

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 15, 2022

Supervisor Milkey called the regular meeting of the Township of Manchester to order at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Ron Milkey, Clerk Danell Proctor, Treasurer Kim Thompson, Trustee John Seefeld, Trustee Lisa Moutinho, Trustee Mike Fusilier, Trustee Krista Jarvis, Recording Secretary Brenda Bancroft.

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief Bill Scully, Firefighter Bailey Elliott, Representatives from AES (Frank Krawczel, Katie Haarsager), Attorneys Chris Patterson & Nancy Dembinski, Jim Samonek, Carol Samonek, Michael Tindall, Patty Hansen, Joe Jarvis, Pam Wiseman, Todd Wiseman, Corey Rippey, Jeremy Rippey, Pat Vaillencourt, Steve Hartwig, Sherree Hartwig, Joe Walsh, Laura Gervick, Bill Gervick, Richard McNutt, Wayne Appleyard, Jim Mann, Mike Brown, Brendan Miller, Sybil Kolon, Sherry Green-Parkinson, Marilyn Fusilier, Travis Fusilier, Kathy Fusilier, John Friedman, Lee Andre, Shannon Brown, Erin Bowen, Liz Caron, Glen Bardick.

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS TO AGENDA:

Reverse Items A & B under old business.

Motion Fusilier, second Moutinho, to approve the agenda as amended. Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF VARIOUS MINUTES:

Board received the minutes of the Manchester Township Regular Board Meeting of 10/11/2022.

Minutes to be amended to show that the board entered the closed session at approximately 7:45 PM, and left the closed session at approximately 8:40 PM. Correction that council should be spelled counsel when referring to the attorneys. Under broadband committee, it should say that the committee was intentionally sunset, instead of disbanded.

Moved by Proctor, second Seefeld, to approve the minutes from the Manchester Township Regular Board Meeting of 10/11/2022 as amended. Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

Board accepted minutes from the Manchester Township Planning Commission – 11/03/2022 meeting.

OTHER MINUTES ON FILE: Manchester Village Council from 10/03/22 & 10/17/22.

TREASURER'S REPORT: \$1,800,396.43

Motion Fusilier, second Proctor to accept Treasurer's report. Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

PRESENTATION OF BILLS: Bills to be paid for \$31,393.60 from the General Fund.

Motion Seefeld, second Milkey, to approve payment of bills from General Fund for \$31,393.60 Ayes: Seefeld, Thompson, Moutinho, Milkey, Proctor, Fusilier, Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Marilyn Fusilier, John Friedman, Jeremy Rippey, Lee Andre, Katie Haarsager, Pat Vaillancourt, Laura Gervick, Brendan Miller, Kathy Fusilier, Shannon Brown, Erin Bowen, Travis Fusilier, Mike Brown, Frank Krawczel, Liz Caron, Corey Rippey, Sherree Hartwig, Wayne Appleyard, Steve Hartwig, Glen Bardick, Pam Wiseman.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

a) Fire Department Activity Report: 62 Calls for Service in October, Monthly Meetings & Trainings were held.

b) Fire Chief's Report: Chief Scully informed the board that he will be sending three firefighters to an EMT Class in Ridgeway Township in Lenawee County, and will use funds in the training account, to be later largely reimbursed through a state grant. The class will occur from 12/10/22 through 4/24/22. Would also like to purchase new turnout gear to provide 3 complete sets for the 3 new firefighters. Reported that the new firetruck is to potentially be delivered in June 2023.

Motion Milkey, Second Proctor, spend up to \$13,500 for new equipment for the new firefighters, to come from the Firefighter Equipment Budget.

Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis.

CARRIED.

c) Recommendation to Approve the Hiring of Bailey Elliott as Firefighter

Motion Fusilier, Second Thompson to hire Bailey Elliott as Firefighter, as recommended by Fire Chief Scully.

Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis.

CARRIED.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS/BUSINESS:

a) Zoning Administrator: Zoning Administrator Carl Maccomber was unable to attend and Supervisor Milkey presented the following on his behalf: 1 new residence, 1 remodel, 2 barn/garage, 1 swimming pool. Reported that Maccomber had also picked up trash dumped on Mull Road.

b) Planning Commission: Seefeld reported that the last meeting was 11/03/22, and that the planning commission has been discussing a camping ordinance and agritourism ordinance. Board met with Alissa Starling from Carlisle-Wortman and she is working on providing new drafts to the board regarding said ordinances that will be discussed at the next Planning Meeting in

December. Also mentioned that Short Term Rentals discussion has been tabled, due to current legislation in development at the state level, and will likely discuss this at the next meeting as well.

- c) Supervisor: Supervisor Milkey informed the public and board that a Norman Rockwell painting titled “Freedom of Speech” was gifted to the township by Bob Thompson and it was displayed at the meeting – this painting was also accompanied by a letter that was written by Bob Thompson. Treasurer Kim Thompson read this letter from her father-in-law, Bob Thompson, dated October 12, 2022 expressing his appreciation to the board and his pride to be a part of democracy.

Supervisor Milkey informed the board that the Washtenaw County Conservation District is sponsoring a tractor tire recycling drive at Freedom Township on 12/10/22.

Supervisor Milkey presented the Washtenaw County Road Commission report on work performed in Manchester Township in the last month – boom mowing on English Road & Noggles Road; drainage and backsloping on Burtless Road & Tracy Road; removed fallen trees on English Road, Grossman Road, Hashley Road, Hogan Road, & Washburn Road; gravel patching (total of 39 tons) on Lemm Road, Noggles Road, & Sharon Hollow Road; ground stumps on Herman Road; 21 tons of limestone patching on Lemm Road & Sharon Hollow Road; cleaned up roadside debris on Wellwood Road. Phase 1 of Herman reconstruction from Herman to Deer Valley was completed with an approximately 8-10 inch lift of road gravel.

Township Clerk Danell Proctor and Supervisor Ron Milkey handed out candy at the Manchester Township Hall for Halloween, along with the fire department.

Supervisor Milkey and Trustee Jarvis are working on applying for a Spark grant for trail funding.

- d) Facilities Buildings/Grounds: No report.
- e) Boards/Meetings: No report.
- f) Broadband: Moutinho reported the last meeting was last month. There is a final report that will be submitted to the commissioners, likely after the first of the year. There is a Washtenaw Country Broadband Questions group on Facebook that can be as a resource for questions about broadband. Ben Feynman, who had given a previous presentation on broadband, now works for the federal government representing Michigan with broadband development.
- g) Parks & Rec: Jarvis reported that Chris Nordstrom from Carlisle-Wortman, met with village representatives on updating the draft plan for the Joint Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Public hearing for review is on December 13, 2022.
- h) Cemetery: Proctor reported that she is still waiting for the new sign, but the base has been installed.

NEW BUSINESS:

a) Snow Removal Bids Winter 2022-2023

Board received a bid from T&N Service, Inc. for snow removal at the Township Hall.

Motion Milkey, Second Fusilier, to approve the bid from T&N Service, Inc. as presented.

Ayes: Seefeld, Thompson, Moutinho, Milkey, Proctor, Fusilier, Jarvis.

CARRIED

b) Land Preservation Discussion

Supervisor Milkey informed the board that Summer Roberts from Washtenaw County Conservation District would like to partner with Manchester Township in creating a presentation for the public regarding land stewardship, preservation & conservation options. Board scheduled this meeting for February 16, 2023, from 7-9 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

a) Thorn Lake Solar

Motion Proctor, Second Moutinho, for the board to enter a closed session to consult with the attorneys for the Township regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with the pending litigation of Thorn Lake Solar LLC v Manchester Twp., because an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the Township. Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

Board entered a Closed Session with Township Attorneys at 8:17 PM.

Motion Milkey, Second Jarvis, for the board to close the closed session in regards to Thorn Lake Solar litigation and enter the open session. Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

Board closed the Closed Session and entered Open Session at 8:54 PM.

b) Thorn Lake Solar Township Attorney Discussion

Attorney Nancy Dembinski recommended to the board that they approve the consent judgment regarding Thorn Lake Solar and provided her reasons to do so. Attorney Chris Patterson also recommended to the board that they approve the consent judgment regarding Thorn Lake Solar and provided his reasons to do so.

Motion Fusilier, Second Jarvis, to approve the Consent Judgment in the case of Thorn Lake Solar LLC v Manchester Township and the Manchester Township Planning Commission, Washtenaw County Civil Action Number 2022-1033-AA.

- **NOTE – please see attached document titled:
MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT JUDGMENT**

Ayes: Proctor, Milkey, Moutinho, Fusilier, Thompson, Seefeld, Jarvis.

CARRIED.

Moutinho commented that she wanted to thank the public for their input, and also thanked the attorney. She said that as difficult at this decision is, it's the best for the township and also for the village.

Milkey commented that this has been a difficult process and that he has appreciated the comments from the public. He believes this would be the best outcome for the township.

Thompson commented that she has worked hard with the attorneys and board to get to the best resolution possible and has to uphold the ordinances of the township.

Fusilier commented that he had the opportunity to ride in a combine with Patty Hanson recently and was marveling on how beautiful the township is. He has been farming here for 40 years, and his son will continue to farm here. He made an oath to uphold the ordinances, and this is the correct decision.

c) Village of Manchester

With the last election the 9 member charter commission was elected and will draft a proposed city charter.

d) Recycling Bins

Supervisor Milkey informed the board they need to find a new volunteer with Western Washtenaw Recycling Board or a public volunteer for those meetings, as Jarvis is focused on Parks and Recreation. Thompson volunteered to attend for the next few meetings, with Seefeld as an alternate.

PUBLIC COMMENT:.

Jeremy Rippey, Travis Fusilier, Liz Caron, Laura Gervick, Shannon Brown, Sybil Kolon, Katie Haarsager

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS.

Proctor commented in regards to the election turnout. Precinct 1 (Manchester Village) had a 62.81% voter turnout; Precinct 2 (Manchester Township) 67.72% turnout. Issued 1229 absentee ballots, and 1182 were returned. It was a very busy day and went very smoothly. Just received an email that the election was signed off and certified. Total votes cast for Precincts 1 & 2: 2,765.

Fusilier commented that this board has been good to work with and they've been through some difficult times. Also thanked the public for attending and their suggestions and tried to incorporate everything. It's been one of the most difficult decisions they've had to make.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- a) Washtenaw County Road Commission Staff & Monthly Report
Supervisor Milkey reported that they are on file.
- b) Washtenaw County Sherriff Monthly Report

Supervisor Milkey reported that they are on file.

ADJOURNMENT:

Board adjourned at 9:51 PM

Danell Proctor
Clerk
Approved: December 13, 2022