

MANCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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

Troop 426 presented the American flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Township Supervisor Ron Milkey, Treasurer Kim Thompson, Clerk Danell Proctor, Trustee Krista Jarvis, Trustee John Seefeld, Trustee Lisa Moutinho, Trustee Mike Fusilier, Recording Secretary Brenda Bancroft. Absent: Trustee Krista Jarvis. Trustee Lisa Moutinho arrived at 7:31PM.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Fire Chief Bill Scully, Sybol Kolon, Dawn Moore, Frank Duncan, Tony Olkowski, Michael Sabourin, Harry Sabourin, Belinda Fitzpatrick, Scott Moore.

**PRESENTATION OF AGENDA:**

Add e) Positions to Fill and f) Iron Mill Pond Discussion

Motion Fusilier, Second Thompson, to approve the agenda as amended.

Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis, Moutinho. **CARRIED.**

**ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL OF VARIOUS MINUTES:**

The board received the draft Manchester Township Regular Board Meeting minutes from October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and the Manchester Township Special Meeting from October 23<sup>rd</sup> 2023.

Motion Milkey, second Proctor to approve the minutes from the Manchester Township Regular Board Meeting of 10/10/23 as presented.

Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis, Moutinho. **CARRIED.**

Motion Thompson, Second Proctor to approve the minutes from the Manchester Township Special Meeting of 10/23/23 as presented.

Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis, Moutinho. **CARRIED.**

The board accepted the draft minutes from the Manchester Township Planning Commission meeting of 11/2/2023.

**OTHER MINUTES ON FILE:**

Manchester Village Council Minutes of October 2, 2023; Manchester Village Council Minutes of October 16, 2023.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** \$1,474,896.80 – This includes approximately \$135,000 of ARPA funds.

Motion Milkey, second Seefeld, to accept Treasurer's report as presented.

Ayes: Seefeld, Fusilier, Proctor, Milkey, Thompson. Absent: Jarvis, Moutinho. **Carried.**

**PRESENTATION OF BILLS:**

Motion Fusilier, Second Thompson, to approve payment of 40 invoices from the General Fund for \$14,632.98 as presented; to approve payment of 11 checks for \$14,666.85 from the Fire Contract Checking as presented; to approve payment of 2 invoices for \$593.75 from the Cemetery Checking as presented; to approve payment of 1 invoice for \$163,587.94 from the Road Improvement Fund as presented; and to approve payment of 1 invoice for \$49,437.00 from Special Housing Fund as presented.

Ayes: Seefeld, Fusilier, Proctor, Milkey, Thompson. Absent: Jarvis, Moutinho. **Carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Belinda Fitzpatrick displayed an aerial photo of Iron Mill Mind to the Township Board. She voiced her concern regarding the fire hazards and safety concerns with the cottages around Wolf Lake Rd as it's a one-lane road and makes it difficult for emergency vehicles to access this area.

Frank Duncan requested that the Manchester Township Board support Jeff Pigeon and has concerns with safety and pollution with Ashkay Island.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:**

- a) Fire Department Activity Report: Responded to 36 calls for service in October 2023.
- b) Fire Chief's Report: Monthly officer's meeting was held on October 23, 2023. Member meeting and training was held on October 25, 2023. Fire Chief Scully presented the Board with a timeline of the engine - further warranty work is being carried out. He is concerned that they are not getting the service they were hoping for and is unhappy that the truck is not ready for service yet. Discussed with the Board whether they should write a letter expressing their dissatisfaction with this process. Can't sell the old truck yet as they're still using it – have had some interest. Were awarded a \$30,000 grant from the State of Michigan for firefighter equipment. Offer from Bill Kerns for used extrication tools presented to the Board.

Motion Proctor, Second Fusilier, to accept Bill Kerns' offer to purchase the old extrication tools for \$1,500 as presented. Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis, Moutinho.  
**CARRIED.**

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS/BUSINESS:**

- a) Zoning Administrator: Zoning Administrator Carl Macomber was unable to attend, and Supervisor Ron Milkey presented the following on his behalf: Issued permits for 1 new residence & 4 barns/garages; and had 5 zoning inspections.
- b) Planning Commission: Fusilier provided a brief report from the November 2nd, 2023, Manchester Township Planning Commission Meeting. He also provided a brief report regarding the Land Preservation Committee, which was held before the Planning Commission Meeting.
- c) Supervisor: Milkey received correspondence from the University of Michigan and will have information sessions with Manchester Township in February or March 2024 and invite other townships to attend and get on their schedule. Reviewed the new zoning book with Carl Warner and is extremely pleased with the results so far. Have identified a few things that should be looked at with the Planning Commission but hope to have this ready for the December 2023 meeting. Milkey is requested the Board if he should take action regarding an incident regarding dogs attacking show sheep from summer 2023 – requesting if they would like to wait for the Washtenaw County Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Office to proceed or if the Township should take further action. The Board is recommending that the owner of the livestock contact the Victim's Advocate's office with the Prosecutor's office and contact the Board in December 2023 regarding results.
- d) Facilities Buildings/Grounds: Milkey reported the new parking lot has been paved this morning with the basecoat. Will remain like that until spring, given the cold weather – if he puts the topcoat on it will not be appealing. Will also stripe it and touch up the grading and grass seeding at that time as well. Will look as the best options to strip it and is doubling the amount of parking that was there before.

- e) Boards/Meetings: Sybil Kolon reported that the River Raisin Watershed Council received a grant for a strategic plan. This will take roughly a year and will have public meetings around the area – will advocate to have one in Manchester Township.
- f) Broadband: Moutinho reported that her household was hooked up yesterday. They're on English and are splicing up to the house, then will make an appointment to hook up in the house with a modem.
- g) Parks & Rec: No Report.
- h) Cemetery: The Board approved selling an old John Deere Tractor in the spring that was in a storage shed at the cemetery.
- i) Recycling: Thompson reported there are concerns with the price of selling recycled materials – it continues to decrease. Informed the Board that they will meet again in December 2023.
- j) Land Preservation: Sybil Kolon was pleased to see a large public turnout – wanted to make sure they were aware of Manchester Township's exploration with Land Preservation and are looking for public comment. She has been placing articles in the Manchester Mirror and is encouraging the public to get involved with the process. They are looking at ways for how Manchester Township can preserve its rural character. Next meeting is November 30, 2023, and Kolon invited the members of the public in attendance to attend, as well as to check out the resources on the Manchester Township website. Neighboring townships are also inquiring as to the direction we may move in as they would like to learn from what is discovered.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Resolution No. 23-17 "A Resolution Approving Zoning Language That Would Allow Agricultural Tourism and Other Ancillary Uses as Detailed in Attached Zoning Language Approved by the Planning Commission"

This is tabled until the next meeting as the Planning Commission has not reviewed this draft yet.

- b) County Revenue White Paper  
Milkey invited Washtenaw County Commissioner Beeman to the December 2023 meeting to discuss this with the Board.

- c) Snow Removal Bid  
Tabled until the December 2023 meeting, as they would like to ensure that this bid includes the dimensions of the new parking lot that was just paved.

- d) Ordinance No. 106 "Manchester Township Civil Infractions Ordinance"

Motion Milkey, Second Moutinho, to rescind Ordinance 177, and replace it with Ordinance No 106 as presented.

Ayes: Seefeld, Fusilier, Proctor, Milkey, Thompson, Moutinho. Absent: Jarvis. **Carried.**

- e) Positions to Fill

Will post for the following positions:

Manchester District Library Board – Township Representative

Manchester Township Zoning Board of Approval

Manchester Township Planning Commission

- f) Iron Mill Pond Discussion

Motion Milkey, Second Seefeld, for the Township Board to enter a closed session to discuss the written confidential legal opinions of the Township Attorney regarding the appeal and issues set forth in Pigeon vs. Ashkay Island – Docket #366537.

Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

**The Manchester Township Board entered a closed session at 8:02 PM.**

Motion Proctor, Second Seefeld, for the Township Board to enter an open session.

Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis. **CARRIED.**

**The Manchester Township Board entered into an open session at 8:14 PM.**

Motion Fusilier, Second Moutinho, to table this discussion to the December 2023 meeting due to the lateness of receiving legal documents and would like additional time to review.

Ayes: Seefeld, Fusilier, Proctor, Milkey, Thompson, Moutinho. Absent: Jarvis. **Carried.**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a) Village of Manchester: Election was certified today, and Manchester Village will become a city. Thompson has been meeting with the County Treasurer regarding the updated tax bills process. There are many unknowns at this point and have been advised by the auditor that it could take 4-5 years before the financial discussion would be finalized. The board will discuss what budget steps will need to be taken in the future.
- b) Review of Solar & Wind Ordinance:  
Recent legislation at the state level has limited their control of commercial Solar at 50 Megawatts and above. The Board tabled this to the December 2023 meeting pending further revisions to the proposed Ordinance language.
- c) Oak Grove and Reynolds Cemetery Fee Schedule  
Motion Thompson, Second Seefeld to approve the Oak Grove and Reynolds Cemetery Fee Schedule as presented.  
Ayes: Seefeld, Fusilier, Proctor, Milkey, Thompson, Moutinho. Absent: Jarvis. **Carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Frank Duncan expressed concerns regarding Wolf Lake Road's maintenance with the Washtenaw County Road Commission.

Chuck Kumnick commented that he had provided a letter to the Board outlining that Jeff Pigeon has been the voice of the community at Iron Mill Lake. Would like to keep things peaceful as he feels Ashkay Island is a disruption. He commented that it's unreasonable to demolish the house but would like it to return to its original intent.

Melinda Fitzpatrick commented that her mother supports Jeff Pigeon and suggests an Ordinance regarding treehouses.

Mike Sabourin commented that those that attended this meeting wanted the Board to know that the neighborhood is supporting Jeff Pigeon. He cares about Iron Mill Pond and will continue to do so and wanted the Board to know that.

**COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBER:**

Moutinho thanked Proctor for her hard work with the election.

Thompson has been busy working on Winter Taxes.

Fusilier commented that he's very disappointed with the State of Michigan legislation regarding restriction of Township authority.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- a) Washtenaw County Road Commission Staff & Monthly Report

- On file.
- b) Washtenaw County Sheriff Monthly Report  
On file.
- c) MI Fire Equipment Grant Letter of Approval  
On file

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion Thompson, second Seefeld, to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes: All. Absent: Jarvis

**CARRIED.**

Board adjourned at 8:51PM.

Approved: December 12, 2023

Danell Proctor, Clerk