

Jonesfield Township Board Minutes

May 18, 2020

Supervisor Larry Tibbits called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 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, Richard Bluemer – Planning Commission Chair, Jason Hannath – DTE Representative, Mike Kenny – Planning Commission Member, and Rochelle Siler – Jonesfield Township Resident.

PERMITS: None.

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comments – None.
- III. Additions to Agenda – Addition to Action Items X(c) Update to Zoning Fee Schedule.
- IV. Approval of minutes from the April 20, 2020 Board Meeting – Treasurer Parker made motion to approve. Trustee Nock seconded. Carried.
- V. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Report – General Fund - \$84,395.13, Trash Fund - \$67,339.02, Police Fund - \$75,436.61, Water Fund - \$222,682.42 and Wind Fund - \$6,025.00. Treasurer Parker stated that a principal payment of \$50,000.00 would be made to the USDA on the Water Project loan per the recommendation from the auditor.
 - b. Police Report – None.
- VI. Reports from Commissions/Boards/Committees:
 - a. Planning Commission – Richard Bluemer reminded everyone that the next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
 - b. Waste Authority – Supervisor Tibbits reported that next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020.

- c. Police Board – None.
 - d. Saga (GIS) – None.
 - e. Municipal Water – None.
- VII. Jim Gray Report - Jim Gray, Zoning and Code Enforcement – Jim reported that the property on Meridian Road is being worked on and he will continue to track the progress. Clerk Stanley noted a resident complaint regarding property located just south of her property on South Merrill Road. There is concern over the condition of the home. It has been observed that there are squirrels going in and out of a hole in the roof. Jim said that he would contact George Kipfmiller – Building Inspector, not a zoning issue.
- VIII. Information Items:
- a. DTE reimbursement of expenses and establishment of Wind Fund Bank Account – Discussion was held on the starting of this new account and the purpose for the account.
 - b. State Revenue Sharing reduction due to COVID-19 – Clerk Stanley made the board aware of the information received from MTA in an email stating that based on projections from the state Department of Treasury, that sales tax revenue collections are expected to be significantly lower – up to 50% lower which will impact the June and August revenue sharing payments to the township. Clerk Stanley wanted to make board aware of the impact this could have on annual budget.
 - c. Needed board approval of Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes and engineering firm to assist Planning Commission with Wind Special Use Permit application – Discussion was held by board members regarding anticipated Special Use Permit application by DTE. Anticipated to be received by June 1st. Next Planning Commission regular meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2020. Concerns were voiced by Trustee Buckley regarding conflict of interest with Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes legal firm, due to past representation of DTE. Discussion was held regarding this. Supervisor Tibbits to contact representative from Fahey’s to discuss this and to get clarification and verification of possible conflict. Supervisor Tibbits presented board with resolution to update the Jonesfield Township Zoning Fee Schedule regarding wind turbine generator fees. Motion was made by Supervisor Tibbits to accept resolution. Second by Trustee Nock. Further discussion was held regarding resolution. Supervisor Tibbits withdrew motion. Treasurer Parker made motion to accept

resolution with the adjustment to the schedule footnote iii to read that the initial review fee shall be in the amount of \$5000 per requested turbine instead of \$2,000 per turbine. Second by Supervisor Tibbits. Carried.

IX. Discussion Items:

- a. Roundtable for the Good of the Township – Trustee Buckley asked about the drainage ditch cleanout between Steele and O’Hara. Wondered if this was a county drain project. Discussion was held.

X. Action Items:

- a. Motion to Approve legal and engineering firm to assist Planning Commission – This action item was tabled until the Planning Commission meets on May 20, 2020 and makes a recommendation to the Board. It was then decided to call a special board meeting for May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. to act on the Planning Commission’s recommendation.
- b. Motion to Pay Bills – Motion by Treasurer Parker to pay bills presented with the addition of the Viking Tax bill that was just received for \$100.00 to the General Fund bills - \$25,348.97, Police Fund - \$165.50, Trash Fund - \$4,316.69 with total bills totaling \$29,830.86. Supervisor Tibbits seconded. Carried.
- c. Trustee Buckley mentioned what was going to happen to the old police car that is now not being used. Discussion was held on posting its availability on the township website to see if there was any interest in a buyer for the vehicle. It was also mentioned that the Village of Merrill has sold vehicles in the past and that they may have insight as to how to handle this process. Trustee Buckley made a motion to inquire with the Village of Merrill as to the process of selling old municipality equipment. Second by Supervisor Tibbits. Carried.

- XI. Extended Public Comment – Richard Bluemer, Jonesfield Township Planning Commission Chair stated that the Planning Commission plans to review the three engineering proposals received and will be making a recommendation to the board. Regarding the law firm, Mr. Bluemer stated that there is no plan for the Planning Commission to make a recommendation for the law firm used. Discussion was held again regarding concerns of a conflict of interest with the current law firm being used.

XII. Next Regular Board Meeting: Monday, June 15, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Clerk Stanley to adjourn meeting at 9:09 p.m. Second by Trustee Nock.
Carried.

Signed,

Marcia J. Stanley
Jonesfield Township Clerk