning Commission is waiting on Special Use Permit to be submitted by DTE. Discussion was held on Public Meeting being held in person or what the options are. Planning will be meeting June 23, 2020 with the Village of Merrill to complete the updates to the Master Plan.
- b. Waste Authority – None.
- c. Saga (GIS) – None.
- d. Municipal Water – None.

VII. Information Items:

- a. July 21st Board of Review – Supervisor Tibbits announced that the Board of Review will be holding meeting at 11:00 a.m. on July 21, 2020. Already have two applications submitted – one poverty application and one disabled veteran application.

VIII. Discussion Items:

- a. Zoning Board of Appeals Reappointments – Supervisor Tibbits announced that it was time to renew the appointments of the Zoning Board of Appeals members. The past members were Larry Tibbits, John Siler, and Ruth Coppens. Supervisor Tibbits made a motion to appoint the follow residents to the Board of Appeals with a three year term: Larry Tibbits, Ruth Coppens, and Richard Bluemer. Clerk Stanley made motion to accept. Seconded by Trustee Nock. Carried.
- b. Questions for Chris Patterson of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes – Attorney Chris Patterson discussed his legal options of the questions asked at the previous township meeting.
 - 1. Would the May 15, 2019 letter from DTE be legally binding?
 - 2. Questions regarding the 175 feet height limits
 - 3. Would there be a Conflict of Interest by certain members of the Planning Commission if family members had signed contracts with DTE?

4. Legal fees being covered by DTE?
 5. What is the amount of revenue received by Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes from DTE over the past three years?
 6. Would there need to be an application for each turbine planned?
- c. Roundtable for the Good of the Township – None.

IX. Action Items:

- a. ZBA Reappointment Roll Call Vote
- b. Motion to Pay Bills – Motion by Treasurer Parker to pay bills – General Fund \$8,734.16, Police Fund - \$199.75, Trash Fund - \$4,413.66 with total bills totaling \$13,347.57. Trustee Nock seconded. Carried.
- c. Extended Public Comment – Peter Sinclair asked who the legal counsel was that Trustee Buckley kept referring to. Trustee Buckley stated that it was Attorney Ellison for the Concerned Citizens of Jonesfield Township.

Lee Glazier stated that he felt that the Jonesfield Township Board and the Planning Commission have done a great job with dealing with everything that has gone into the Wind Project here in Jonesfield Township.

Stan Brown stated that he echoes the feelings of Lee Glazier.

- X. Next Regular Board Meeting: Monday, July 20, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Clerk Stanley to adjourn meeting at 8:15 p.m. Second by Trustee Nock. Carried.

Signed,

Marcia J. Stanley
Jonesfield Township Clerk