

Allegan Township Board Meeting
December 5, 2016
7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order
 - A. Pledge and Invocation

- II. Swearing in of All Township Elected Officials
 - A. Clerk Evans, prior to giving oath of office to board, explained although new board members were elected, they have no authority until they are sworn in.
 - B. Supervisor Steve Schulz, Treasurer Jane Waanders, Trustees Mike Bender and Jim Connell, and Clerk Linda Evans were sworn in to their office for the next four years.

- II. Roll Call
 - A. Supervisor Steve Schulz, Clerk Linda Evans, Trustee Mike Bender, Treasurer Jane Waanders , and Trustee Jim Connell were present.

- III. Approve Minutes of November 7, 2016 Regular Meeting
 - A. Waanders/Schulz made motion to approve with minutes standing approved as read.

- IV. Reports
 - A. Professional Code Inspectors (PCI), Building Inspector
 - 1. Clerk Evans reported four permits were pulled in November with one new home for total fees of \$2,372.00.
 - B. Ted Heckman, Board of Appeals Chair
 - 1. Heckman was not present; Supervisor Schulz noted there is no planned business for next meeting except consideration of re-appointment for an expired term.
 - C. Jim Connell, Planning Commission Chair
 - 1. Held their meeting last month discussing marijuana distribution centers and mentioned seminar to be held on tomorrow, December 6th, put on by our lawyer, to discuss the medical marijuana law change.
 - 2. Their next meeting will be in January.
 - D. Max Thiele, County Commissioner – 3rd District
 - 1. Was not present.
 - E. Other Reports

- V. Public Comment

- VI. Old Business
 - A. Resolution (SRTS) Safe Routes to School
 - 1. Schulz noted we approved it last month but had concerns regarding over-run costs, learning Allegan City itself had same questions.
 - 2. It was learned there will be a meeting on Tuesday, December 13th, at 1:30 PM here at the township hall with all entities in this project meeting to address

those questions and other issues.

3. It may be we have to look at paying some engineering costs with Schulz adding he thinks it is a good investment.

B. Debt Sewer Fund Update

1. Schulz asked Evans to explain with a brief history of the 20 year program to pay off was given, noting monies had to be borrowed from township to make semi-annual payments as well as township board deciding in 2011 to pay the project off four years early.
2. As a result, annually monies built up in sewer fund account are transferred to the balance due to the General Fund and after this November's transfer \$350,445.50 still needs to be paid back.
 - a. The reason the amount is so much is that although the agreement called for mandatory hook-up within 18 months, it did not occur.
3. Audience member Mike Buese asked about making it mandatory now and learned the City, in working up a new agreement in 2007, did request that, but neither the City nor the Township can find a signed agreement.
4. Schulz explained there are two sewer districts, one to the south-east (M-89 to Save-A-Lot) that was paid for by a grant with hook-up only costing \$650.00 per residence while the north-west (M-40 North and DeLano Street) costs approximately \$3,000 per residence.
5. Trustee Connell asked why pay-back amounts differ from year to year and learned it depends on if there have been hook-ups as generally we only receive monies quarterly for debt and the ready to serve charge.

C. Election Review

1. Evans explained the recount being started in State of Michigan with 19 larger counties then followed by the remainder and Allegan Township's can and bags have already been delivered to a safe location (Allegan High School).
2. She also commented in her 20 years of working elections here that this was the biggest turn-out of 64% which translates into 2,108 people came to vote or voted absentee and she was proud of her township's coming out to vote.

VIII. New Business

A. Approve Tentative 2017 Schedule of Meetings (Three Names Missing)

1. Schulz noted need to replace a person on ZBA as well as do some other action on the Planning Commission.
2. Waanders/Connell made motion to approve meeting dates which passed with an aye vote.

B. Approve Poverty Exemption Guidelines

1. Schulz commented this is done annually at the December meeting.
2. It is a guideline for how much you make indicating from this year's form that a family of four would have an annual income of \$24,300.
3. There is a lengthy application to complete showing all forms of family income to determine if a family qualifies for either a full or partial exemption of taxes.
4. In the past the township has always granted 20% above the federal guideline

which our assessor, Heather Mitchell, is suggesting once again.

5. It is to be noted we do have several families that avail themselves but there are probably more that could.
 6. Evans/Waanders made motion to approve 20% above federal poverty guidelines which passed with an aye vote.
- C. Road Commission Annual Report
1. Schulz pointed out Allegan County, one of 83 in Michigan, has over 1,800 miles of road and quoted from a letter written by Larry Brown, Managing Director of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Allegan County that "once again, I would like to express my appreciation to the townships and the taxpayers of Allegan County for their continued support. Allegan County led the state in local contributions which helped us leverage over 1.7 million dollars in Federal and State funds."
 2. Schulz explained this township has some of the best roads in the county.
- D. Approve Fire District Budget
1. Schulz noted both City and Township of Allegan are a part of the district and the budget amount is figured out as of a weighted average regarding population, five year runs and taxable value with township's taxable value going up while city's is dropping down.
 2. The amount this year is \$185,416.00 for the city and \$158,584 for the township.
 3. There are also six sections in Cheshire Township and their contribution is \$3,000.00.
 4. Audience member Laree Waanders questioned if there is ever any reimbursement from the insurance companies for fire runs and learned it was done in the past, but not all companies pay and it is felt there is a flat fee of \$500.00 and people are already paying for fire service with their taxes.
 5. Connell noted he had been at the Fire District meeting where the budget was talked about, learning a lot .
 6. Connell/Bender made motion to approve Allegan Township's portion of the budget which passed following roll call.
- E. Approve Re-appointment of Planning Commission Member Ted Heckman
1. Evans explained all members are appointed for three years, with staggered terms and Heckman's term was up.
 2. Waanders/Evans made motion to approve Heckman's re-appointment which passed with an aye vote.
- F. Appoint Member of Township Board to Planning Commission
1. Schulz explained trustees are township representatives to both Planning Commission and Board of Appeals with Connell and Bender having already talked and as Connell has been a member of the Planning Commission to this point, the two had decided Connell would continue.
 2. Motion was made by Waanders/Evans to approve which passed with an aye vote and Evans noting instead of a three year term, Connell's would be a term limit of four years.
- G. Appoint Seventh Member to Planning Commission as Well as Alternates:

Jeremy Dutkiewicz, Chad Kruithoff, Al Lemaire

1. Schulz noted we still have one position to fill and suggested appointment of Al Lemaire and alternates be Chad Kruithoff and Jeremy Dutkiewicz with Evans/Schulz making the motion which passed with an aye vote.

IX. Pay Bills

A. General Fund

1. Waanders/Bender made motion to pay \$7,326.27 in bills which passed following roll call.

B. Road Fund

1. Waanders/Bender made motion to pay \$8,030.31 to Allegan County Road Commission for crack-seal which passed following roll call.

X. Correspondence

- A. There was none.

XI. Other Items of Interest and Concern

- A. Connell reminded those present about the Ice Bucket Challenge to be held on New Year's Day at high noon.

1. Last year over \$12,000.00 was raised for Wings of Hope Hospice by five people.

XII. Adjourn

- A. Waanders/Connell made motion to adjourn with meeting closing at 8:18 PM.