

**CLARK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2021 8:00 AM**

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 8:06 AM

Roll Call: Present- Virtual meeting: Clymer, Fitzgerald, Rutledge, Schuster, Patton (by phone Cedarville)

Others Present: Lucas Day, St. Ignace News (by phone St Ignace), Illyene Pickles, Deputy Clerk.

Inquire if Public Comments are to Address Agenda Items:

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Patton made the motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Fitzgerald supported. All ayes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda:

-Approve meeting minutes from December 16, 2020.

-Invoices General: \$5,544.72 and Sewer Fund: \$2,000.00.

-Service Contracts: Islands Wildlife Association would like to use the harbor house for storage of prizes for their fishing contest. The association will be limiting access to the building for persons to view the inside exhibits. The association will be weighing the fish on the outside of the building.

Les Cheneaux Chamber of Commerce would like to use the downtown Cedarville Harbor Building and public dock/launch area for Snowsfest 2021.

-Special Events: None

-Budget Amendments:

Motion: Schuster made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Rutledge supported. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence:

-The Township received a thank you note regarding the employees at the trash and recycle center thanking them for their great service. They added how nice the Cedar Cemetery looks.

-Eleven (11) EGLE Permits/Authorizations/Requests: Jacquelyn Blackstock, Michael and Tami Brown, Janet Carrington, Brandon Cordes, Betty Dix, Gregory Kirkpatrick, Gary Koester, Thomas O'Halloran, Michael Nehra, John Stewart, and Clark Thomas.

Old Business & Updates

Clymer said the Verizon attorneys have decided the proximity of the old dump to the proposed site of the Verizon Tower might someday be a liability. The attorneys asked about an alternative location.

Clymer suggested a site near old state garage location on 40 acres the Township owns. The attorneys declined this location due to wetlands at that location. Clymer suggested a third property owned by the township located in between both properties. Clymer said that we are waiting for a survey of the

location before moving forward on this location. Clymer said that the township employees might be eligible for free Verizon cell service as part of the Verizon package.

New Business

1. Approve Board of Review appointments – Mark Engle, Jay Altmaier, Jim Eberts and Dean Bryner (alternate) make up the Board of Review members with their tenure expiring December 2022. The Township Board discussed making Dean Bryner a permanent member and having Jim Eberts, the alternate due to personal life circumstances. All members must take the basic training this year to be on the Board of Review. Clymer said laws have changed taking away some of the decisions the board can make, giving more authority to Lansing.

Motion: Rutledge made the motion to approve the Board of Review Members pending member acceptances. Fitzgerald supported. Roll Call: Yes-Schuster, Fitzgerald, Patton, Clymer, Rutledge. Motion carried.

2. Board discussions re: soil erosion policy – Several contractors have voiced their concerns to Ken Waybrant, the Building Inspector, and Susie Rutledge regarding office closures at the health department due to Covid-19 office closure policies. The office closures have made the health department behind on inspections. Rutledge and Waybrant came up with a plan to help the contractors in these rough times. The contractors will have to fill out the necessary applications and have a copy on file at the township. Waybrant is requiring the contractors to install a barrier and send the pictures to the township. This will allow the contractors to continue work until the health department can inspect the building site. Patton asked if the health department is ok with this? Rutledge said she is unaware if Waybrant has contacted the health department. Schuster said that the township should be careful, this is not our jurisdiction. Schuster said that the township should verify that the contractor has filled out the application, then proceed. Clymer said that even if the township approves a policy regarding this that it creates liability. The township does not have an agreement with the health department regarding this matter. Clymer said that either he or Waybrant will contact LMAS to see if there can be temporary tentative approvals so our contractors can keep working.

3. Sewer Advisory Board recommendations of sewer rate increase – Clymer said the Sewer Advisory Board discussed the SAW Grant that the township is in the process of applying for. The Sewer Board approved increasing the Sewer Fee to \$150 per quarter pending Clark Township Board approval. Fitzgerald said that the township will need to send out a notification letter addressing the rate increase before it takes effect. Randy Scott from c2ae said in the last Board Meeting c2ae can provide the township with a letter that can be mailed to our sewer clients.

Motion: Schuster made the motion to approve the sewer rate increase pending the notification letter. Fitzgerald supported. Roll Call: Yes-Schuster, Fitzgerald, Patton, Clymer, Rutledge. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

General Fund: \$399,653.66

Sewer Fund: \$103,633.36

Fitzgerald said the winter taxes were mailed out and are coming in.

Supervisor's Report – Reappointment of Planning Commission members; appointment of new Sewer Advisory Board member – Planning Commission members are Leroy Pieri, Steve Kozma, Brad Koster, Jim Keighley, RaeAnne Speidel, Dave Buckalew, Sarah Patton, and Dean Bryner.

Motion: Schuster made the motion to approve the Planning Commission members. Rutledge supported. Roll Call: Yes-Schuster, Fitzgerald, Patton, Clymer, Rutledge. Motion carried.

Appointment of the new Sewer Advisory Board Member Dave Nordquist. Clymer said Dave Nordquist will be added to the Sewer Advisory Board. Clymer said that Norquist previously worked for DPW in Alpena and will be an asset to the township.

Motion: Patton made the motion to approve the new Sewer Advisory member Dave Nordquist. Schuster supported. Roll Call: Yes-Schuster, Fitzgerald, Patton, Clymer, Rutledge. Motion carried.

Paul Hitchens would like to see a truck route created and enforced. Hitchens is concerned about big trucks taking a short cut on Blind Line Road. Clymer said the Township has the authority to create a truck route. Clymer recommends giving this to the road commission.

EMC, the Townships commercial insurance provider received a letter regarding the Tassier lawsuit against the township. The letter is a reservation of rights notice which compares the conditions and terms of our insurance with the claims of the Tassier complaint with the court. Clymer has a copy for review.

Clymer was part of a 911 call in regarding Covid-19 statistics. This call-in information is available every 2 weeks.

Clymer said there is a DNR grant workshop via Zoom on January 21st available for anyone who would like to join the meeting. Clymer said grant applications will be accepted for recreational grants soon. Clymer said if anyone wants a project where a grant will be applied for, he will be available to assist.

Randy Scott from c2ae said that the SAW Grant application is ready but has not been submitted because it is not opened to accept applications yet.

Clymer was informed that the grant for the parking in Hessel must be resubmitted on township letterhead not on the environmental letterhead. Clymer added that the process is almost complete.

Greg Waycamp from Edgewater Resources gave Clymer a Hessel Harbor update. Edgewater is working on a new set of drawings for the township. Rutledge asked if a decision was made on the previous set of drawings for the harbor. Clymer said yes, they received input from the community and Edgewater will draw up the final plans with their recommendations. Clymer said the township should start a priority list, so we have a plan ready to go. Clymer said that there is a 1.9 trillion relief bill there will be grant monies available. \$2.6 billion for coastal navigation grants, \$1.68 billion for harbor maintenance trust fund, \$911 million that allows construction on coastal navigation projects, \$500 million for harbor maintenance, Better Utilizing Investments Development is a program for transportation \$1 billion on a transportation program that the township might utilize for the bike path. Infrastructure for Rebuilding America is another transportation infrastructure that has \$1 billion dollars, The Port Infrastructure

Development Program has \$230 million, Port Security Program has \$100 million, Customs and Border Protection \$104 million, and National Estuary Program has \$31 million available.

Clymer said there are two grants through FEMA that he is going to investigate the first one is Assistance to the Firefighters Grant and the second grant is Firehouse Sub Public Safety Foundation Grant. Clymer said there is an organization named COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) that is run through the Justice Department that has monies available for rural community's public safety salaries which we could use for the Code Enforcement Officer Wages.

Clymer asked if the Township Board would like to reconsider the Medical Marijuana Ordinance. Clymer said the Board decided to wait to see how the Recreational Marijuana went before a decision would be made. Rutledge said since there has been no interest that the Township should not take any action.

Clymer said that Paul Hitchens would like an audit done by Clark Township on the Presidential Election. Hitchens is concerned about voter fraud and the Dominion Voting Tabulators. Clymer told Hitchens that he is gathering information including the Dominion Contract and is doing more research.

Clymer attended a meeting with FEMA and was able to talk to several FEMA representatives. The Township Board is supposed to review the maps and pass an ordinance that rubber stamps what FEMA wants to do in perpetuity with these maps. The Township needs to come up with a resolution of intent that states we will have an intergovernmental agreement with the flood plain organization. Clymer said there is a one-page application that will need to be filled out.

Committee/Commission Reports

Airport Committee- Did not meet.

Ambulance Corp- Report given.

Code Enforcement Officer- Written report given at meeting.

Fire Dept – Report Given - Incidents 38 for 2020 and 1 for 2021.

Heritage Park- Schuster said that they have agreed on an all-in-one bathroom unit that will cost approximately \$100,000. The committee is looking into fund raising ideas for the park.

Hessel Harbor Committee- Did not meet.

Planning Commission- Patton said the Planning Commission had to table a couple of items. One item is short term rentals. They are waiting for a draft of a short-term rental ordinance from the Township Attorney. The second is shipping containers used as storage containers. The Planning Commission is discussing all the options and ideas before they can present a draft for the Township Board. They are still working on a final draft of a noise ordinance to bring to the Township Board. The annual report was tabled until a final draft can be drawn up to bring to the Township Board.

Recreation Committee- Did not meet.

Sewer Advisory Board-

Public Comments:

Adjournment: 9:24 A.M.

Motion: Schuster made the motion to adjourn meeting. Rutledge supported.

Motion carried.