

WALTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MINUTES

June 13, 2023

Present: Supervisor Bob Starkweather, Treasurer Jeanine Nowak, Clerk Erin Cummings, Trustee Tom Harmon, Trustee Richard Heisler, Jeff Wills, John and Michelle Collins, John Ostrowski, Jim Mott, Dave Moody, Dave Soblesky, Diane Barmes, Mike Maddox, Kathy Gardner, Rick and Barb Platzer, Charlie Sharp, and Melissa Leckie

Absent:

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

Trustee Heisler moved to approve the June agenda. Seconded by Treasurer Nowak MOTION CARRIED.

Clerk Cummings presented the payables in written form, Treasurer Nowak moved to recommend \$17,500 be transferred, to accept the payables/transfer and seconded by Clerk Cummings.
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:

NEW BUSINESS:

- Fireman's Fest Expense- Clerk Cummings moved to approve \$2,000.00 expense for new extrication tools. Seconded by Trustee Heisler MOTION CARRIED.
- Assessment for Dillon Drain-Supervisor Starkweather presented the board with the Assessment Rolls for the drain along with the Townships portion being \$304,000. We can pay a lump sum or pay over 20 years with additional interest cost of \$177,503.71. This agenda item was tabled until the July meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Eaton Monument- Eaton Monument-Columbarium- The board agreed to table this agenda item until after a decision has been made for the Dillon Drain. Trustee Heisler moved to approve; Seconded by Trustee Harmon MOTION CARRIED.

Reports:

- Clerk- Attended the Clerk meeting at Carmel Township on Tuesday May 23rd. The presidential primary may be moved from March to February. Bureau of Election's is working with USPS for sub-permits for prepaid postage. All our election envelopes will have to be reordered next year to reflect this change. Election trainings will be held earlier than expected due to the change in the presidential primary. The County Clerk is working to create one neutral site for the nine days of early voting, this would help with costs by splitting between multiple municipalities. Carmel Township has offered their building for this. I will keep everyone informed as new information is provided. Training has been scheduled with BS&A in November and December. Working on the Conditional Use Permit for the new property. Another panel at the cemetery was damaged.
- Rural Fire- Upcoming meeting June 21st at Walton Township 6pm.
- Supervisor- Supervisor Starkweather was contacted by a couple of residents urging the township to provide additional funding for the library. Tree Monkey will be removing the trees at the cemetery on June 24th. They also provided a bid to Supervisor Starkweather to clean up the brush, cut 1 tree near the house on the new property for \$1950.00. Trustee Heisler will contact Roy Cole to get a

price on the walnut trees. Supervisor Starkweather will get 3 bids for additional cleanup on the new property. At this point the Board agreed that cleaning up and getting the process moving with the conditional use permit to move the transfer station is all that is planned. Board of Review date will be July 18th at 6pm. Supervisor Starkweather presented the board with proposed Subsidy for Eaton Area EMS.

- Sheriff-72 events
- Olivet Fire Chief-10 total calls for Walton in May. Chief Collins presented the Board with a letter concerning the annual fundraiser for the Fire Dept. John also added that the City has agreed to a study for the station.
- County Commissioner- Explained a grant program for private groups etc. for parks.
- Road Commissioner Update-Clerk Cummings briefed the board on a conversation with Matt Hannahs, concerning Baker Rd. If Board members get calls from residents, please direct them to contact Matt directly.
- Assessing-

Public Comment:

- Residents voiced concerns as well as asking questions about the recently acquired property at 6966 S Stine Rd.
 - Kathy Gardner-concerned with transfer station relocation, decrease property values, smells, traffic noise, rodents etc.
 - Mike Maddox asked what the capacity of the dumpsters are at the current transfer station.
 - Diane Barmes asked the Board if we investigated the impact this would have on the neighboring properties, why the need to purchase this property, why relocate the transfer station, why is it necessary for a park and a new township hall, how will traffic be controlled along with concerns of lowered property values.
 - Rick Platzer concerned with the runoff from a transfer station.
 - Barb Platzer voiced that she does not want this near her property as it will affect the wildlife in the area as well as water condemnation, traffic etc.
 - Melissa Leckie-voiced her concern about traffic and the cost to purchase the property.
 - Unknown-asked what money was used to purchase the property-The treasurer explained it was the Covid Relief Money that was received.
- **The Board made the following comments concerning this property:**
 - The current Transfer Station property is a Brownfield Site. It is an old dump that has batteries and other contaminants that would cost the Township a fortune to cleanup. It is owned by the City of Olivet.
 - We did have Republic for our waste services, it is now serviced by Granger. We have not experienced delays in getting dumpsters dumped.
 - The area is clean and well-kept by our Transfer Station Employee.
 - Jeanine clarified the comment "It is a dump, stop calling it a transfer station" It is called a transfer station because the garbage, is transferred off site.
 - We reached out to Michigan Township Association (MTA) Attorneys concerning the purchase of the property and what is required. The Township Board was not

required to have any special meetings to acquire the property. However, the township held two special meetings to discuss. The Township Board wanted to remain transparent.

- The land/property has only been owned for one month. Besides relocating the transfer station, no specific plans have been made for future use. First, we have a lot of clean-up to do.
- The Clerk explained that the house maybe used for absentee election processing as we have grown out of our current township hall. It also would give additional space for our election works to take a break. Changes in State requirements for elections are causing difficulties for us.
- The treasurer explained the money used to purchase the property was Covid Relief Money.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:53 p.m. Trustee Heisler moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Harmon MOTION CARRIED