Douglas DeLeo, Supervisor Ron Klein, Trustee

Jill Sanborn, Treasurer Ted Swanson, Trustee

Georgette Peterson, Clerk

ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP

VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

BOARD MEETING

June 19, 2024

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Douglas DeLeo, Supervisor

Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation were done.

Roll Call: Jill Sanborn, Ron Klein, Douglas DeLeo, Georgette Peterson: Present. Ted Swanson: Absent.

Others Present: Scott Graham, Township Attorney; Arlington Township Residents, Brett Witkowski Director Van Buren Road Commission.

Reports

Law Enforcement: None

Fire Department: Chief Babcock gave the up-to-date report and noted the 4th of July parade will start at 5:00; at 6:00 there will be festivities at the high school with the band providing food as a fund raiser. Fireworks will begin about 10:15 PM. Chief Babcock also introduced his wife, Jean as the township’s new representative to Van Buren County Senior Services. Jean was asked by a resident if people can transfer to Lawrence Senior Services; Jean will find out. Jill Sanborn, Treasurer, explained how the millage works and that the people of Arlington, amongst other townships, voted to go with Van Buren County Senior Services. Lawrence Township and some others did not vote to do so. Resident, Neal May, talked about how much he and his wife like going to South Haven, saying “It’s a great place”.

Commissioners Report: Kurt Doroh reported having taken a 6-week Michigan Planner course through Michigan State University. He said the prosecuting attorney, Susan Zuiderveen, has request an Appellate Attorney. Kurt reported the number of veterans using services is increasing in all areas. Regarding Broadband, Kurt said people can go to the County Web Site to see who their provider is. The Grand Opening of the Museum in Hartford is this Sunday. K-9 Deputy Kuno has retired.

Assessor’s Report: Danielle explained the taxable values and capped values saying the transfer of ownership will uncap the value and the only change after that will be the rate of inflation and additions or losses.

Public Comment: Annie Davidson Funke said she and her husband put out 107 flags for Veteran’s Day; 6 of those went under the cemetery signs in case a Veteran’s grave may have been missed.

Brett Witkowski, spoke about the challenges of revenue and dealing with inflation. He reported that the amount of gas sold has decreased by 23%. He said the 1.1 mill per dollar per mile has been in effect since 1978. There is a millage renewal coming up on the ballot. He talked about seal coating adding 8-10 years to a road and they plan to do 187 miles in 2024. Brett reported there are 1313 miles of county roads and 284 of them are gravel. He said there is a test gravel road with a double seal coat in Decatur; the test will be complete in 2025, and so far, it is holding up well. Jacque Fillippe asked how much a mile of seal coat costs and his response was $80,000.

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF COUNTY-WIDE ROAD MILLAGE BALLOT PROPOSAL was made by motion from Douglas DeLeo and supported by Jill Sanborn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Report: Noise complaint concerning Lennox Trucking and Frida’s Cantina:

1. Regarding Lennox Trucking, Attorney Graham asked Mr. Lennox what has changed. Mr. Lennox said he has been there almost 10 years; the 1st two years he had 3 trucks, currently he has 6 trucks and 5 are usually at home on the weekends. He explained the refrigeration (reefers) have to run because he has regulations that say what the temperatures must be. He said there is 1 piece of equipment that does have an issue and he turned it around so the noise would face the North. He said he received the permits in 2019 from the Township through the zoning enforcer, who he said told him he did not need a SUP and that he had submitted a Site plan for the Warehouse and said the business plan described hauling refrigerated products. Attorney Graham said if it is zoned commercial, it is not permitted, but you have been allowed to do so. Graham asked the Roes how it is different. Laura Roe said if feels like it’s louder and increased vibrations. Mr. Lennox then requested assistance from Ron Klein as he was told in the PC meeting that the Klein’s had the same issue with a neighbor and they resolved it by creating a baffle design apparatus. Mr. Klein said he would be happy to speak with Mr. Lennox.
2. Regarding Frida’s Cantina: the Roes said they compromised on the outdoor music at the PC meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Jill Sanborn prepared a transaction report for May16, 2024 through June 19, 2024.

Ron Klein made a motion, supported by Georgette Peterson to approve payment of the expenditures. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jill requested approval to pay $519 for an EPSON DC-21 High-Definition Document Camera instead of $325 as approved at the May meeting as we were unable to find one at that price.

She said we saved $100 on the projector and its service plan. Ron Klein made a motion with support from Douglas DeLeo to pay $519 for the camera. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jill noted approval was needed, and Ron made the motion to use $44,459.39 ARPA funds to pay for Road Commission request for pre-construction deposit for Project #497.2876, Slag Sealcoat and Fog Seal for various roads. Georgette supported the motion. Discussion took place. Vote: Jill Sanborn, Ron Klein, Douglas DeLeo-Yes. Georgette Peterson-No. Motion carried 3-1.

Jill noted approval was needed and Ron Klein made the motion, with support from Douglas DeLeo to transfer money to pay Robert Sefak $12, 633.00 for the Transfer Station concrete and Krohn Excavating $2050 to work on pads and sand at the Transfer Station. All in favor. Motion carried. It was noted that we will receive the grant money when the project is completed.

Jill thanked Danielle Golembiewski for her work as the Deputy Treasurer and said she wished to remove Danielle from the Sturgis Bank Accounts and add LuAnn Sell who will be her Deputy starting July 1, 2024.

Ron made a motion with support from Georgette to remove Danielle Golembiewski from the Sturgis bank accounts and add LuAnn Sell (General Fund, MBL fund, Tax Collection Fund, Fire Tax Fund and Road Tax Fund). All in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk’s Report: Georgette Peterson reported that no interest has been shown at all in the Zoning Ordinance position. Therefore, she contacted 2 companies. Safebuilt and McKenna. She noted that either will be more expensive than what we have had. Safebuilt requires a person at the Township Hall to be their intermediary which would require hiring someone. McKenna sent a proposal for Zoning Ordinance Enforcement as well as one for reviewing/writing the Township Ordinances. The PC has completed many but the Township is still working with some Ordinances that are over 10 years old. Jill made a motion, with support from Georgette, to move forward with McKenna. Discussion then took place and the decision was made to ask them to meet with the Board and residents next Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at a special meeting at 7:00 PM. Georgette will contact them with this request.

Planning Commission:

1. Per the Planning Commission recommendation, Ron Klein made a motion with support from Douglas DeLeo to renew the SUP of Old Grove Barn, parcel # 80-03-022-012-15; 39940 CR 673, with the following condition: No second business of any kind is permitted on the property, and no mining is to occur. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Per the Planning Commission recommendation, Ron Klein made a motion with support from Georgette Peterson for a SUP for parcel # 80-03-031-015-00, 57374 48th Ave.; owned by Rudy and Clara Miller, for the purpose of constructing a Pole Building to use to repair tarps and boat

covers. All in favor. Motion carried.

1. Per the Planning Commission recommendation, Ron Klein made a motion with support from Georgette Peterson for parcel # 80-03-200-008-01, 53838 M43 HWY; Frida’s Cantina; to approve the addition of the requested seasonal outside seating area up to total area of 35’x30’, 4 table and no fire pit. Written approval from the fire marshal for the emergency route will be required and applicant must comply with all Liquor Control Commission: Outdoor Service Permission Approval Order. Acoustic outdoor music will be permitted, but no amplifiers. The issue of outdoor music will be reviewed at the Planning Commission September quarterly meeting.

Ron Klein, Jill Sanborn, Georgette Peterson-Yes. Douglas DeLeo-No. Motion carried 3-1.

Minutes of May 15, 2024: Motion to approve minutes as written by Jill Sanborn with support from Ron Klein. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Georgette Peterson, Clerk