

July 12, 2021 Alganssee Township Board Minutes

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER on Monday, July 7, 2021 at 7:30 pm. Supervisor Russ Jennings called the Alganssee Township Board meeting to order. All members were present- Supervisor Russ Jennings, Treasurer Sarah Strong, Trustee Jason Shilling, Trustee Rod Bassage, and Clerk Anne Gary.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Clerk Anne Gary led the United States Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Agenda Additions/Deletions – Motion to approve agenda by Rod Bassage. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – Ed Reed, Surveyor, Reed & Associates Land Surveyors, Quincy, MI. Results of the Survey Report of Fisher Hill Cemetery completed June 15, 2021 were shared by Ed Reed and printed survey reports provided. Actual dimensions of the Cemetery follow the fence line in close proximity. It is not nearly off as much as first indicated. Erica Ewers, Assessor, will contact surrounding property owners to secure quick claim deeds where the Cemetery does infringe on adjacent properties. The fence line has been established since 1902 according to Ed Reed.

Verbal estimate provided to complete the layout of everything remaining in the unplotted sections was a maximum quote of \$8,500. Reed & Associates will also purchase the materials to set posts to identify cemetery lots in the new sections with the Township paying for the materials. Ed estimated cost for materials to run about \$50.00.

Clerk, Anne Gary, suggested a closed bidding process for the plotting and materials on work to be completed at Fisher Hill Cemetery. Consensus of the Board was to proceed with Reed & Associates due to availability to get the work completed. The verbal understanding was costs associated with the project, if reasonable, would be approved if the Board decided to proceed. Rod Bassage made a motion to hire Reed & Associates Land Surveyors at a maximum quote of \$8,500 plus \$50.00 for materials. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

Librarian Lynnell Eash provided the Alganssee Library Report. If you haven't visited the library recently, they have re-arranged some of the space which provides a more open area. Attendance May, 2021 was 184 and attendance June, 2021 was 214. Six story times were held in June and program will continue through July. Approximately 30 children participating.

D MINUTES

D.1. June 7, 2021 Board Minutes - Motion by Jason Shilling to approve minutes with minor corrections. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

D.2. June 29, 2021 Planning Commission Minutes – Approval of minutes by Township Board. Motion by Anne Gary to approve. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT

July Treasurer's Report – The Township's June balance was \$591,612.12 with June income of \$40,045.17 and May expenses of \$17,857.40 giving a July balance of \$613,799.89. The Clerk agrees. Rod Bassage motioned to accept the July Treasurer's report. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

F.1. Quincy Fire Association (QFA) – Trustee Rod Bassage stated the next QFA meeting is set for 5:30 pm August 12, 2021.

F.2. Planning Commission Report – Trustee Jason Shilling stated the next Planning Commission meeting is set for 7:00 pm July 27, 2021 at Pinecrest Bible Church. Meeting topics will be Wind and Solar Energy, possibly the front setbacks and lot splits. The Planning Commission has been working on drafts of zoning ordinance language pertaining to wind energy and solar energy.

F.3. Zoning Board of Appeals – no report.

F.4. Alganssee website – no reported website issues.

F.5. Ordinance Violations – none.

G. OLD BUSINESS

G.1. MTA online courses - Supervisor Russ Jennings reported our one-year membership in the Premium Pass online learning ends mid-August, 2021.

G.2. Update for the American Rescue Funds – Treasurer Sarah Strong indicated nearly all the requirements of the Township have been completed for receipt of the funds. No separate audit of the ARAP account will be required as the dollar amount will be less than \$750,000. MTA recommends all Michigan Townships apply to receive the funds. Sarah Strong made a motion to accept the ARAP funds. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

G.3. Update for Level-Pay LP Gas Plan – Supervisor Russ Jennings recommends enrolling in the Level-Pay Plan. Enrollment is ongoing with no specific deadline date. Township will be able to make monthly payments beginning on a day selected by the Township. Caywood Propane will deliver propane at the market price, or \$1.79, whichever is lower. Township will also receive Auto-Fill and Prompt-Pay Discounts, currently at \$0.08/gallon. Township’s propane tank is currently 70 percent full. Motion by Rod Bassage to sign up for the plan. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

G.4. Review Land Survey Fisher Cemetery – covered during Public Comment.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Request for radar speed sign on Fisher Road, cost \$4,330.00 - A representation of residents living by Fisher Road expressed the need for speed control measures as many drivers consistently drive **way** over the 35-mph residential speed zone. Safety is a critical issue. A patrol officer positioned in the area wrote 41 tickets in 4 days. Branch County Road Commission will be purchasing two mobile radar speed signs. No specific timeline. When they are available, both signs will be placed on Fisher Road to see if improvement happens. Supervisor Russ Jennings will check into data collection and how improvement, or non-improvement, will be measured. Improvement will be used as a determining factor for the Township to approve purchase of sign(s) for use on Fisher Road.

H.2. Request for Branch County Health Department to use Township Hall on Wednesday August 11, 2021 - Motion by Rod Bassage to approve use of the Hall for a hearing clinic. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

H.3. Review for CD maturity – Treasurer Sarah Strong reviewed CD/money market rates for \$1,800 CD maturing at TCF Bank. Honor Credit Union offers a Surge money market with an interest rate of approximately 1.0%. The money market rate is considerably higher than any CD options on such a small balance. Motion by Anne Gary to deposit the funds in a Surge money market at Honor Credit Union. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

Signors on the account will be Treasurer Sarah Strong and Clerk Anne Gary. Signatures below by Supervisor and Clerk grant approval.

Supervisor Russ Jennings

Clerk Anne Gary

H.4. ARAP Funds – Already covered under Old Business G.2.

H.5. Insurance appraisal of Township Hall, two Cemetery buildings, contents – Cost to the Township would be \$300.00. Last appraisal update was completed in 2012. Motion to table appraisal request by Rod Bassage. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

H.6. FOIA requests – Clerk Anne Gary, FOIA Coordinator, received three requests since June 7, 2021. One verbal request was pertaining to ordinance language covering temporary parking of RVs on residential property when used as living quarters. One request received via email asking about voting in upcoming elections. Third request required letter reply from the Township inquiring about previous elections in 2016, 2018, 2020. Anne Gary sent a draft letter to Township Attorney Chuck Lillis for review before sending to True North Law.

H.7. Zoning fee for site condominium – Motion by Rod Bassage to set the zoning fee to \$1,500. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

I. Payment of Bills June - Bills presented in the amount of \$27,957.57. Jason Shilling motioned to approve payment of the bills. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

J. SPECIAL REPORTS

J.1. Zoning Administrator’s Report – Matt Ashenfelter, June report, copy provided to the Board. Supervisor Russ Jennings read the highlights from Matt’s report.

J.2. Branch County Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Tom Matthew presented his report. The County is currently looking to fill a variety of open positions. Applications will be accepted from non-Michigan residents.

J.3. Algansee Library Report- Already presented during Public Comment.

J.4. Assessor's Report- Assessor, Erica Ewers, June 8, 2021-July 12, 2021 copy provided to the Board. July Board of Review is Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 2:00 pm. Erica has completed 12 of the 16 hours of required assessing training for 2021. Agricultural training session is anticipated for September, 2021.

K. Correspondence – Clerk Anne Gary reviewed correspondence received. MTA distributed Principles of Governance document which they are asking every township board to deliberate on and adopt. Copies were distributed to each board member for review prior to August meeting.

L. Public Comment – Request was made to have unapproved Board Minutes posted to the Algansee Township website within the guidelines of the Open Meeting Act. Clerk Anne Gary will send pending approval minutes of the Board Meeting on a monthly basis to Supervisor Russ Jennings for posting to the website.

M. Next Meeting- The next regular board meeting will be Monday, August 2, 2021 7:30 pm at the Algansee Township Hall.

N. Adjournment- Jason Shilling motioned to adjourn. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried. Board meeting was adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Anne Gary
Algansee Township Clerk