

WALTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

September 12, 2023

Present: Supervisor Bob Starkweather, Treasurer Jeanine Nowak, Clerk Erin Cummings, Trustee Tom Harmon, Trustee Richard Heisler, Dave Soblesky Jeff and Karri Wills, John and Michelle Collins, Patti Ostrowski, Dianne Barmes, Rick and Barb Platzer, Charlie Sharp, Tami Briskie, Mike Gray, Jeff Mayne, Douglas and Lori Norton, Michael Mattox, Eric Libersher, Duston Twichell, Dave Moody, Jacob Wildenhaus, Melissa Leckie and Matt Kuschel (Legal Counsel)

Absent:

Supervisor Starkweather called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Heisler moved to approve the September agenda. Seconded by Trustee Harmon MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Cummings presented the payables in written form, Trustee Heisler moved to transfer \$24,000.00, seconded by Trustee Harmon. MOTION CARRIED

Treasurer Nowak presented the Treasurer's report in written form. Trustee Heisler moved to accept the Treasurer's report as written and seconded by Trustee Harmon. MOTION CARRIED.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Conditional Use Site Plan Review for CU 10-23-6 Walton Township- Matt Kuschel (Legal Counsel) explained the reasoning behind the relocation of the transfer station including liability concerns.

Resident Comments:

- Duston Twichell asked if there is litigation? Counsel responded, not that he is aware of. Duston also asked if an environmental company has been contacted? He has been made aware, that this is already a super fund site. Duston also clarified that he has no issues with a new township hall.
- Melissa Leckie asked what would the liability be since there is a small percentage of residents that use the transfer station? Counsel responded that history could be used for possible liability defense if needed.
- Michelle Collins-made the statement that this all sounds like a proactive move to protect the township. Counsel responded, yes, it is.

Counsel clarified that neighbors move in and out all the time, that can potentially decrease and increase property values. He added that property decrease is hard to prove. He feels that the township is doing their duty by applying for the conditional use permit and being proactive. He also stated that if this is a super fund site, he would advise the township to move off the site right away.

Supervisor Starkweather expressed to the residents that we are listening and we do appreciate their comments.

Received email from Mike Maddox concerning CU 10-23-6, provided email to the board.

Received email from Laura Johnson concerning CU 10-23-6, provided email to the board.

NEW BUSINESS:

Code of Conduct Policy for Township Board Meetings- Treasurer Nowak moved to approve the Code of Conduct Policy, seconded by Trustee Heisler. MOTION CARRIED

Purchasing Policy Draft- Trustee Heisler moved to approve purchasing policy, seconded by Trustee Harmon. MOTION CARRIED.

Ambulance Service Agreement-A draft ambulance Agreement was shared with the board, the Board asked Matt Kuschel to review and get back with us.

Decker Agency insurance coverage changes-Supervisor Starkweather provided the board with the changes for the renewal beginning October 1. There was an increase of \$262.00 to our premium.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Reports:

- Clerk- Clerk Cummings received approval from Health Department to allow minimal use of house for election inspectors, F65 Report agreement with Auditor was submitted, and BSA Software Update.
- Rural Fire- Tomorrow night September 14th there is a rural fire meeting that is open to the public at Eaton Township at 7pm.
- Supervisor-
- Sheriff-61 events
- Olivet Fire Chief-10 total calls for Walton in August.
- County Commissioner-
Road Commissioner Update- Bridge decking for Harris Rd was ordered August 11th, a contractor has been hired for the repair to the Butterfield Culvert due to settling, a repair date has not been set.
- Assessing- Patti provided the L-4029 Tax Rate for Clerk Cummings and Supervisor Starkweather to sign. Clerk Cummings will email to the required entities.

Public Comment:

- Residents voiced concerns about 6966 S Stine Rd.
 - Melissa Lickey-asked if a summary could be available for residents to review prior to meeting. She added that everyone needs to be polite and respectful not just the public.
 - Duston Twinchell-asked if packets could be made available online 1-2 days prior to the meeting for review. He also would like to see 2 public comment times. He also stated that we should be careful of the first amendment- we should not shut people out.
 - Charles Sharp-Opposed to the transfer station, he does not want the value of his home to decrease and he will hire an attorney if that happens.
 - Dianne Barmes-Voiced concerns that residents have questions, would like to see a separate meeting just about the property and changes, a question-and-answer session. Would just like a better understanding when tax dollars are being used.
 - Michelle Collins-In support of the transfer station relocation, has saved them a lot of money. Stop finger pointing and attacking.
 - Mike Maddox-Opposed to the transfer station.
 - Jacob Wildenhaus-Opposed, does not want to see the same thing happen, need to go through the proper steps to keep that from happening.
 - Barb Platzer- Opposed, I am downhill from the area, concerned with the environment and home values.

- Rick Platzer-opposed and echos his wife.
 - Mike Grey-Opposed
 - Eric Libersher stated that in Dickinson County they are also in the trash business and the residents do not have a choice. They are trying to eliminate roadside trash.
- Other Public Comments
 - Douglas Norton-asked if we are aware of a Solar Farm near Griffin/Hydon and Ainger Roads. The Board stated we have no information pertaining to that. Clerk Cummings stated that she will reach out to Brandy Miller and get back to him.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:13 p.m. Trustee Heisler moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Harmon MOTION CARRIED