

TOWNSHIP OF THORNAPPLE

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

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 PO Box 459 - 200 E Main St. - Middleville, MI 49333



REGULAR MEETING *Held at 128 High St. July 8, 2024

1. INVOCATION

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Present Campbell: Present DeMaagd: Present Ordway: Absent	Rairigh: Present Schaefer: Present Selleck: Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Commissioner Jon Smelker, Curt DeKam, Jason Preslar, Randy Eaton, Commissioner Catherine Getty, Lindsay Preslar, Mynda Lorenz, Greg Chandler, Chief Bill Richardson, Charles Brown, Amy Brown, Lana Quist, Joe Johnson, Dade Landon, Kevin Bull, Chase Maslonka, and Patrick Jansens	

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Selleck – Motion to approve the printed agenda with the revision to remove New Business (f). Resolution 11-2024
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Yes Campbell: Yes DeMaagd: Yes Ordway: Absent	Rairigh: Yes Schaefer: Yes Selleck: Yes
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6. FIRST PUBLIC COMMENT:

7. COUNTY REPORT:

County Commissioner Jon Smelker:	Smelker spoke on the spongy moth concerns around the county. They will look at if they will become a bigger issue in the coming year. He went on to announce a job opening for Deputy Director of IT for GIS. He stated that there will be a
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	<p>public hearing and voting tomorrow for the Resolution of the Brownfield Development TIF. He invited the board members and members of the public to come and speak. Tomorrow there will also be a meeting to vote on the renewal of the transit millage.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>Schaefer said they had questions on their resolution, they had wanted to talk with their attorney, but he unfortunately was out of town. He did tell them that it would be all right if they decided to move that resolution to next month's meeting. Smelker said that as he is now, he is a no vote. He said he has spoken to Thornapple Township constituents, and there were only two people for it, and the rest were against. He asked if Thornapple Township would be getting their EMS money. Eric replied they would, it would not be part of the housing TIF. He clarified that if there is a housing crisis in Thornapple Township, it should not be solved on the backs of Emergency Services. Getty added that there will be a County Admin interview next Friday, and then a second interview the following week.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME:

Fire Chief Bill Richardson stated that to maintain control over the station, there should be at least 8 Officers, so there will need to be promotions.

A. Patrick Jansens started working at the fire department in September of 2003 and became a full-time employee September of 2022. He began training officer February of 2023. He has done months of training and took a two-and-a-half-hour test for the opportunity of becoming Deputy Chief. Patrick finished on top; they were impressed by his attention to detail. He has gotten their ISO rating down, and has taken over maintaining the Ambulances, with a fourth ambulance on its way. He received three bugles as Deputy Chief.

B. Jason Preslar started in September of 2011. He oversees the building and grounds. He has been an excellent help with his knowledge of construction. He is our top officer responder; he has had fifty-two responses this year. He is looking forward to completing Fire Officer 3 and was promoted to Captain.

C. Joe Johnson began working at the fire station in March of 2016. He started and continues to oversee the EMT classes. Fire Chief Richardson is Johnson's helper for the EPC and PHTLS classes.

Three recruit firefighters became probationary firefighters.

D. Kevin Bull is a paramedic and registered nurse and has gone through fire school twice.

E. Dade Landon also went through fire school twice. He comes in excited and ready to train and has been a great resource.

F. Chase Maslonka started in September of 2023 and has gone through EMT school. He is one of the top responders.

G. Eric Schaefer administered the oath of office to the following members: Patrick Jansens, Jason Preslar, Joe Johnson, Chase Maslonka, Kevin Bull and Dade Landon.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: Chief Richardson gave a summary of activity over the last month, thanked the board members for the opportunity to serve the community over the last two years and said that he was continuing to improve the ISO score so that insurance costs would decline for commercial and residential property owners.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Request for an OWL meeting camera and perch: Eric Schaefer explained that the OWL is a camera that can record our Township Board meetings and Planning Commission meetings. The Village has a similar camera, which is voice and audio sensitive, so it will turn to who is speaking. The whole purchase, including the camera and its perch would cost not to exceed \$1,000, and would come out of GL number 101-265-970.000. DeMaagd asked if it was battery powered. Eric replied that it is not, and the room may have to be rearranged, as the OWL will have to sit in front of the desk. It has a panorama view that will zoom on who is speaking, and that the video could be uploaded to YouTube if desired.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer- Motion to purchase OWL Meeting Camera and Perch for a cost NTE \$1,000.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

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

B. Request for 10- 800mhz pagers: Chief Richardson said they would like to get ten more of the 800mhz pagers. They have been trying them out and have been using the VHF pagers at the same time. Richardson explained that Hastings had been doing it this way, and then switched completely over to the 800mhz. They switched completely because using both types lock up consoles, of which he was not aware. The options are to switch back to the VHF until the tower is up and running, and then move to the 800mhz, or switch over now. DeMaagd asked if they work well. Chief Richardson replied that they work better than the VHF, and they notify when they are not online, while the VHF do not. The tower goes up in November, and there should be better signal consistency. He would like to use any remaining grant funding.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer - Motion to purchase 10 - 800Mhz pagers for a cost NTE \$6,000.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Bouchard
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

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

C. Request for part time paramedic/firefighter: Chief Richardson spoke on how they are losing a paramedic. They have already found someone who is a veteran, a certified flight medic, and a great asset for the community.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh- Motion to hire one part-time firefighter EMT-P.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

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

D. Approval of a temporary website: Chief Richardson said the website would be temporary, as an opportunity for taxpayers to see where their money goes. It would cost about the same as 3 months of Pixelvine for the Thornapple Township website. Selleck asked if all the questions from the request before were answered. Bouchard stated that it was tabled before. She said they were finding a better way for the burn permits to be filled out through the website. Most of the information they want to put on this new website is already on or could added to the Thornapple Township website. It should be all on one website. She is against the temporary website. Rairigh added that she had concerns about misspellings and link issues on the temporary website. Chief Richardson said it was up, but not searchable. Rairigh stated that she would prefer if the Township website would hold the information. Eric agreed and said the information should be given to Pixelvine to put on the Township website. Chief Richardson said he did not mean to confuse the board or go against their wishes, and that it was a misunderstanding on his part. He also mentioned that he said if he had to, he would pay for it out of pocket, but not that he had already

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer- Motion to approve a temporary website
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Motion failed by roll call vote. 6 nos 0 ayes.

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

E. Request for professional development: Chief Richardson explained that this would be a “Blue Card Incident Command Training” that is a 2-3 day class, going over different scenarios and situations. Caledonia offered to split the cost of a “Reading the Smoke” class. They would be inviting firefighters from other communities as well. Selleck asked for specifications on what Blue Card training is. Chief explained that it has its roots in military training and provides instruction for incident commanders so they can practice making decisions in various emergency operations.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh- Motion for professional development for a cost NTE \$3,750.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

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

F. Resolution 11-2024 Tax Sharing Agreement - Removed from Printed Agenda

G. Request for columbarium cement: Schaefer explained the Cemetery Committee would like to put a decorative cement path and circle around the columbarium. They recommended the board accepts the quote from BR Construction. Rairigh stated that there would be landscaping similar to the veteran’s memorial. She added that she would like to use funds from the Shaw account for the project.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to accept the bid from BR Construction LLC for the columbarium decorative concrete path and circle in the amount of 12,250.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

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

12. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- A. Administration (Schaefer, Bouchard, Ordway) Schaefer explained they will be finding a new Deputy Clerk soon.
- B. Cemetery (Ordway, DeMaagd, Rairigh) This was covered.
- C. Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) Schaefer said Riverbank Music series is in full swing. There was a break for the 4th of July, but it is back this Friday. It is a good opportunity to get out and enjoy the music, and get a hot dog or hamburger from the Middleville Rotary Club.
- D. Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer) Schaefer stated that Cindy is in the thick of the August election, and they are on track.
- E. Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) DeMaagd said it has already been covered.
- F. Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh) Nothing new.
- G. Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer) Commissioner Getty said everything went smoothly, and there will be a meeting Wednesday night if there is a quorum.
- H. Personnel – Compensation (Ordway, Campbell, Schaefer) Nothing new.
- I. Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) The exterior of the township hall is being painted. Carlos will be stopping at the fire station and providing a quote, said Campbell.
- J. Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Nothing new.
- K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) Schaefer said operations are going well but they may need to deal with duck weed soon.

13. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

- A. Curt DeKam - He stated that he is not in favor of the TIF. He feels the state should not be subsidizing the risk for the developer and asking the community to carry the burden.
- B. Commissioner Catherine Getty- Getty said she had spoken out against this project from the beginning. She believes not enough people are coming to the meetings, so they are not hearing the opinions of the Village taxpayers, who they are relying on to fix the housing crisis. She wanted to convince the Village and the DDA to deny the project. The Village passed it unanimously, and the DDA passed it by a slim margin.

C. Mynda Lorenz- Is concerned about the speed limit on State Rd. She believes it should stay lower by Otto’s Turkey Shop. She believes it should be 45 instead of 55.

D. Randy Eaton – He said the distance between the double yellow line on Whitneyville Road to the white line on the edge of the road is different than on Finkbeiner Road. This makes the lanes on Whitneyville Road narrower than Finkbeiner Road.

E. Amy Brown – She thanked the board members and emergency services staff for the opportunity to work with them over the last four and half years.

14. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Selleck said congratulations to those who received promotions in and thanked them for their work. He feels they are one of the pillars of the community.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Congratulated the emergency services members on their promotions and said she was going to miss Amy.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Thanked the emergency services members for improving the department

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Campbell told his congratulations to the EMTs and Firefighters and is thankful for the morale that they bring.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – Bouchard appreciates all the improvements within the Fire Station and brought notice that the taxes all went out without any issues. She also mentioned that the audit went well.

Cindy Ordway (Clerk) – Absent.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Appreciates all that the emergency service members do in the community and congratulations on their promotions.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 8:12 P.M.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to adjourn the meeting.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 6 ayes and 0 nos.

Lana Quist, Recording Secretary

Approved as Amended 8/12/2024