



Meeting Minutes

Montcalm Township Board Meeting

December 11th, 2024

7:00 PM

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum Determination: All Present Blomstrom; Hyde; Hansen; Foley; Cousineau

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Foley to approve the agenda with additions; Second by Cousineau; Motion Carries.

Approval of Minutes from November 13, 2024: Motion to approve Minutes from November 13, 2024 raised by Hyde; Second by Hansen; Motion Carries

Supervisor Comments: Blomstrom- Again, most of the month was spent researching and conversating with our lawyers, PC Chair, and others regarding Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinances (CREOs), Battery Storage Facilities, 7.24, and 7.25 of the zoning ordinances. I worked with PC Chair Palmer to prepare for the meeting last night. Still looking into the fire insurance withholding program with the State of Michigan. Had a discussion with two residents and the Greenville Transit about services in the Township. Maple Valley Township's Clerk sent me information regarding a code enforcement officer and on agenda later. Met with Consumers Energy contractors reference the work on Vining Road between Colby Road and Pakes Road (burying transmission lines) given 1 mile increments; nothing to do with wind or solar; talking PC/ZBA appointment discussion with our attorneys later; Road commission meeting next Wednesday where we go over proposed 2025 road projects; MTA meeting it was announced \$100k match; reviewed what can be used for.

Treasurer's Report: All accounts are balance. Motion by Foley to approve; Second by Hansen; Motion Carries.

Payment of Bills & Allocation of Budgetary Resources: Motion by Hansen to approve payment of bills; Second by Hyde; Motion Carries.

Clerk: Foley- Busy month catching up after election; Election drop box looking at the corner of the township will bring forward boxes approved at next meeting; Website and IT update in the packet is a quote for the install of the previous request of purchasing equipment to upgrade out security; this is the install; Jay who helped with the last IT gave a quote to install; Blomstrom made a motion to allocate out of the Clerk budget for \$800 under budget bucket #215-726 for internet set-up; Clerk requested to use Blomstrom's budget bucket since Foley purchased the equipment; Blomstrom made an amendment to the motion to use Supervisors budget bucket# 171-726; Hyde Seconded; Motion Carries; starting to audit employee files to ensure those files are accurate; Clif and I spoke about Fire and PC and ZBA; January we start budget talks; budget to actual provided and nothing is over; discussed the road overage and grant deal how it was handled at the Road Commission.

Trustee Report: Hansen attended the MTA meeting and Road Commission put on a good presentation; Cousineau has nothing to report.

Planning Commission: Richard Palmer: Yesterday the PC held special meeting and public hearing on proposed amendments to 4 different areas of the Montcalm Township Zoning Ordinance all of which is being transmitted to the Board; all present beside Cousineau; proposed amendment to 3 of the 4 areas are technical corrections or additions to the zoning ordinance that were incorrect or missing; approved unanimous at June and August meetings; reviewed the changes in detail line items found in the proposals on record; and discussed the CREO put together by the twp attorney and discussed the state statute; discussed the regulations with the CREO; the resolution passed to the board for its consideration and adoption.

Zoning Board of Appeals: John Johansen Chair: Next ZBA meeting will be Wednesday December 18 2024 at 7 pm; will be an organization meeting for 2025.

Library: Meets tonight. Meeting tonight; meeting mins are hung out on the board in the entry way.

Cemeteries: 10 foundations put in before the ground freezes; a lot of admin work to finds some of the plots; caught up stones; 3 sales; approach different and scheduling cemetery appointments; no more same sales;

cemetery calendar to schedule to allow some research before the appointment; Ali finished Little Denmark map and working on Monroe.

Zoning Administrator: Mike Nelson; 7 permits; 1 new house; 2 modulars; 1 remodel; 3 out buildings; sign permit; and a 1 land splits; checking on Blight issues, some worked on some haven't.

Fire Department: Clif Dickinson: Month of November 2 runs; 1 Authorized controlled burn/ burn permit, 1 dispatched cancelled in route; Nov training is Mutual aid and auto aid responses; for neighboring town capabilities; what trucks for what calls; Decembers training 1st 10 mins / 360 size up and Communication; Firemans banquet in Feb 15 at 6pm the board is invited; dry hydrants have the paper work back for West; not received from East side; contractor wait until spring; get both hydrants to get the cost for plumbing.

Building & Grounds: Clif Dickinson: Door to be repaired Jerry McCoy for the library box; put plow stakes up; put the plow on the truck; winterized pump on the on the plow truck; cleaned up debris in the yard; called for the trailer removal and potential scheduled; and called for the porta-potty pick up.

County Commissioner: Adam Petersen; 1 meeting in December next Monday; wage study meeting tomorrow a committee for wages; Clerks wage 10k increase; Sherrif \$11k; could be \$200k in wage increases; at 2 pm in the board room; commission on aging director hired; board will create another committee for policies to stop sporadic hiring and firing; opioid task force updates and money received; 3 mill over 18 years and where that money goes; surplus money is approved for road projects; if Care network can find a building earmarked 1.5 mil; radios for law enforcement; Blomstrom asked about the 200k; Foley commented on changes to elections and how it upped the responsibilities and as for a township we couldn't of handled the 9 days early voting;

Public Comment and Questions for Committee Reports: Please state your name, road you live on, and limit comments and questions to three minutes.

Adam Petersen: Blomstrom asked about the 200k; Foley commented on changes to elections and how it upped the responsibilities and as for a township we couldn't of handled the 9 days early voting; Syed Aldridge asked about the Sherrif milage balance and how short are officers; approved in 2020 a few missing officers and how is the pay scale and Petersen confirmed close to neighboring.

Board: Mike Nelson check with Consumers coming down Vining rd and asked who repairs; Blomstrom will check.

Public Comment for Old Business: Please state your name, road you live on, and limit comments to three minutes. Public Comment will only be entertained for old business topics (listed below).

No comments

Old Business:

Consideration to appoint a Township resident to the Board of Review: 2 year appointment; Blomstrom made a motion to appoint Scott Karnatz to a 2 year appoint to the Board of Reviews ending 12/31/2026; Foley seconded; Roll Call Vote: Cousineau- YES: Foley- YES: Hyde- YES: Hansen-YES: Blomstrom-YES; Motion Carries Consideration to post for appointment a member at large to the Greater Greenville Transportation Committee group: Ongoing; group itself doesn't cover Montcalm Twp, ours is out of Cadillac; usually has someone attend anyway because of traffic can be impacted.

Public Comment for New Business: Please state your name, road you live on, and limit comments to three minutes. Public Comment will only be entertained for new business topics (listed below).

Amanda Allen: Month ago car broke and talked to transit person and joked about picking her up; many residents would use the service; ask to consider working with transit.

Pam Hemmes: Knows several people that would use transit and don't have cars; and passed services that used to offer and would be a good thing for our township.

Consideration to adopt Ordinance 2024-12, encompassing changes to 7.24, 7.25, and various language to the Montcalm Township Zoning Ordinance: Planning commission document resolution in front of you along with summary from last nights meeting and the final version in front of you; 2024-12; no changes from board meeting last night; Foley made a motion to adopt Resolution 2024-12 encompassing changes to 7.24, 7.25, and various language to the Montcalm Township Zoning Ordinance; Hyde Seconded; Blomstrom detailed all changes; Roll Call Vote: Cousineau- YES: Foley- YES: Hyde- YES: Hansen-NO: Blomstrom-YES; 4-1 Motion Carries Clerk asked for the verbiage that needs to be published in the Daily new to be sure we don't have to republish; Palmer and Blomstrom will work on that; paper charges per word and need a skinned down version of what is required.

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Discussion on Township Board participation on PC and ZBA boards if employed as a firefighter: Blomstrom reports that it came up on a MTA discussion board and question came up if Fire Fighters could be on the Planning Commission or the ZBA; and another responded that's not possible and put out a forum type piece from MTA that stated no; contacted Twp Attorney if anything changed since then without reading verbatim the response; 1 Twp required to have a liaison on the ZBA; answer may not required but no it can't be a Fire Fighter; 2 Twp required to have a liaison for the Planning Commission and depends on when the PC was recognized on file after September 1st 2008; found mins prior; if we don't have ordinance in hand then to be safe to put a liaison on; only 7 know townships and we weren't one of them we have 2011; but the individual can not be in the capacity of an employee of the township; 3, can that person be a fire fighter full or part time volunteer serve on the PC or ZBA and the answer is no; they cannot serve on either board neither can the supervisor based on responsibilities of appointments; Hansen asked if it any W2 employee asking about election inspectors; will follow up but don't think so because of appointment for a service; Askes about Lentz or Baird; Blomstrom made clarifications on employee and elected officials;

Hansen made his resignation to the ZBA effected immediately; Foley made a motion to accept the resignation of Ed Hansen to the ZBA; Hyde Seconded; 4-0-1 with Hansen Abstaining; Motion Carries.

Cousineau made his resignation to the Planning Commission effected immediately; Foley made a motion to accept the resignation to Brian Cousineau from the Planning Commission; Hyde Seconded; Motion Carries 5-0

Consideration to appoint new members:

Blomstrom made a motion to Appoint Christine Foley to the Planning Commission; Hansen Seconded; Christine asks to keep the Secretary and Recording Secretary so the tasks of mins are not absorbed;

Roll Call Vote: Cousineau- YES: Foley- YES: Hyde- YES: Hansen-YES: Blomstrom-YES; Motion Carries

Blomstrom made a motion to appoint Marie Kutzli to the ZBA for a term ending 12/31/2027; Foley Seconded;

Roll Call Vote: Cousineau- YES: Foley- YES: Hyde- YES: Hansen-YES: Blomstrom-YES; Motion Carries

Discussion on approaching Greenville Transit regarding services into Montcalm Township: Reach out to the Director of Transit and what needed to be done for requirements; would have to happen with City manager; may be able to implement a 12 month pilot program; get calls everyday; how many rider and cost; asked for permission to contact city if its feasible; Hyde made a motion to allow the Supervisor to contact the City of Greenville in reference to Transit Services; Cousineau Seconded; Motion Carries.

Review of job description for Code Enforcement Officer for Maple Valley Township and opportunity to partner with them: In packet is a job description for a code enforcement officer from Maple Valley; they budget \$13,500 for \$25 an hour/ 45 hours a month; have to look at for further discussion; 11 for them/ 5 for us; work with Mike; potential cost of \$6k, may knock out a few more properties will put under old business for next month; Hyde asks what Mike gets paid and look at it in the next budget; had that money budgeted before and moved to Foster Swift.

Public Comment: Please state your name, road you live on, and limit comments to three minutes. Public Comment will only be entertained for new business topics (listed below).

Syed Aldridge: Do a lot of walking Berridge road and Spencer are paved and really cracking; all for saving our roads; would be cheaper to get fixed now.

Richard Palmer: As the Chair of the PC he appreciated Cousineau on the PC and has helpful in a number of ways with some of his expertise; appreciates the appointment of Christine because outside the PC she is the person he deals with the most on PC matters; and her to be present will be helpful; we have both recording and secretary and will have that covered and Thank you.

John Johansen: Following Dick would like to also thank Ed Hansen for his time on the ZBA; always good to have people with good common sense; requested an alternate appointment.

Board Comments: Blomstrom brought up about the MTA about concerns from wind and solar and as of today a new house bill further restricting local control; slippery slope from wind and solar and more bills coming through; looking at housing ordinances; may be lame duck but will keep an eye; budget prep next month and see what projects we can put forth; won't have ARPA money this year but see what is in store.

Hansen asked about a Fire Grant and if we have a Grant writer.

Foley made a motion to adjourn; Hyde supported; Motion carries.