

August 2, 2021 Alganssee Township Board Minutes

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER on Monday, August 2, 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 Sarah Strong. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

C.1. Sheriff John Pollack provided jail construction update. One year ago, July, 2020, the first steel column was set. Project is in the finishing stage now. Public tours will be offered of the new facility once completed. Capacity will be up to 80 inmates. Sheriff Pollack stressed need for marine patrol boats and concern over the high mileage on half of the road patrol vehicles.

C.2. Jay Miller, Branch County Road Commission, discussed the purchase of two radar control speed signs to be placed initially on Fisher Road. Signs are portable but do not collect data or images of speeding violators. Additional signage could include Slow down, Speed Limit, Residential Area.

C.3. Librarian Lynnell Eash provided the Alganssee Library Report. Attendance July, 2021 was 267 and 33 patrons completed the Summer Reading Program. Craft time programs are planned for the month of September. Branch County District Library will be celebrating its 30th Anniversary August 25, 2021. Alganssee Township Library will hold their Open House from 3-5 pm and serving cupcakes. Public is welcome!

C.4. Residents in attendance thanked the Zoning Board for their work on the Wind and Solar ordinance updates. Supervisor Russ Jennings said the recommended changes are now under review by the Branch County Planning Commission. Once approved, the Alganssee Township Board will be able to vote on the changes. Russ anticipates this will happen at the September 13, 2021 meeting.

C.5. Board received complaints about property at 116 Wright Road, Quincy, MI. It has been vacant for about 5 years and inhabited by rats and raccoons. Previously Supervisor Russ Jennings had been told the house would be torn down and debris removed from the property. Russ will open up the ordinance violation again and start over with the 30-day process.

C.6. Board received complaints about a camper on Wright Road, Quincy, MI being used as a dwelling. Occupants are 3 adult males and 1 dog. Zoning Administrator, Matt Ashenfelter, had sent a violation notice the first week of July, 2021. Matt will send a letter to the land owner informing her she is in violation.

C.7. Discussion was raised by residents in attendance about re-establishing a Homeowners Association. Supervisor Russ Jennings encouraged seeking the advice of an attorney regarding matters that do not fall under the jurisdiction of Township duties.

D MINUTES

D.1. July 12, 2021 Board Minutes - Motion by Rod Bassage to approve minutes. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT

August Treasurer's Report – The Township's July balance was \$613,799.89 with July income of \$273.00 and June expenses of \$17,857.40 giving an August balance of \$586,115.32. The Clerk agrees. Jason Shilling motioned to accept the August Treasurer's report. Support by Rod Bassage. 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 Planning Commission made some changes based on public recommendations and comments received at the Public Hearing. Overall, the meeting went well. Language in the drafts of zoning ordinance language pertaining to wind energy and solar energy will now be reviewed by the Branch County Planning Commission.

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

F.4. Algansee website – Supervisor Russ Jennings checking into more user-friendly features for our current website.

F.5. Ordinance Violations – Two received by the Board during Public Comment.

G. OLD BUSINESS

G.1. Update for the American Rescue Funds – Treasurer Sarah Strong submitted the request for funds July 21, 2121. Documents are under review. Anticipated dollar amount is about \$204,000.

G.2. Update for Level-Pay LP Gas Plan – Treasurer Sarah Strong will contact Caywood Propane LP about starting with a deposit of \$1,500 into the Level-Pay Plan.

G.3. Update Land Survey Fisher Cemetery – waiting on legal descriptions before starting the Quick Claim Deeds process.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Request for radar speed sign on Fisher Road, cost \$4,330.00 – covered during Public Comment.

H.2. Over Budget line items - Motion by Rod Bassage to approve over budget items with the exception of insurance. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

1. Cemetery Supplies from \$500.00 to \$700.00
2. Cemetery Repairs\Maintenance from \$100.00 to \$10,000.00
3. Supervisor Supplies\Postage from \$50 to \$100.00
4. Town Hall Advertising from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00
5. Township Board Hired Labor from \$550.00 to \$3,510.00

H.3. Federal Procurement Conflict of Interest Policy - Items of nominal value dollar amount to be set for policy. Motion by Rod Bassage to set the cap at a value of less than \$50.00. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

H.4. Meet and Greet MTA – Clerk Anne Gary will turn in RSVPs for the event to Coldwater Township Supervisor.

H.5. New front door and switch for outside light – Supervisor Russ Jennings will consult with an Electrician about the switch and GFI box underneath the floor of the Hall. Also get quote for front door.

H.6. November 2, 2021 Election – Precincts may be combined. Coldwater Schools will have two questions on the ballot. Clerk Anne Gary said the Township will be reimbursed for the election expenses by the Coldwater School District.

H.7. Quote for new printer – Motion by Rod Bassage to approve purchase up to \$500 plus tax. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

H.8. Principles of Governance – Each board member signed document. Clerk Anne Gary will purchase a frame to display document at the Hall.

H.9. Golf carts – Trustee Rod Bassage expressed a desire to look into Algansee Township establishing a golf cart usage policy. Supervisor Russ Jennings stated local patrol does not have the manpower to oversee golf carts on public roads. Rod will check into what could be done on a County wide basis.

I. Payment of Bills July - Bills presented in the amount of \$18,607.02. 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, July report, copy provided to the Board. A total of 7 permits were issued. No upcoming ZBA Hearings.

J.2. Branch County Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Tom Matthew emailed his report. Supervisor Russ Jennings covered highlights of the report: Recycling Grant (Biz Aid Recycling LLC), Designated Assessor, Charles Zemla, and Policy #37 regarding vacant positions for personnel.

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

J.4. Assessor's Report- Assessor, Erica Ewers, July 13, 2021-August 2, 2021 copy provided to the Board. Pictometry comparison training completed. Software didn't split out the over 19,000 buildings with changes by jurisdiction.

K. Correspondence – Clerk Anne Gary reviewed correspondence received. None required a response.

L. Public Comment – Additional discussion about Homeowners Association by residents from Wright Road, Quincy, MI.

M. Next Meeting- The next regular board meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021 7:30 pm at the Alganssee Township Hall.

N. Adjournment- Rod Bassage motioned to adjourn. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried. Board meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.

Anne Gary
Alganssee Township Clerk