

DECATUR TOWNSHIP

The regular meeting of the Decatur Township Board was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020. All trustees were present and there were six guests.

The minutes from the August 13, 2020 regular meeting and Lake Weed Public Hearing were reviewed and motion to approve them was made by Katelin Makay and supported by Tom Stull. Vote, all yes.

There were no public comments at this time. Correspondence was a letter of resignation from Zoning Administrator/Code Enforcement Office Tommy Simpson. The Board responded to the correspondence and thanked Tommy for nearly 6 years of service.

The Clerk presented the current bills to the Board and motion to approve them for payment was made by James Abshagen and supported by Kevin Kusmack. Vote, all yes.

The Treasurer's report was submitted to the Board and motion to accept it was made by Janet Abshagen and supported by Katelin Makay. Vote, all yes.

The Supervisor gave a short report that included the Sealcoating is completed. Two roads were not included in the order (a portion of 88th Ave. and 78th Ave.) and these will be included in next year's projects. Supervisor asked the Board's opinion regarding seeking a millage for the QR for compensating members for responding to calls. There was a discussion also regarding including a compensation package for fire fighters. The Supervisor will advise the Joint Fire Board that the Township Board supported a duo compensation millage. It was suggested that a millage request be submitted to voters at the next regular election (August of 2022). (Clerk's note: the current Fire/QR millages expire December 2021 so this would put their renewal for August of 2022 also.) Supervisor also reported that 13 fire fighters are certified for the truck and the ORV has arrived and some modifications are being done.

County Commissioner Don Hanson gave his report which included approval of work on the South Haven courthouse roof as well as contracting to have the county website redone. The work on the website, according to Hanson, would allow municipalities to make updates for their jurisdiction which would help keep the website information current.

Van Buren County Sheriff Deputy presented the monthly report. It was noted that the number of responses for the month was greatly increased from previous months.

Senior Activities representative James Abshagen reported that regular activities for seniors would probably not resume until the first of the year. Delivered meals are still being distributed as well as take-out lunch from Hard Times Restaurant.

(continued)

Continued (Minutes 9/10/20)

Yeo and Yeo presented the Audit for FY 2019-20. The Township once again got the “unmodified opinion” which is the highest rating possible. The Township was congratulated for maintaining very controlled spending. The only recommendations from the auditor are the same as last year – start using the Quick Books program and input the new chart of accounts information, as mandated by the State. The incoming Clerk and Treasurer will be using Quick Books, with new chart of accounts, for their respective responsibilities. Clerk Abshagen thank Yeo and Yeo for their cooperation in assuring that the audit would be completed prior to the Clerk and Treasurer leaving office in November.

Motion was made by Janet Abshagen and supported by Kevin Kusmack to hire John Saylor to replace Tommy Simpson. John was very highly recommended by Tommy and he has worked with him in this capacity in Bangor. Roll call vote, all yes. Supervisor Kusmack signed the accepted employee Agreement and Clerk Abshagen will contact John Saylor to sign the Agreement as well as complete other employee forms. The Clerk will also have the Zoning Ordinance paper copy as well as disc for John.

Cemetery Co-Sextons James Abshagen and Janet Abshagen will not be continuing as Sextons effective November 20. Incoming Clerk and incoming Treasurer have agreed to take over the position. Jim offered to assist with the transition through the end of the year. The new Co-Sextons will advise all surrounding funeral homes as well as monument companies of their new position and their contact information so that there won't be any unnecessary delays making burial arrangements, etc.

Clerk Abshagen received the Comcast Renewal package and it will be reviewed and pertinent information added as required and brought back to the Board in October for approval.

The Election Commission will meet just prior to the October regular Board meeting to appoint the November 3 election workers. Clerk Abshagen advised that absentee ballot applications are available and that so far 525+ applications have been received. Ballots are expected to be sent out before the end of September.

Public Comments: Lola Harris announced that “Saving Timbers Store Front” will be opening next week in Bangor (delayed from last spring because of Covid). They will be open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Janet Abshagen, Township Clerk

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Continued (Minutes 9/10/20)

Current Bills

GENERAL

Village of Decatur	35.01
Indiana Michigan Power	47.50
Consumers Energy	15.82
Frontier	102.57
Moormann Printing	250.75
Village of Decatur	1,934.33
Mich. Election Resources	100.00
VBC Clerk - Election	662.21
SS Township Contribution	789.52
Tommy Simpson -- hours worked	500.00
Tommy Simpson -- mileage	93.50
Shalice Northrop - Contract	1,804.58
Trustees	270.00
Kevin Kusmack, Supervisor	970.00
Janet Abshagen, Clerk	1,710.00
Clerk's Office Expenses	109.19
James Abshagen, Treasurer	1,710.00
Treasurer Offices Expenses	<u>30.00</u>
	\$11,134.98

CEMETERY

Indiana Michigan Power - garage	19.45
Indiana Michigan Power - Sec. Lts.	21.00
Consumers Energy	14.00
Best Way Disposal	56.75
Kusmack Lawn Care	2,500.00
Decatur Lumber Co.	329.38
David Wiles - Grave Openings	550.00
David Wiles - Foundations	408.80
Janet Abshagen - Co-Sexton	60.00
James Abshagen - Co-Sexton	<u>180.00</u>
	\$4,139.38

TOTAL \$15,274.36