

**JOINT MEETING OF
COLOMA CHARTER TOWNSHIP AND WATERVLIIET CHARTER TOWNSHIP
and
PUBLIC HEARING**

June 27, 2020

Video-Meeting due to COVID-19

Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. respectively by Coloma Township Supervisor Parrigin and Watervliet Township Clerk Bambrick. Watervliet Trustees in attendance: Bambrick, Hutchins, Matthews, Scheid, Stepich, Wallace.

Moved by Bambrick, supported by Wallace, to name William Fahey as Public Hearing moderator. Aye: Matthews, Scheid, Wallace, Stepich, Hutchins, Bambrick.

Public Hearing opened.

Moderator Fahey explained

- Hearing is being held under Act 188 of the Public Acts of 1954.
- The Boards require a public hearing every 4 years, in June of each presidential election year, to review the Lake Improvements and the Special Assessments
- Process for an electronic meeting explained.
- Notices of the Public Hearing were reviewed.
- Reviews of Past Lake Improvements and of Future Lake Improvements and Costs were given.
- Reports from GEI Consultants, PLM Lake & Land Management and Spicer Group.
- Review of Special Assessment District and of the Special Assessments.
- Call for public comments, objections, and questions.
 - Written and phone comments were shared.
 - Oral comments, objections and questions were heard.
 - Two written comments were received at the Township after the Public Hearing.
- Resolutions will be presented for vote at each Township's next regular meeting.

The Public Hearing was declared closed.

Adjournment:

Moved by Watervliet Trustee Wallace, supported by Clerk Bambrick, to adjourn the Watervliet Township meeting. Approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Bambrick, Watervliet Township Clerk

Coordinator's Report June 2020

Meetings and events attended/participated in June.

Coloma Township Meeting

Watervliet Township Meeting/Teleconference

Coloma City Meeting

Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce Outdoor Meeting

Finance: Bank statements have been reconciled for June and quarterly reports and payments are submitted.

Yearly Tax Reporting: We just received the information on our fiscal year tax reporting and financials will be gathered this week to send to Rendel Elie and Associates.

Chamber Meeting: Our last 2 Chamber meetings have been held outdoors at the Midway Baptist Church outdoor pavilion. Picnic tables are always set up and as the space is so large, it were very easy to social distance at this location. Midway Baptist Church kindly offered their space and we so appreciate this opportunity. Lunch for both meetings was purchased locally from Chamber members; Coloma Subway and Casey's General Store in Watervliet and attendees paid for their own lunches. There will be no meeting in August so our next meeting is Tuesday September 15th with location TBD.

Chamber Member Renewals: 148 chamber member renewals were mailed out in June and so far 114 have renewed.

Community Guide: The ads began sales in February and we took a break for about a month during the beginning of the pandemic. As the deadline was moved back, the Guide did not come out until July. The Chamber will receive a very small amount from sales with Leader Publications. Copies will last 2 seasons and municipal halls, financial institutions, welcome centers and other businesses will have copies to distribute. Each time the full color Guide comes out, pages are updated with text and new photographs, and makes a great marketing piece for the area.

Revolving Loan Fund Update: There are no new applicants at this time for the Revolving Loan Fund, but there is still about \$14,000 in the RLF account should a qualifying business want to apply. There is a 2% interest rate and they have 5 years to pay off this loan. Applications are considered by the RLF board which is made up of 3 bankers with Kniebes coordinating the process.

SWMI Association of Realtors Grant Application: On March 13th a grant application for a decorative rock that is lighted with LED lights for Baker Park in downtown Coloma was submitted. The rock will promote events and updates in the community. This is the same application that we applied for when we received funds for the beautiful clock on Main Street in Watervliet City in 2018. Each year as NBCD is a 501(c)3, we apply for a project one year in Coloma and one year in Watervliet. The grant is awarded from the SWMI Realtors Association and this year we will receive the maximum amount of \$5,000, with a check presentation at the completion of the project which will be at the end of August.

Berrien Community Foundation Grant: NBCD also applied for a grant for nonprofits from the Berrien Community Foundation called "For Ever Sustainably Grant". This grant is to help nonprofits during the Covid Crisis. I submitted this application at the end of May and last week I heard back from Susan Matheny at BCF and NBCD was generously approved for a \$7,500 grant. Once the paperwork has been sent to our office and signed by 2 board members, we can use this grant money for anything to do with the operation of our business. We hope to promote the community more this fall as the crisis continues to

show what wonderful communities Coloma and Watervliet area, and how we proud we are of the local businesses that have struggled but kept on for the good of the community and their customers.

Outreach:

Radio Branding: It has been challenging to find advertisers during the pandemic. The commercial that has been running from mid-June promotes the fact that in Coloma and Watervliet we are open for business "clean and sanitized". Any Chamber member can do a month with Midwest Family Broadcasting for \$232.00. NBCD paid for the commercial promoting our area.

Ribbon Cutting/Open Houses:

Youth Development Company: The ribbon cutting and Open House event for this business was Friday June 26th on Curtis Drive in Coloma Township. Registration can be done for childcare and summer camp programs. YDC has a wonderful track record with their programs for youth in South Haven so this was a wonderful opportunity for YDC to come to our area and provide much needed services to Watervliet and Coloma.

Karla D. Smothers Agency: The outdoor cook-out open house that was scheduled for July has been postponed until sometime in September.

Community Updates

Randall Park: Recent updates to the park in June were a new metal roof and soffits on the pavilion.

Recent Cancellation:

Annual Community Golf Outing: The date was August 14th at the Paw Paw Lake Golf Club but because we didn't feel it was appropriate to send out sponsor forms to the businesses at this time we cancelled.. This was the only fundraiser for NBCD and the Chamber but we look forward to next year as we celebrate the 18th year of our community golf outing.

Submitted by Chana Kniebes
Community Development Coordinator
North Berrien Community Development/
Coloma Watervliet Area Chamber of Commerce

Special Assessment District Observations / Recommendations

20 July, 2020

Tom O'Donnell

5156 N. Watervliet Rd.

tjod5156@sbcglobal.net (909) 215-5666

Observations (ref. SAD Zoom meeting 27 June, 2020):

- 1. Severe misrepresentation of “Lake Health”.**
 - a. “Eutrophic to mesotrophic” based on 2 year old data (2018) – no data presented for 2019 / 2020.**
 - b. 2018 drain data collection less than 50% of 2017.**
 - c. Phosphorous levels have increased as has the algae bloom – “out of control”**

- 2. Expenditures are disproportional to primary objective.**
 - a. Original Spicer report stated unless the drains are repaired / improved, other efforts are “band aids”.**
 - b. Return on Investment so far is negative compared to the results.**
 - c. 80% of expenditures are not to fix the drains.**
 - d. e.g. - Contract for aeration (\$200,000) - Wasted**

Recommendations:

- 1. “Stop Work” immediately – internally / all contractors.**
- 2. Perform a detailed audit of both Spicer / PLM.**
 - a. Contract costs are beyond belief for required effort.**
 - b. May / June 2020 weed growth demonstrates no effort for containment – “crystal ball” comment.**
 - c. No details on labor costs / fees / estimates.**
- 3. Drain projects – Perform a Cost / Benefit analysis for P-reduction.**
- 4. Hire a Professional Program Manager & develop a Master Plan that reduces the phosphorous content by 50% by 2023.**