

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

Minutes
October 14, 2021
24725 Jefferson Center St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031
6:30 PM

Call to Order & Roll Call: Hass, Bruner, Glaze, Bundle, Absent: Gillam

Pledge to the Flag

Public Comments

Joni Burkett – Chicken waste on property and on son’s shoes. Odor, unruly chickens on neighbor’s property impacting their lives. Contacted CCSO, animal control. Said twp. responsibility. Resident states twp. has not enforced ordinance.

Leslie Mc Gregor – Resident. Flag displaying f*** in the township at M62 and Yankee. Resident has concern about this display. Desires flag be removed. Is there any ordinance? Wants one drafted and approved. Hass will check with township attorney. Update at November meeting.

Attorney Senica states flags political in nature can be flown, federal law. Twp. has no judication. People have constitutional property rights. Private citizen can hire an attorney.

Hospital Farms & Co. – Dominique Da Cruz provided proposal summary handout. *“Our mission is applying advance plant science to build an agriculturally focused investment fund starting with cannabis as our main crop, the quickly scaling to other crops.”* General partners have licenses in Wayne Co., Muskegon, Marshall. Kevin Williams is township property owner offering 5 acres for this project. Requesting township reconsider existing marijuana opt out ordinance.

Da Cruz states when considering the change, who do we want recreational vs. medical?

Correspondence – Comcast. Work with our residents to set up internet services. Need information on letterhead. Attorney approved.

Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2021, meeting. Motion by Glaze, supported by Gillam to approved as presented. Approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Old National service charges being addressed by Glaze. Motion by Bundle, supported by Hass to approve report as presented. Approved.
Presented. Motion by Bundle, supported by Hass to approve report as presented. Approved.

Payment of Bills – Brunner presented payment of bills. Glaze, Bundle. Motion by Glaze, supported by Bundle to approved as presented. Approved.

Approval to issue refund for Howard Twp. -\$170 deducted from Bill Spormberg’s paycheck. Sent to Jefferson Twp. in error. Hass, Gillam. Approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Hall Improvements – Assigned to board members to provide additional information and/or quotes for goods and services at November meeting.

Bundle presented Haas Security Systems for cameras.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) application update – County passed approved for MEC broadband installation. Need invoice for matching funds. MEC will start as soon as payment has been received. MEC will contact residents in the area to discuss connection.

Believe check has been received, there was a deposit from the State of Michigan. Glaze will verify.

NEW BUSINESS

Board member training – Glaze and Hass will attend MTA training. \$1200 for both. Brunner will attend in 2022.

Hiring of Jerrell Robertson for custodial position - \$16.00 per hour according to current budget. Brunner, Glaze. Motion by Brunner, supported by Glaze to approve hire. Approved. Will ask if he would consider code enforcement.

Determine how to reconsider marijuana zoning – Brunner reached out to township attorney to understand consideration of changing existing ordinance that doesn’t not currently allow cannabis activity. First step, opt back in and then work on zoning ordinance. State of Michigan had very few rules and now there are guidelines to help with restrictions. Discussion in November to vote opting in. Hospital Farms & Co. invited to be available for questions and answers. Will publicize to community.

Attorney Senica states the two types of marijuana: medical and recreational use. Twp can limit retailers, grow operations, micro business (grow & sell out of a home), processors. Grow should be located where it does not impact residents. The board will decide which is allowed. There are classes A, B and C. Highly regulated by the State for safety. Secured transporter, “Brinks” truck to transport the product. Designated consumption facility for use in food products or smoking. Special event license for temporary events. From retail shops in twp. can receive money from the State, not guaranteed. Zoning change is before ordinance change. Special use permit to P&Z to grow in Ag, possible to be heard at January 2022 meeting. Licenses have strict requirements. Benefit to allowing is tax base. March or April meeting we could probably move forward. Attorney will send information to review before we make a change to the ordinance.

Approve Wayne Hardin as Zoning Inspector. Brunner, Glaze. Wayne has potential person from another twp.

Zoning – Beth Pompey presented intent to resign on October 14, 2021, to adhere to 30-day notice. Presented open blight cases and turned over zoning and special land use files.

Building – Inspector Wayne Hardin’s reports are presented quarterly.

Plumbing – Inspector Bill Spromberg’s monthly report presented.

Electrical – Inspector Ron Bellaire’s monthly report presented.

EMERGENCY SERVICES, UTILITIES

Cass Ambulance- Hass reported. Next meeting December 16th

Cass Fire – Next meeting November 17th

Edwardsburg Fire – Next meeting December 7th

Planning and Zoning – November 17th & December public hearings for Clenera to install a solar facility. Need special land use. Nine parcels being considered. Presented the handout from the public meeting.

Other Business – Current Quick Books program still has Lotte Kirstein as administrator, not able to be accessed correctly. Brunner would like to purchase new Quick Books for clerk and treasurer. Hass, Gillam. Approved.

Next regular meeting November 11,2021

Adjournment – Gillam moved to adjourn; Glaze supported. Meeting adjourned by Hass at 7:34 PM.