

**Melrose Township Board of Trustees Minutes
February 9, 2021 7:00 pm**

Call to order: V. Goodwin called the virtual meeting to order at 7:02 pm

Present: V. Goodwin, S. Burr, D. Nowland, M.P. Goldich, R. Hissong Berry

Approval of the Agenda

Motion to amend the agenda by adding purchase of laptop computers and library business. Agenda approved as amended.

Motion: MP Goldich, 2nd S. Burr. Rollcall vote: V. Goodwin -yes, S.Burr- yes, D. Nowland -yes, M.P. Goldich -Yes, R .Hissong Berry- Yes Motion approved 5/0

Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting as presented.

Motion MP Goldich, 2nd S. Burr. Rollcall vote: V. Goodwin -yes, S.Burr- yes, D. Nowland -yes, M.P. Goldich- Yes, R.Hissong Berry -Yes Motion approved 5/0

Guest – None present

Old Business

- **Sewer Update** – another request to hook up to the Sewer System along North Shore Dr. approximately 400 Ft. or more away from current line. Evaluation is in progress. Seeking enough new clients to cover the costs. There was a water leak that caused a high volume this month.
- **Water Update** – There was a water leak at one of the Customers resulting in a large water bill.
- **Third Street** – Drawings are in progress.
- **Parking on Township Land Policy** - Move to March agenda.
- **Cemetery Ordinance update** - D. Nowland and L. Stephens will begin working on it in March.
- **CCEA Authority** – Waiting for more information.
- **Dam** - Philo Lange has not received answers yet from the townships that have been contacted.

New Business

- **Park Sign Replacement** - Quote not available. Put on March agenda.
- **Legal Advertising** - Reach out to Charlevoix County Paper after verifying they can meet Board of Review legal postings.
- **Letter of Support** – Motion to approve a letter of support for the Boyne City grant application. Motion: RH Berry, 2nd MP Goldich Rollcall vote: V. Goodwin -yes, S. Burr- yes, D Nowland- yes, MP Goldich - Yes, RH Berry- Yes Motion approved 5/0.
- **District Library** – Vern Goodwin and Mary Pat Goldich will serve on the group reviewing the district's organization documents.
- **Laptop Computers** – Township equipment needs to be updated. Quotes will be received before the next board meeting. Move to March agenda.

Financial Report

• **General fund reports**

Financial reports were on screen and reviewed.

Motion to accept the January 2021 Financials as presented and pay all bills.

Motion: S. Burr, 2nd D. Nowland. Rollcall vote: V. Goodwin - yes, S. Burr -yes, D Nowland- yes, MP Goldich -Yes, RH Berry -Yes Motion approved 5/0.

• **Sewer fund reports**

T. Mackie presented the report.

Motion to accept the January 2021 Sewer Fund financials as presented and pay all bills.

Motion: M.P. Goldich, 2nd S. Burr. Rollcall vote: V. Goodwin - yes, S. Burr- yes, D Nowland- yes, MP Goldich- Yes, RH Berry- Yes Motion approved 5/0.

Reports

- **County Commissioner Report** – Bob Jess joined the meeting at 7:34 and gave an update on County Business. North Side Building upgrades, Park winter activities
- **Zoning Administrators Report:** see included report.
- **Assessors Report:** no report
- **Employee Grounds Report:** no report

Committee Reports

- **Planning Commission:** Met virtually in January and approved a request for a special use permit.
- **Zoning Board of Appeals:** no meeting
- **Road Committee** – The annual meeting has not been scheduled yet. CCRC toured the Township with V Goodwin and identified locations that needed work last fall. They have completed some work.
- **Park Committee:** no report
- **Fire Department** – T Mackie shared fire report. L. Stephens has cost sheet for insurance coverage for the new radios. Tracy LaGasse was awarded 1st responder of the year award.
DDA – New web site is up and running. Motion to pay Winrock Media \$1,675.00 for website. Motion M.P. Goldich, 2nd S. Burr. Rollcall vote: V. Goodwin- yes, S. Burr- yes, D Nowland- yes, M.P. Goldich - Yes, R. Hissong Berry- Yes Motion approved 5/0.

Correspondence – V Goodwin read a letter received from the Fire Chief (see attached)

Public Comment called for:

Comments regarding Fire Chief letter

Adjournment: 8:15 pm

To the Melrose Township Board

February 8, 2021

I feel compelled to address this situation.

After months of planning and scheduling a Medical First Responder Class at the Melrose hall, I find the hall has since been booked for a personal event on February 20th, conflicting with our training program.

A considerable amount of work has gone into scheduling and accreditation to host a training program of this type. State inspection of the facility was required and determination of the program coordinator and a class schedule were just some of the hoops we needed to jump in order to provide this local training.

Local training means that our members, and members from surrounding departments, will not need to travel across the county to receive training. This too will cut down on the cost to the township when they reimburse a successful member for mileage to and from class. This is something that has been missing for quite some time. To find a program close to home or better yet "in house" makes it easier to train and recertify MFR's.

February 20th is the last class with practical training the students will have before their final exam the following week. To have this distraction in the kitchen while the class is in session will be a challenge.

I have already been challenged with comments like, you could reschedule, be more flexible. "Be more flexible," that may be the comment that tipped the scales and caused me to address this issue.

Be more flexible, there is no one more flexible than a firefighter or first responder. Flexible enough to get up from a family dinner to respond, to stop in the middle of a movie to go out into the elements to serve. Flexible enough to get out of bed in the middle of a winter night to respond to a neighbor's need.

I have come to the decision we will endure the activities in the kitchen. We cannot reschedule because the class is registered with the state. We will be flexible to our best ability, but certain current requirements will dictate what can and cannot happen.

Our class has been designated as essential training, so people from more than two households can meet. I have instructed the class coordinators to lock training room doors and post signage prohibiting anyone not affiliated with the class from entering until after class. Fire bay doors will also be secured. Sliders will be shut at the counter. **See Actual MCL language below**

From Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) exception to gathering of more than two households. MCL 333.2226

1. Training of law enforcement, correctional, medical, or first responder personnel, insofar as those activities cannot be conducted remotely.

The initial education program that is being conducted at the Twp. hall / Fire department is considered by MDHHS and the Bureau of EMS, Trauma and Preparedness (BETP) as an essential training/meeting,

With that being said any person(s) who are not involved with the education program ie, Instructors, department coordinator, Fire chief or fire officer that is representing the Chief and the students that are registered for this program SHALL NOT be exposed or allowed to have non-participants in the same space as the education/meeting area. With that, this is the reason that the doors to the meeting room and fire hall will be secured.

The program schedule has to be approved by BETP before the class can start. With that, any deviation to the schedule must be presented to BETP and approved before the schedule can be changed. Exceptions to this rule are inclement weather where more than 50% of students would be absent or natural or manmade disaster.

Dennis Howard, Fire Chief

