

November 11, 2020
Clinton Township Board of Supervisors Meeting

The regular November meeting of the Clinton Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman James Zefran on November 11, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Clinton Township municipal building garage for purposes of social distancing. Chairman James Zefran, Vice Chair Brian Non, and Supervisor Russell Curtis were in attendance. Solicitor Jeffrey Treat was also in attendance.

A. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. Hearing Check – Chair Zefran acknowledged Veterans' Day and thanked Veterans in the audience for their service.

C. Minutes of Regular Meeting October 14, 2020 – Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Russ Curtis to accept the minutes of the regular October 14, 2020 meeting. All voted yes. The motion carried.

D. Public Comment – Ray Vogt inquired about Burns Rd. and Chair Zefran said that that topic would be covered later in the meeting. Matt Curtis requested that township minutes be updated on the website.

E. Correspondence

- a. **White Oak Dam Project** – Chair Zefran read, in part, the letter from the Wayne County GIS Department regarding the project. The packet from the Larsen Design Group regarding the same was turned over to Township Engineer Weinberger. There was no time line mentioned in either communication.
- b. **Anne Cicon of 25 Martin Street phoned the office asking for off-street parking rules for Browndale during the snow season.** – Secretary Droppa was asked to relay that there were no rules or regulations regarding this.
- c. **Wayne County Emergency Management Agency invites all EMCs, elected officials, and Secretaries to the quarterly training session at 6:30 pm on November 18, 2020 at the EOC room at 43 Volunteer Drive, Honesdale.** – There was no interest on the part of the Supervisors.

F. Road Master Report – Chair Non stated that the work on Ravnkar Rd. was complete. Supervisor Curtis and Ron Poska expressed concern over the huge crown on the road, with concerns that it will cause accidents. Engineer Weinberger said that he would take a look at it. Mrs. Salak inquired about guardrails. Chair Zefran said that there had been no mention of it, and that the engineer would look at that as well. When asked, Chair Zefran said that barking dogs and chickens were not covered in the Nuisance Ordinance. Chair Zefran made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis to accept the Road Master's report. All voted yes. The motion carried.

- a. **Report on manure management plan regarding livestock in Browndale** – Chair Non reported that this did not apply to the problem of chickens in Browndale.
- b. **Cost of Josh Debevec doing ditches on Little Keen Rd.** – Vice Chair Non spoke of waiting on this and that Louie Henshaw would be giving prices. When asked by Matt Curtis, Non reported that all that was needed was three quotes, as the cost was well under bid price.

G. Open Issues

- a. **SALDO Changes** – Chair Zefran stated that Mr. Wood and the Planning Commission had worked very hard on amending the SALDO and that their prospective changes had been sent to Wayne County for their input and that there were five minor comments (all of which were referring to communications towers) which included lease lot size and long term leasing, improved definition of wind turbine, changing "property lines" to site boundary lines, the ability for engineers to review all documents including those on noise control. An updated document is on file. It was stated that the next step is to provide a final draft to the solicitor. Chair Zefran

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made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to forward the document to the solicitor and to have a public hearing half an hour before the regular December meeting. Chair Zefran asked Mr. Wood about expanding the Nuisance Ordinance regarding the on-going issues with chickens and other farm animals in small residential lots in a village setting. Wood explained that it comes down to space and that whatever you regulate, it would go across the board and affect residents in both Clinton I and Clinton II. Chair Zefran asked him to talk with the Solicitor, come to the next meeting, and give us an idea of what options are available.

- b. **NPDES/MS4 Storm Water** – Engineer Jeff Weinberger gave the report that the State DEP was fine but that the Federal EPA wants the township registered, classified and documented with maps, runoffs, etc. There is a \$5,000.00 one-time registration fee but it is not required at this time.
- c. **Burns Road** – It was noted that it was too late in the year to pave and repair Burns Rd. and it was suggested that it was tabled for spring and re-bid. Solicitor Treat suggested extending an extra time to Leeward in consideration of them holding the bid price. Chair Zefran made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis to have Leeward hold to the bid price in the spring of 2021. Vice Chair Non would not vote yes without the stipulation that if the Burns Rd repairs did get put off, he wanted this project to be “the first one out of the gate”. All voted yes. The motion carried. It was noted that \$42,000 was held in escrow by Ken Coles and he has written a check with which he has now signed it over to Linde. Solicitor Treat stated that if it’s not going to be done this year, it was his recommendation to have it made out to the township, cautioning that a contractor could go bankrupt between now and then and that the township would suffer the loss. Ken Coles, former Supervisor of Clinton Township said that Flagge Construction had hired KC Enterprises, not the Township, and that he would gladly sign over the check if his interests were protected and that money held and segregated was to be used solely for Burns Road. Chair Zefran made a motion to have replacement check made out to Clinton Township to be held in a separate account for repairs to Burns Road only, and that Solicitor Treat would prepare the papers. All voted yes. The motion carried.

H. New Business

- a. **Budget 2021 Work Session** – Chair Zefran said that there was a work session for the 2021 Budget and that copies were available. He noted that he had gone through actual numbers and the budget was based on those numbers. He recommended that we use a CPA one more time, to do the 2020 audit. Simultaneously, the Township Auditors should be used to check on the books, equipment, etc. A copy of the proposed budget is on file. Tom Baileys asked for clarification on SEO (Sewage Enforcement Officer) expenses. It was explained that SEO fees were paid by his inspection fees, a small percentage of which goes to the township. Mr. Urmanec inquired about the \$10,000 for Browndale Fire Company to which Solicitor Treat reminded him that the Township is responsible to provide fire protection to township citizens. The budget will be posted on the website. Chair Zefran reiterated that Clinton Township citizens that live on state roads receive little benefit from their tax money but fire protection and that the donation is not an additional tax. Engineer Weinberger noted that the projected Liquid Fuels monies was \$12,000 less than 2020. Tom Baileys asked if there had been any consideration given to a “rainy day fund.” Chair Zefran said they could consider a percentage of any amount over the \$200,000 in road work. Supervisor Curtis said that, in view of the fact that \$25,000 to \$30,000 was spent per year in grading, he would like to see the Township purchase a grader. Chair Zefran to him to get the numbers involving costs and operating costs and bring them to the next meeting. Chair Zefran said that he would get the exact numbers to Secretary Droppa and that she was to advertise the proposed budget and to post it at the township and on the website and that the budget would be pasted at the next meeting. Tax Collector Marianne Thorpe stated that when she started collecting taxes in 2004, she received payment

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of \$1,800 and is currently earning \$2,400.00. She requested a raise, stating that all other tax collectors in the area earned 5% -6% of tax revenue. A written letter of her request is on file. Chair Zefran made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non, that Clinton Township will pay the tax collector 5.5% of taxes collected. The motion was clarified and amended to included taxes collected in the general account and in all of the lesser accounts. All voted yes. The motion carried.

- b. **Clinton Township Liquid Fuels 2019 Account was successfully audited** – noted
- c. **Snow trails to pay for protective coverings over driveway openings**
- d. **Having Solicitor to look into Windmill income** – Chair Zefran asked Solicitor Treat to look into the time frame of the windmills paying the township, and how long that will last.

- I. **Treasurer's Report Including Bills for Payment** – Secretary / Treasurer Droppa presented the bills list to be paid stating that there was one additional bill from the grant writer, Linda Zefran for administrative fees of \$6,000.00 for the Browndale Sidewalk grant project. It was explained by Chair Zefran that 2% of the grant awarded amount of the LSA grant was an allowable fee to the grant writer. This fee is reimbursable from the LSA grant, thus costing the township nothing. He noted further that the \$6,000.00 would be donated to "Rails for trails". If the \$6,000 is not used in this way, it goes back to LSA. Vice Chair Non made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Curtis to make a \$6,000.00 check out to Linda Zefan. All voted yes. The motion carried. Engineer Weinberger requested that the Township pay for a two-day online class, put out by American Stormwater, at the cost of \$600.00. He, himself, would donate his time to take the class. Chair Zefran made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to have the Township pay for the class and give a thank you for the donation of time. All voted yes. The motion carried. Regarding last month's bill from E. R. Linde for the amount of \$675.00, Secretary Treasurer reported that Linde had supplied an itemized bill. Ken Coles spoke up from the audience and said that Linde was supposed to waive that fee because their job was deplorable and Vice Chair Non agreed. Chair Zefran said that the work in question (dated July of 2019) occurred before his time with the township and was outside of his knowledge. It was agreed that Road Master Non would get in touch with E. R. Linde.

J. Browndale Fire Department –

- K. **Old Business** – Chair Zefran reported that the Browndale Sidewalk was expected to be completed next week and that snow trails will provide matting to protect winter sidewalks. Mr. Baileys publicly extended a thank you to Linda and James Zefran for their work to provide walkway that gives safety to the many who use it.
- L. **Public Comment** – Matt Curtis asked if the GlidePath monies and reimbursements for the legal and engineer fees had been obtained. He was told that the money was paid to the township in total. Don Salak inquired about the sign for no tractor trailers up toward Long Pond. It was explained that local deliveries are exempt from the stated fine. Ken Coles expressed concern that rules and regulations are falling by the wayside and that a lot of property owners disregard permit officer Dolph and he asked for the Supervisors to consider a need for a constable.
- M. **Adjournment** – Chair Zefran made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair Non to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. All voted yes. The motion carried.