

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 May 13, 2024

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

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL:	Bouchard: Campbell: DeMaagd: Ordway:	Present Present Present Present	Rairigh: Schaefer: Selleck:	Present Present Present
OTHERS PRESENT:	Chief Bill Richardson, Phil Gensterblum, Commissioner Jon Smelker, Jason Preslar, Nate Heyboer, Commissioner Catherine Getty, Greg Chandler, and Amy Brown.			

4. APPROVAL OF PRINTED AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve the Printed Agenda as printed.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended with the following corrections to the 4-8-24 Meeting Minutes: first, update the numbering of the outline beginning with “Committee Reports” and second, change “TIFF” to “TIF.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

7. COUNTY REPORT:

<p>County Commissioner Jon Smelker:</p>	<p>Smelker said the county commissioners had adopted two resolutions during a grant application to Homeland Security, have established a calendar for the 2025 budget work, had received funds from the sale of the former mental health facility near Algonquin Lake, and they have also acquired some recreational land near Metcalf Lake.</p>
<p>Board Response:</p>	<p>Schaefer thanked Smelker for his report. DeMaagd asked Smelker who the Mental Health building had been sold to. Smelker answered that it had been sold to the YMCA to be used for a camp or day care center. The existing YMCA camp is located very near the property.</p>

8. RESERVED TIME: None.

9. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT: Chief Richardson shared about the mock disaster held at the high school. He said Hanna Hollis, Joe Johnson, and Jason Preslar had done a lot to prepare for the event and it had gone very well. He felt many students were impacted by the event, especially the simulated funeral. As a result, some people had stopped at the department to ask more questions about working in Emergency Services. Chief Richardson also gave a summary of the activity this month. There had been four structure fires, two mutual aid calls and two wildland fires. They had good response times to each of these incidents. Also, there is an EMT class coming up in late summer/early fall. There is a grant for ten people to attend which includes their wages as well. There are plans being made to have Kim Sellek, Curt Campbell, and Jason Preslar review the Station Master Plan, tour the station, and discuss the needed building updates as the building is 20 years old. They will be holding a CPR class in July and a first aid class on May 30.

10. PLANNING AND ZONING REPORT: Gensterblum stated he has received 17 zoning compliance permits since the beginning of the year. They are mostly for accessory buildings. Although one would like to do a mother-in-law type residence so this and an accessory building within the minimum frontage will go before the Planning Commission for special use permits. There were also a few code enforcement issues that were resolved. One was a complaint about chickens, and the other was a possible accessory building without a permit. However, it was discovered that it wasn't a new building, but rather a new exterior.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CEMETERY FEES – Ordway explained the need to update the rates, which include fees for the columbarium.

MOTION STATED:	Ordway – Motion to approve the enclosed rate increases for cemetery fees.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

B. PAINTING OF TOWNSHIP HALL BUILDING - Schaefer explained he was recommending the enclosed quote for painting. Bouchard asked if the quote included the wall and fence. Schaefer said it included the wall but not the fence. Campbell said that if they spoke to Carlos, he might be able to add the fence.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to accept the attached bid for painting the Thornapple Township Hall.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

C. EMS MILLAGE – Schaefer asked board members which resolution they felt should be adopted for the EMS millage proposal language. Bouchard said that she felt a renewal would be easier for voters to approve, however, she was concerned about having two items on the ballot to vote. Campbell said he preferred the six-year term but was also concerned about the ballot language which refers to this as ‘new’ when it was more of a ‘renewal.’ Selleck agreed with Bouchard and Campbell and felt that for budget planning a six-year term would be better. Chief Richardson said he felt TK Schools did an excellent job of communicating about the school bond that was just passed. DeMaagd said he agreed with the six-year millage. Ordway agreed that voters could be confused by the language. Selleck asked if the Headlee Rollback would cause an issue with the EMS millage. Bouchard said no. DeMaagd asked if the resolution would be revisited before going on the ballot. Schaefer said no, this would be the final language for the ballot.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to adopt Resolution 10-2024, “Approve and Certify a Millage Proposal for 2.25 Mills for Six Years for Fire and Emergency Services.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck

MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.
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ROLL CALL VOTE:	Bouchard:	Yes	Rairigh:	Yes
	Campbell:	Yes	Schaefer:	Yes
	DeMaagd:	Yes	Selleck:	Yes
	Ordway:	Yes		

D. COST RECOVERY SCHEDULE – Chief Richardson explained there were some minor changes in the schedule such as adding a minimum charge to the hazmat clean up fee. This would be dependent on the size of the clean-up required. Also, he said they have had regular transfers for Corewell Health and that has been a good partnership, so the fees there needed to be adjusted accordingly.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to approve the enclosed, “Cost Recovery Fee Schedule.”
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Campbell
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

E. EQUIPMENT GRANT – Chief Richardson said that he was working on this with his Fire Officers and had asked them to research equipment and then offer recommendations. He did not have an exact dollar amount yet. They are aware the items they currently have are outdated and feel the grant amount would cover any costs associated with the purchases. They do not currently have a gas sniffer and he explained the benefit they would be in the field.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to approve the purchase of two thermal imaging cameras, two 4-gas monitors and two gas sniffers for a cost NTE the grant funds of \$30,000.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

F. PAID ON CALL – Chief Richardson explained the transient nature of those who work as volunteer firefighters. To maintain the number of staff, he’s asking the board to approve hiring three more paid-on-call firefighters and the cost to send them to fire school. Rairigh asked about the uniforms. The Chief confirmed they would not receive new uniforms until they had completed fire school.

MOTION STATED:	Rairigh – Motion to approve hiring three paid-on-call fire fighters.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

G. 800mhz PAGERS – Chief Richardson explained the new tower installed would be tested soon and that central dispatch had requested the testing be performed with multiple pagers in operation prior to the system going live. As a result, the chief felt that it would make sense to order them all at once rather than a few at a time as originally planned. He has the money in the budget. Currently his pager will tone when he is at home, but he doesn’t get the details of the call so this would resolve that issue for him.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to approve the purchase of 21 - 800 MHz pagers for a cost NTE \$13,000.00.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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

H. MABAS AGREEMENT (Mutual Aid Box Alarm Systems) - Chief Richardson explained that Barry County was currently the only county in the lower peninsula that is not part of the MABAS agreement. He explained it would be helpful to be part of this agreement so that if a major event happened and they needed mutual aid, dispatch could request the assistance without the Chief having to take the time to detail the needs and request specific departments be contacted. The emergency response plan had already been outlined for major events and it would just need to be sent to dispatch as part of this agreement. Ordway asked if all the entities in the county had to agree for it to be valid for the whole county. Chief Richardson explained that it wasn’t required that everyone agree. However, the language in the agreement could not be altered. Each entity that had joined had all agreed to use the same document.

MOTION STATED:	Campbell – Motion to approve the signing of the MABAS agreement.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Rairigh
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by voice vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

I. ADDITIONAL STAFF – Chief Richardson explained that some of his staff have decided to go to medical school or have moved and as a result there are only a couple of EMT’s who are doing most of the work. He would like to hire additional staff to maintain staff levels.

MOTION STATED:	Schaefer – Motion to approve hiring four part-time EMT’s and one part-time paramedic.
MOTION SUPPORTED:	Selleck
MOTION STATUS:	Approved by roll call vote. 7 ayes and 0 nos.

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 requested volunteers to put out the new bins at the cemetery. Chief Richardson said he would ask staff about it.
- C.** Middleville DDA Report (Schaefer) Schaefer said the Farmer’s Market would be opening May 31. The Music Series will be taking place in June.
- D.** Elections (Ordway, Bouchard, Schaefer) Ordway said she is looking for more elections inspectors so if anyone is interested, please reach out to her.
- E.** Emergency Services (DeMaagd, Schaefer, Rairigh) DeMaagd said this had been covered already.
- F.** Finance (Bouchard, Ordway, Rairigh) Nothing new.
- G.** Parks and Recreation Representative (Schaefer) Schaefer invited Getty to give the update. Getty stated that youth baseball and softball games were underway and going well.
- H.** Personnel – Compensation (Ordway, Campbell, Schaefer) Nothing new.
- I.** Property and Public Utilities (Selleck, DeMaagd, Campbell) Selleck said that he would be contacting people regarding the Oak Opening in Mt. Hope.
- J.** Roads and Highways (Campbell, DeMaagd, Selleck) Selleck said that he had driven Noffke Dr. and was very pleased with how it had turned out.

K. Duncan Lake Sewer (Campbell, Selleck, Schaefer) – Schaefer said the numbers were very good and that a discharge had taken place. Also, they have a new delivery system for the Alum and a new well has been installed.

14. SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: Getty stated she had attended Rachelle Smit’s office hours and had a brochure on all the Michigan County Fairs scheduled for this season if anyone was interested. She also spoke about the petition to return control over solar and wind energy to local communities and reminded everyone that the deadline was approaching soon. Getty also shared that County commissioners had hired GovHR to help them recruit a new Barry County Administrator as Michael Brown is retiring in July or possibly August. They hope to find someone from the region or someone who has connections with the area.

15. POLL OF MEMBERS:

Kim Selleck (Trustee) – Is happy that Spring is finally here.

Sandy Rairigh (Trustee) – Asked members for suggestions on someone who could do decorative concrete stamping for around the columbarium.

Ross DeMaagd (Trustee) – Nothing to add.

Curt Campbell (Trustee) – Congratulations to Selleck on his retirement.

Laura Bouchard (Treasurer) – Nothing further.

Cindy Ordway (Clerk) – Nothing further.

Eric Schaefer (Supervisor) – Appreciates the time that Nate and his team took to come in and give more information on the Mid Villa Project as it was very educational.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

TIME: 7:59 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_____/2024__