



Meeting Minutes

Montcalm Township Board Meeting

November 13th, 2024

7:00 PM

Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

Quorum Determination; Present Blomstrom; Hyde; Hansen; Foley. Cousineau not present.

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

Approval of Minutes: from October 9, 2024, Approval of Minutes from October 30, 2024, Approval of Election Committee Minutes from October 10, 2024

Motion to approve Meeting Minutes for Oct 9, 2024, October 30, 2024 and October 10, 2024 by Hansen; Second by Hyde; Motion Carries

Supervisor Comments: Blomstrom- 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. Had a few zoning complaints that were turned over to Mike Nelson, also turned over a list of five properties to the Sheriff's Office for enforcement. Noice issue over by Brookside Golf course was handled. Currently looking into the fire insurance withholding program with the State of Michigan. Requested Montcalm County approach with Eureka Township about the compactor program talked about in the past. Received email from Consumers for the Overhead distribution program and the twp has been selected, putting lines with issues underground.

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

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

Clerk: Foley- November 2024 Election Update WOW; 2037 voted; 399 early 622 AV ballots; same day processed 1638 total ballots on election day; massive turnout; reviewed numbers from 2020 and 2022 elections; great job to all the inspectors, line started just before polls opened, processed fast and no longer than a 10-15 min wait all day; 25 people in the clerks office on election day, Election Drop Box – corner of Township Hall; we have to be compliant by Jan 1st 2026; discussion on where it would go and discussion on the corner where the sun bounces off the window and melting the siding; asked if that corner to be feasible; looking into what we have to do for bids ect for cameras etc; Website update – gotten a few clerks to respond but asked for me to approach after the election; looking at Eureka, Sidney and Maple Valley are a few that just updated; and looking into the .gov; attended a Paid Sick Time Act webinar, it will affect Fire Fighters, Mike Nelson; including deputies not for appointed or elected officials; every 30 hours worked required 1 hour sick time; and discussed how to apply to Fire fighters; will start tracking hours; goes into effect Feb 21 2025; min wage goes up to \$12.48 in 2025; and the range for following years; may need to look ahead depending on when the pay resolution is reviewed; busy month and want to apologize to anyone with Cemetery questions; I will be scheduling to get caught up.

Trustee Report: Hansen has nothing to report.

Planning Commission: Richard Palmer: Karon Baird presented; both Richard and Karon attended the MTA webinar for Renewable Energy for PA233 2023; what actions the Twps can take; First meeting was Oct 21 and lawyer didn't show up so we had to reschedule to Oct 29 and all members present; Chair person provided information along with attorney; questions were answered for the public and board; vote of 5-0 to recommend to create a CREO plus and join the Foster Swift litigation appeals; another special meeting was held last night to review the CREO plus; PC voted unanimous and asked the lawyers to draft 2 other paragraphs; 1 for wind and 1 for solar; to schedule a public meeting at a later time with agenda.

Zoning Board of Appeals: John Johansen Chair: Next meeting Dec 18 2024 at 7 pm. Clerk asked about the MTA meeting and will get with Rose.

Library: Meets tonight. Reached out to Doug and Pam; wish they could attend but meetings are at the same time; mins are hung in the entrance; reviewed new amenities the library offers; planning for new items coming.

Cemeteries: Not too busy with cemeteries in light of elections; 2 foundations; struggling a bit with markers and showing up without notification; so always behind and reacting; in the coming month have 5 people for burial spots and looking for family.

Zoning Administrator: Mike Nelson; 5 permits; 3 out buildings; 1 remodel; 1 garage addition; 1 short term rental inspected and a couple land splits; working on Blight issues; multi travel trailers on a lot;

Fire Department: Clif Dickinson: 8 runs; 1 alarm activation no fire; 2 downed powerlines; 1 traffic control; 1 grass fire; 1 structure fire; 1 dispatched cancelled in route; Oct training Drivers training with cone course and address hunt; Nov training is Mutual aide and auto aide responses; for neighboring town capabilities; Halloween went really well; a lot of hot dogs 300+; line the whole time; Jack Hansen has his time in and moves from probation to Full; QR code for fuel being implemented; dry hydrants at Perch and requested the piping costs and fittings; Johansen beach side asked to talk to residents and asked if the public access is ok to use; paperwork submitted; guy set up to do the trenching; maintenance grounds; hung up new signs, light fixture in parking lot out and called to have repaired; have the LED just waiting for the fixture; picked up paint to repaint the doors and frames; contacted plumber for the urinal. Check received for the LED project and Check was just received. Trailers behind station contacted and would like to give back to Carson City hospital.

County Commissioner: Adam Petersen; elections set record numbers; last night approved 4 requests for spending down fund balance; 2 mill to road commission for match program up to \$100k; police force for radio communications to be encrypted about \$300k; Montcalm County Care network looking for a center in Greenville for 1.5 mill; CAC given 2 mill to put into a fund and spending the interest for future funding for twps.; 60K a year; Ambulance house getting an addition; report how the \$\$ is spent; veterans dept approved through grant funding for Meijer gift cards; wage study presented and discussed; proposed to be a standard vs average.

Committee and Individual Reports Public Comments or Questions:

Helen Kenedy for Adam: Asks for more information on the Commission on Aging? **Adam** talked about the job and is posted; looking to hire a new director and not much more to share; don't think the previous firing was proper but needs to back the controller.

Syed Aldridge for Adam: About all the money given to the county police was to hire new officers vs the 14% raise? Adam tries to keep tabs; milage was sold for putting officers on the road and now being used for raises; 9 have been hired; do we have money in that fund: yes and no it's a shell game; not creating a surplus; operations are being funded out of milage.

Blomstrom for Adam about the \$100k for roads: Is it capped at \$100k and maybe variable depending on other twp's participation. Given date for annual road meeting so will have more updates later.

Mike Johnson Beach: Have information for Clif.

Public Comment for Old Business:

No comments

Old Business:

Notification made to the Michigan Geological Survey to bore a sample of Township-owned land for research/mapping purposes – waiting on official date for sampling; 10 samples in Montcalm county and will notify for date.

Consideration to appoint nominee to ZBA Position (Johansen's position): Received 1 request and 10/10/2024 from John Johansen; Blomstrom made a motion to appoint John Johansen to a 3 year position on the ZBA for term; Hansen Seconded; amended Blomstrom made a motion to appoint John Johansen to a 3 year position on the ZBA for term expiring on 12/31/2027: Seconded by Hansen;

Roll Call: Foley-Yes; Hyde-Yes; Hansen-Yes; Blomstrom-Yes; Motion passes 4-0

Consideration to move forward with updating cyber/internet upgrades (email addresses, internet security):

In board packet is the equipment portion of what we need to secure our internet working with Jay and IT guy that helps out a lot of the townships; WIFI needs the upgrade and firewall; includes the battery back up that is over 7 years old; server cabinet with gateway network with cameras; potentially the recycling center etc; router and dual band to have public access and township business separate; asked Jay for a quote; total \$719.96; and



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routers for both hall and fire; trying to review why the 2 quantity but confirmed for Fire; Blomstrom made a motion to allocate \$800 to the clerk for purchasing upgrades to the internet equipment for the township hall using line item 215-726; Hyde Seconded the motion; Hyde asked if we asked for labor and knows Jay charges \$85 per hour; Motion carries.

Public Comment for New Business:

No Comments

New Business:

Consideration to appoint a Township Board Member to the Planning Commission: Brian Cousineau has expressed interest in continuing; Blomstrom made a motion to appoint Brian Cousineau as the township board member on the Planning commission term ending Nov 8 2028; Seconded by Foley;

Roll Call: Foley-Yes; Hyde-Yes; Hansen-Yes; Blomstrom-Yes; Motion passes 4-0

Consideration to appoint a Township Board Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals : Blomstrom made a motion to appoint Ed Hansen as the township board member on the Planning commission term ending Nov 8 2028; Hyde Seconded;

Roll Call: Foley-Yes; Hyde-Yes; Hansen-Yes; Blomstrom-Yes; Motion passes 4-0

Consideration to post for appointment a member at large to the Greater Greenville Transportation Committee group: Group meets every 3 months and discuss issues of transportation up and down M91 M57 corridor etc; others from townships go; asks to post to our website as a volunteer position; Hyde made a motion to post for appointment a member at large to the Greater Greenville Transportation Committee group; Foley Seconded; Motion Carries.

Posting of Board of Review position (2025-2026): 2 year appointment; Scott Karnatz has done in the past; Blomstrom made a motion to Board of Review position for 2025 and 2026 and alternate if we have 2 candidates; Hyde seconded. Motion Carries.

Consideration to hire four firefighters onto the Fire Department: Clif: a couple months ago lost 4 firefighter and had applications; set up interviews; had a conversation with them then file in the cabinet; hiring process is with the department because they will be the ones working with each other; then set up the interview; had 9 people; want to replace the 4 we lost; 4 rose to the top; 3 of them are here tonight; once they go through the hiring committee Clif then takes those to the Fire Board; they get a chance to ask question and then make recommendations to the board; Jerry McCoy is the Chairman of the Fire Board;

Jerry McCoy: Based on the information we received from Clif and interviews held we would like to recommend to the board to hire Brandon Cooper; Cameron Scott, Zach Ensing and William Rogers.

Clif; have the references and the other paperwork requested; application process; packet given each individual; including background check; introduced the available members; ready to train and to be fitted with PPE; Clerk asked 3 trained one need to send to training? Confirmed; Brandon Cooper needs to be sent to the academy; probation firefighter; physicals not completed and not completed until physical; Occupational health completes exam; Hansen sat on interviews and all interviewed well; Hyde made a motion to hire the 4 firefighters Brandon Cooper, William Rogers, Zach Ensing and XXX pending the outcome of the physical; Hansen seconded; Motion Carries.

Consideration to add Alia Ingersoll to the Township bank accounts: Since the election its official; I need a backing for my deputy clerk to be added to the bank accounts if I am not available to sign; Hyde made a motion to add Alia Ingersoll to the township bank accounts; Foley seconded; Motion carries.

Swearing in of Township Board Members: Blomstrom swore in Clerk Christine Foley; Foley swore in Brian Blomstrom, Rose Hyde and Ed Hansen.

Public Comment:

Jerry McCoy: Came in during the election to ensure my new wife was able to vote and had delightful experience with the Clerk.

John Johansen: Talk briefly about Monroe Cemetery and in the past had a lot of problems; when the fence was put up; traditionally the gates have been locked; recently the locks have been destroyed; found a lock and chain the night before last; raising attention that some illegal maybe drug exchange happening there.

Syd Aldridge: Thanks the board for the improvements made in the last few years.

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