

TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

Eric Schaefer, *Supervisor* / Laura Bouchard, *Treasurer* / Cindy Ordway, *Clerk*
 Curt Campbell, *Trustee* / Ross DeMaagd, *Trustee* / Kim Selleck, *Trustee* / Sandra Rairigh, *Trustee*

269-795-7202 - Fax 269-795-8812 - thornapple-twp.org
 PO Box 459 - 200 E Main St. - Middleville, MI 49333



REGULAR MEETING February 12, 2024

1. INVOCATION
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ROLL CALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Present Campbell: Present DeMaagd: Present Ordway: Present	Rairigh: Present Schaefer: Present Selleck: Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Bill Richardson, Phil Gensterblum, Commissioner Jon Smelker, Commissioner Catherine Getty, John Lake, Curt DeKam, Mike Powell, Corene Powell, Shelby England, Collin Chrenka, Alyssa Chrenka, Joe Johnson, Pattrick Jansens, McKenna Preslar, Amy Brown.	

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve the Printed Agenda as amended with two items added (8. Reserve Time: Awards and 12. New Business - G. Barry County Fair Booth.)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	DeMaagd
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Ordway – Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended with a correction to B. Minutes of the Election Commission Committee of January 25, 2024 (Laura Bouchard with Anita Janose rather than Pat Collins on the Receiving Board.)
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Ordway: Yes	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT: None

7. COUNTY REPORT:

<p>County Commissioner Jon Smelker:</p>	<p>Smelker reminded everyone of the workshop on Solar & Wind Energy scheduled for tomorrow night at the high school regarding the state taking over zoning rights. Barry County Commissioners, Jim McManus PZA of Barry County, Bradley Fowler from Mika Myer, an MSU representative, and a representative from Citizens for Local Choice will be on the panel. In other business, there are some changes to the map coming up, but none that affect Thornapple Township. Getty reminded the board that there is a tax revenue piece to this legislation as well so there will be good information at the meeting. Getty also said the legislation doesn't become active until November 24, 2024. There is a petition being circulated to return power to local control as well.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>DeMaagd asked to confirm the location and time. Smelker stated it was at the Hastings High School Performing Arts Center at 6 pm.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME: Emergency Services Awards

- Collin Chrenka – Fire Officer of the Year Award
- Lloyd Skiba – Firefighter of the Year Award
- Shelby England – Firefighter Rookie of the Year Award
- McKenna Preslar – Top Gun Firefighter Award

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: Chief Richardson said there were 241 response calls in January, which may be the busiest month ever for the department. There were four structure fires. Two were mutual aide structure fires and two structure fires were in the community. There were also ten vehicle accidents and seven wire down incidents, during the winter storm.

10. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Gensterblum said it has been slower this month with just one permit for an accessory building. There were a couple of code enforcement issues that turned out not to be anything.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Resolution 01-2024 – Selleck stated that he supports all the Constitutional Amendments and the Bill of Rights. He doesn't like the idea of separating out just one. Also, tomorrow is the one-year anniversary of the MSU school shooting and over the weekend there was a shooting at a large church in Texas. Sixty percent of Americans say gun violence is out of control. He feels he can't support just one amendment above all the rest. Ordway stated that when she became Clerk for the Thornapple Township, she took her Oath of Office stating that she would support the Constitution of the United States and the

Constitution of the State of Michigan, and that she would faithfully discharge the duties of the Office of Thornapple Township Clerk. When she took the oath, she meant it and the Constitution includes the Second Amendment. She made a promise to support it and will do so. Campbell asked Schaefer if the resolution had been reviewed and approved by the township attorney. Schaefer said he had. DeMaagd said he strongly supports the second amendment and supports all the Amendments. He had asked that the resolution read, “Be it further resolved that Thornapple Township Board will defend the Constitutional Rights of the citizens of Thornapple Township from all infringements.” But this resolution ends with the statement is that “I support the entire Constitution,” which is not the same. The Second Amendment language is strictly symbolic, but he does like to make the statement. Campbell said he supports what Selleck, Ordway and DeMaagd said. Bouchard said that all board members took an oath of office stating that they support the whole Constitution, and this resolution just repeats that.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to adopt Resolution 1-2024 Support for Residents Constitutional Rights.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	DeMaagd
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Yes	Rairigh: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Schaefer: Yes
	DeMaagd: Yes	Selleck: No
	Ordway: Yes	

B. Resolution 02-2024 – Schaefer stated that this resolution was a necessary part of the Board of Review process as it sets forth the poverty exemption guidelines. Campbell asked Schaefer if it followed the State of Michigan standards. Schaefer confirmed that it did.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer - Motion to adopt Resolution 2-2024 Poverty Guidelines.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard: Yes	Rairigh: Yes
	Campbell: Yes	Schaefer: Yes
	DeMaagd: Yes	Selleck: Yes
	Ordway: Yes	

C. Ambulance Replacement Plan – Chief Richardson said the new ambulance order had been withdrawn last month and this is a follow up to that discussion. He felt he could buy a new ambulance and have one refurbished for about the same price as the order that was canceled. There are two older ambulances that have taken a lot of maintenance the last six months. There was one that was out of service for about eight weeks. He would like to keep three units in service. This plan allows them to have a new

ambulance so that if one is out of service, they could still have three units in service at any given time. DeMaagd asked if the original ambulance they were looking at was still available. Chief Richardson said that it was. Rairigh asked if the additional costs of the power cot, AED and other items were included in the price. Chief Richardson confirmed they were.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to adopt the Ambulance Replacement Plan.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

D. Furnace, A/C Unit, and Thermostat – Schaefer explained there is money in the budget for this purchase. Campbell asked why it was necessary. Schaefer explained they are over 20 years old and the other units that were that old had already failed and been replaced. Rairigh asked about the date of the quote and Schaefer stated that he would call them to confirm but thinks they will be ok with it.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to replace the township hall furnace and A/C unit for a cost of \$9,870 and to purchase and install a Nest thermostat for a cost NTE \$260.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

E. Trail Maintenance Agreement – Schaefer said that historically the township has given money for the maintenance of the trail, and he is asking the board to continue to do so. Selleck asked if the amount was the same as previous years. Schaefer confirmed it was. DeMaagd asked which General Ledger account would be used. Schaefer said 101-900-974.000. A review of the Revenue and Expenditure Report clarified the account to be Land Improvements.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to adopt the Village of Middleville Trail Maintenance Agreement for a cost of \$1,900 for 2024.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

F. Flagpole for Mt. Hope Cemetery – Schaefer explained the Veteran’s Committee is going to have an upgrade to their flagpole, and they would like to give their old, but in good condition flagpole, to the township for Mt. Hope Cemetery. It is 25 feet tall, seven years old and valued at \$3,500. The cost to have it installed would be \$850. It would need to be illuminated at night, so there would be a need for some kind of solar lighting as the cemetery doesn’t have electricity. Schaefer said that he would be looking into the specifics but is expecting to complete it at a cost NTE \$1,500. Rairigh asked if three quotes were required first. Schaefer said Flags Unlimited would be installing the flagpole at the Veteran’s Memorial already, so the quote he got was likely less than if they came out just for the Mt. Hope installation. Schaefer feels that if he could get approval for a cost NTE \$1,500 he could then get other quotes to come up with the three quotes needed.

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to install a new flagpole at Mt. Hope Cemetery for a cost NTE \$1,500. The flagpole is being donated by the Middleville Veterans Memorial Committee.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Schaefer
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

G. Barry County Fair Booth – Schaefer said he received an email today with the cost of the Fair Booth which remained unchanged from previous years at \$440 total. He would like to share the booth with the City of Hastings and the Village of Middleville as in previous years so the cost would be one-third of the total (\$146.67 for each entity.)

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to share a booth at the Barry County Fair with the City of Hastings and the Village of Middleville at a cost of \$146.67.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

13. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway) Nothing new.
- B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh) Rairigh asked Schaefer if he could get three quotes for the flagpole installation. Schaefer said he would investigate that. Campbell asked how many cemeteries the township has. Bouchard said two.
- C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) They are currently working on booking the Summer Music Series and discussing a Spring Event.
- D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer) Ordway said there were about 1400 AV applications sent, about 900 have been returned and about 900 ballots have been issued.
- E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) Nothing further.
- F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh) Bouchard said she has been working on getting a separate bank account and remote deposit for the Medical Management payments.
- G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer) Schaefer said he is the new chair of the board. In the past TAPRC focused mainly on softball and baseball. However, he is looking into the possibility of expanding the scope of the work that TAPRC does.
- H. Personnel – Compensation (Ordway, Campbell, Schaefer) Nothing new.
- I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) Nothing new.
- J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Campbell said that he is noticing Barry County Road Commission is filling potholes, but not on Noffke.
- K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) Nothing new.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

- A. John Lake – Thank you to the board for taking up the resolution. Without the second amendment there won't be any other amendments. Also, he is working on encouraging hunters to get registered to vote.

- B. Curt DeKam – Thank you to John for his work on the second amendment. Also, it’s important to go to tomorrow’s meeting regarding solar power. Farmers in Clare County and Ithica County have regretted their decisions to put windmills on their farms as it is cutting into their crop yields more than what they had thought. Also, the heavy equipment on the local roads has caused more repairs. He would like to encourage everyone to attend tomorrow’s meeting and to sign the petition to return rights to the local level.
- C. Catherine Getty – Would like to remind everyone that TAPRC’s Used Equipment Sale is scheduled for March 2. There is a donation bin in the hallway if anyone has used sports equipment they would like to donate. Please put donations in the bin by the Friday before, which is February 23. Larger items can be received as well.

15. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Congratulations to EMS members.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Echo the same sentiments. Congratulations!

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Good job! Thank you to the EMS members.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Congratulations! Also, Campbell continues to be impressed with the comradery in the department.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – Congratulations on the awards.

Cindy Ordway (Clerk) – Thank you, EMS members, for your hard work! Early voting starts on Saturday and is open for 9 days. The hours are 8 am to 4 pm.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Echoes the sentiments of the other board members to the EMS members. Also, thank you to Chief Richardson for bringing recognition back.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 7:57 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adjourn.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Approved 3/11/2024