

**REGULAR MEETING
LENOX TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1. CALL TO ORDER: | 6:30 PM |
| MEMBERS PRESENT: | Reeder, Kandell, Honold, Clifford, Gurley |
| ATTORNEY PRESENT: | Addis |
| RESIDENTS AND GUESTS PRESENT: | 8 |
- 2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- 3. APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA**

Motion: Kandell Support: Gurley

Motion to approve the Meeting Agenda as amended, adding Inspector Compensation for Code Enforcement and Safety Inspections to 10. New Business, item i. All Ayes. Motion passes.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Clifford Support: Honold

Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Board of Trustees Meeting of August 7, 2023 as written. All Ayes. Motion passes.

5. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Michelle Gurley announced that the Lenox New Haven Community Dinner has been scheduled for Friday, November 17, 2023 from 6:00 PM until 8:00 PM in the New Haven High School Cafeteria. The public is invited to dine in; carry out dinners will be available as well. There is no cost for this dinner, however attendees are asked to bring a nonperishable food item to stock the New Haven Food Pantry.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

L. Rosseel spoke on the status of the Solar System Ordinance update.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

All items listed under this Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Board and will be enacted by one motion. According to established Township meeting rules, there will be no separate discussion of these items, unless a member of the Board or public so requests at or prior to the meeting, in which event the chair of the meeting may remove such item(s) from the Consent Agenda for discussion and consideration under Agenda Item No. 8, below. Approval of the Consent Agenda shall be by a majority roll call vote of those present and voting. Under the Consent Agenda are items, b. EMS Report, c. DPW Report, d. Code Enforcement Report, e. Assessing Department Report, f. Engineer Report, g. Planner Report, h. Library Report, i. Senior Center Report, j. Supervisor's Report, k. Treasurer's Report, l. Orders and Bills, m. Trustees Report, n. Clerk's Report.

Clerk Kandell explained that for the month of August there were \$2,346.55 in bills that were paid during the month, totaling \$692,246.72 that should be approved at this meeting.

Motion: Honold Support: Kandell

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the Orders and Bills in the amount of \$692,246.72.

Roll Call Vote: Honold- Aye, Kandell- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Clifford- Aye. Motion passes.

8. ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items removed from the Consent Agenda for this meeting.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business to conduct at this meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. FIRE DEPARTMENT LIFE SAFETY ROPE PURCHASE REQUEST

Public Safety Director Jeff White explained that Sergeant Scott Yaek and the Fire Department have collected quotes to replace some of the life safety ropes, which have a limited shelf life of 10 years. Yaek recommended that the ropes be purchased through Heiman Fire Equipment, as they are available in several colors, making it easier while working an incident scene. This purchase has been included in this year's budget.

Motion: Kandell Support: Clifford

Motion to approve the purchase of 12 lengths of 300' of life safety rope, available in four different colors from Heiman Fire Equipment at the cost of \$7,353.00.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Clifford- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Honold- Aye. Motion passes.

b. 2024 SMART CONTRACT AND RESOLUTION

Public Safety Director Jeff White detailed a proposal for the annual SMART Community and Municipal Credit Contracts. \$5,631. in Municipal Credits from the State of Michigan and \$15,393. in Community Credits that comes from SMART, basically out of millages paid for by the residents, a portion which are returned to the community for the operation of the Small Bus Service. Richmond Lenox EMS provided 453 rides in 2021 in Lenox Township, 624 rides in 2022, and are on schedule to reach 900 for this year. Ridership has ballooned in most communities as we come out of the pandemic.

White shared that transit system insurance has increased from \$21,839 last year to \$69,011 this year. He explained that the underwriter has concluded that community transit operations can be costly when there are accidents, a bit higher risk. Five different companies were contacted and the company that they currently have still had the best price.

Clerk Kandell read the proposed Resolution aloud.

Motion: Kandell Support: Honold

Motion to approve Lenox Township Resolution 2023-7 authorizing the use of 2024 SMART Municipal and Community Credits.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Honold- Aye, Clifford- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Gurley- Aye. Motion passes.

Motion: Kandell Support: Honold

Motion to approve the Municipal Credit and Community Credit Contract for 2024, as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Honold- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Clifford- Aye. Motion passes.

White introduced Bonnie McNerney, Macomb County Community Ombudsperson for SMART. She has taken over the position after the retirement of Fred Barbret.

McNerney reported that she is available to help in any way she can, the Board could contact her whenever a need arises.

c. PUBLIC WATERMAIN CONNECTION CHARGE REVISION

DPW Superintendent Cameron Trombly announced that he was contacted by PAMAR, who does all the water installation work, as well as watermain repair, reporting that the current fee schedule needs to be updated. PAMAR provided Trombly with a new cost schedule to provide these services, which vary because of the size of length and size requested.

Motion: Kandell Support: Clifford

Motion to approve the costs as listed in the correspondence from the Township Engineer Sermed Saif, for the public water main connection charges.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Clifford- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Honold- Aye, Reeder- Aye. Motion passes.

d. GRANT WRITER AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

Deputy Supervisor Mark Grabow stated that the Supervisor's Office is requesting the services of Cary Thompson to assist the Township in applying for a grant up to two million dollars for the Community Senior Sheriff Building. If the Township were awarded this grant, it would provide an enhanced facility and have an improved shelter in case of severe weather, added to the shelter that is currently in the Township Office Building. The requested amount of \$2,500 would cover the services of a grant writer to assist the Township in applying for a grant that would cover the entire renovation of the building for a community center, the Senior project, and moving the Sheriff's Department. This would also allow the Township to add extra items needed for extra emergency coverage services, including generators and support power. This is a state grant with a limited selection of items that Lenox Township fits into that category.

Motion: Kandell Support: Gurley

Motion to approve the grant writer request in the amount of \$2,500.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Honold- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Clifford- Aye. Motion passes.

e. COMMUNITY CENTER BID AWARD APPROVAL

Deputy Supervisor Mark Grabow announced that two bids were received for the Community Center Sheriff Department Building renovations. The request for bids went out August 1, 2023 on the Township Website and the State Contractors Website, with bids due on August 24, 2023. Four companies submitted bids, with two of those following all requirements. Bid opening was held on August 29, 2023 with the Township Treasurer and the Deputy Supervisor going through each submittal for required details. Each company was required to participate in a walk through and submit any questions or clarifications to the Architect. Both companies have done work in Lenox Township in the past and have done reputable work.

1. Mullica Group \$765,152.00
2. Signature Builders \$565,250.00 (\$515,250.00 plus a \$50,000 contingent fund)

Trustee Clifford stated that the large difference in the bids looked as though something was missed in the lower bid. The Township could be looking at change orders during the renovation process, should the lower bid be awarded. He feels a pre-award meeting should be held to ensure that both companies understand the scope of the project.

Grabow remarked that in his experience, that big of a difference happens because one company did not pay attention to the requirements.

Motion: Honold Support: Kandell

Motion to approve the low bid from Signature Building Company to repair and rebuild the Community Center at the cost of \$565,250.00.

Roll Call Vote: Honold- Aye, Kandell- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Clifford- Nay. Motion passes.

f. RECREATION DEPARTMENT TRUNK AND TREAT EVENT PROPOSAL

Supervisor Reeder explained that the owner of Pops Sweets an Treats and Pops Sweets on the Streets Food Truck has proposed to host a Trunk and Treat Event in the Park, which would include a Trunk and Treat, a costume contest, decorated vehicle awards, and a child friendly scary movie. The event would begin at 4:00 PM and the movie would begin at 7:00 PM.

Clerk Kandell stated that there has been some talk of waiving the administrative fee, that should be discussed at this time. A Fire Department inspection is mandatory, that fee would have to be paid.

Reeder suggested it may be a good idea, as the Township is going into partnership with the owner of the business for this event, and it may

bring positive publicity.

Motion: Kandell Support: Honold

Motion to approve the proposal for the Trunk or Treat Event by Pops Sweets an Treats, waiving the Administration Fee required in the Food Truck Ordinance.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Honold- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Clifford- Aye, Gurley- Aye. Motion passes.

g. 250 YEAR INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

Deputy Supervisor Mark Grabow explained that the Supervisor's Office met with the New Haven Village President as well as a representative from the Anchor Bay Chamber of Commerce, to discuss the creation of a joint America 250 Michigan between Lenox Township and the Village of New Haven to coordinate and organize a celebration for the nation's 250th Independence Day.

Clerk Kandell read the Resolution aloud.

Kandell remarked that New Haven Schools, just one of the four school districts in Lenox Township, was included in the composition of the committee.

Supervisor Reeder explained that the partnership of the committee would be with the Village of New Haven; it makes sense to have one central school district involved. Over half of the Township population resides within New Haven School District.

Kandell stated that this idea is a worthwhile cause, however, she feels the composition of the committee is incorrect and the three other school districts should be invited to participate.

Trustee Clifford inquired if the Anchor Bay Chamber of Commerce had any problem with the makeup of the proposed committee.

Reeder reported that the Anchor Bay Chamber of Commerce jumped onboard for this endeavor.

Grabow reported that he would be willing to reach out to the three other school districts and invite them to be a part of this committee.

Motion: Kandell Support: Honold

Motion to approve the Committee and the Resolution, leaving the proposed committee members open, so invitations can be sent to see if they would like to participate.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Honold- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Clifford- Aye. Motion passes.

h. NOVEMBER BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING START TIME MODIFICATION REQUEST

Clerk Kandell explained that November 6, 2023 is the regularly scheduled Board Meeting, November 7, 2023 the Anchor Bay School District has requested an election. She has proposed that the time of the Board Meeting be moved to 4:00 PM, in order to have enough time to properly prepare for the election the next day.

Motion: Kandell Support: Gurley

Motion to authorize the start time for the November Board of Trustees Meeting be changed to 4:00 PM.

Roll Call Vote: Kandell- Aye, Gurley- Aye, Honold- Aye, Reeder- Aye, Clifford- Aye. Motion passes.

i. INSPECTOR COMPENSATION DISCUSSION

Clerk Kandell reported that the Building Department Inspectors have had to spend extra time with Code Enforcement issues recently that are outside the scope of what their contracts entail. The contracts presently do not cover any Code Enforcement or Public Safety type inspections that may be necessary. The contracts need to be reviewed and changes must be made to include compensation for special inspections, paperwork and follow up time that is needed to complete tasks outside of the Building Department scope.

Trustee Clifford inquired if the Macomb County Sheriff Department has been utilized in recent Code Enforcement cases.

Kandell explained that the Sheriff Department has been working with the Township on certain Code Enforcement issues recently.

Clifford commented that this payment would never be reimbursed as there would not be any permits pulled.

Kandell explained that the Electrical Inspector expressed concern that he has put in many hours that have not been paid. She did not think

it was fair that that he was not being compensated for the time that he worked. She asked him to compile the extra time that was spent, so it could be taken to the Board for review. He has submitted an invoice totaling \$1,120.

Clifford asked if damages were ever sought in Code Enforcement issues.

Attorney Addis detailed that if the judge awarded damages in court, the Township might be able to collect, however, not every case ends up in litigation.

Motion: Reeder Support: Honold

Motion to authorize payment for the Electrical Inspector and request the Township Attorney to draft revised contract language for the next Board Meeting.

Roll Call Vote: Reeder- Aye, Honold- Aye, Clifford- Aye, Kandell- Aye, Gurley- Aye. Motion passes.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Labinski inquired about the date of the Trunk and Treat Event.

Supervisor Reeder stated that the event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 21, 2023.

12. CALL FROM THE BOARD

There were no additional comments or information given at this time.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Honold Support: Gurley

Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:28 PM. All Ayes. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

LuAnne Kandell, Clerk

Carol A. Swantek, Recording Secretary