

September 13, 2021 Algansee Township Board Minutes

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER on Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:32 pm. Supervisor Russ Jennings called the Algansee 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 Jason Shilling. Support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

C.1. Librarian Lynnell Eash provided the Algansee Library Report. Branch County District Library celebrated its 30th Anniversary. Algansee Township Library held their Open House August 25, 2021. Ten library patrons attended. Weekly crafts for adults and children on Wednesday's at 4:00 pm during September and at 5:00 pm during October. Plans for new carpeting approved by the District Library Board. Expenses in preparing for installation will come from the District Library fund and donations for the new carpeting in the two rooms of the library from the Wood family.

C.2. Jennifer Milligan, resident Brocklebank Road, expressed appreciation for the work done by the Planning Commission and Algansee Township Board to update the Wind & Solar ordinances. If documentation is not in place regarding height restrictions, it leaves the Township open to exposure and it is not good for Branch County.

D MINUTES

D.1. August 2, 2021 Board Minutes - Motion by Sarah Strong to approve minutes. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

D.2. August 24, 2021 Planning Commission Minutes – Motion by Sarah Strong to approve minutes. Support by Anne Gary. Motion carried.

E. TREASURER'S REPORT

September Treasurer's Report – The Township's August balance was \$586,115.32 with August income of \$39,672.72 and July expenses of \$18,607.02 giving a September balance of \$607,181.02. The Clerk agrees. Rod Bassage motioned to accept the September Treasurer's report. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

F.1. Quincy Fire Association (QFA) – Supervisor Russ Jennings stated the next QFA meeting is set for 5:30 pm October 13, 2021 at 5:30 pm. Clerk Anne Gary complimented the professionalism of the Quincy Fire Department on a recent call to her residence.

F.2. Planning Commission Report – Trustee Jason Shilling stated the Planning Commission language in the drafts of zoning ordinance language pertaining to wind energy and solar energy has been approved by the Branch County Planning Commission. Supervisor Russ Jennings called for motions on each of the two ordinances to proceed with a roll call vote.

Solar Energy Ordinance: new Section 14.13 of Algansee Township Zoning Ordinance Manual

Motion by Sarah Strong to approve the Solar Energy Ordinance language. Support by Jason Shilling.

Roll Call vote: Yeas: Jason Shilling, Rod Bassage, Russ Jennings, Sarah Strong, Anne Gary. Neas: 0 Absent: 0
This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Algansee Township, County of Branch, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 13th day of September, 2021.

Wind Energy Ordinance: new sections 4.03.Q, 8.03.G, 9.03.G, section 14.12 text removed and replaced with updated language.

Motion by Sarah Strong to approve the Wind Energy Ordinance language. Support by Jason Shilling.

Roll Call vote: Yeas: Jason Shilling, Rod Bassage, Russ Jennings, Sarah Strong, Anne Gary. Neas: 0 Absent: 0
This Ordinance is hereby declared to have been adopted by the Township Board of the Algansee Township, County of Branch, State of Michigan, at a Regular Meeting, called and held on the 13th day of September, 2021.

Planning Commission has made a request for the Township Board to select and approve two alternates to serve on the Planning Commission Board when needed. Motion by Jason Shilling for Supervisor Russ Jennings to proceed with this request. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

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

F.4. Alganssee website – Supervisor Russ Jennings reviewed some functions of website with Sharon Atkinson, Planning Commission Secretary. Sharon has volunteered to assist as needed with website technology challenges.

F.5. Ordinance Violations

116 Wright Drive - Supervisor Russ Jennings sent the Winger family a notice and contacted the Health Department. Health Department visited the property August 24, 2021 and reported no observation of rodents at the dwelling. Neighbor who mows the property reported lack of rodent activity. Rod Bassage made a motion to close the complaint at 116 Wright Drive. Support by Anne Gary. Motion carried.

246 Bickford Drive – Supervisor Russ Jennings will re-send letter to property owner Robert Holloway. Complaint about raccoons. Dwelling is boarded up.

Supervisor Russ Jennings moved ahead on the agenda to discuss

H.2. Request for Blight Ordinance.

Only two townships in Branch County have a Blight Ordinance: Coldwater and Quincy. If a Blight Ordinance is in place, sometimes the Township ends up owning the property. Discussion was held perhaps other language could be adopted that would be less onerous but provide some protection to neighboring properties values.

244 Crockett Drive – Dennis Wolfe, property owner, not living in his home for past two years. From recent storms, tree sitting on the roof, exposure to rain, etc. Dwelling is not locked. Supervisor Russ Jennings said if the structure becomes condemned status, Branch County doesn't have a demolition and removal process for condemned properties.

G. OLD BUSINESS

G.1. Update for the American Rescue Funds – Treasurer Sarah Strong stated the request for funds approved September 3, 2021. Anticipated dollar amount is about \$205,000.

G.2. Update for Level-Pay LP Gas Plan – Treasurer Sarah Strong stated Caywood Propane LP approved initial of \$1,500 into account for Alganssee Township Hall in the Level-Pay Plan.

G.3. Update Land Survey Fisher Cemetery – Edward Reed, Reed & Associates Land Surveyors, provided completed survey documents to the Board: Fisher Hill Cemetery Third Section lots numbered from 391 to 609. Once gravel roads are completed in Third Section, lots can be purchased. Supervisor Russ Jennings will get quotes for the gravel road work and bring to the October Board meeting.

Clerk Anne Gary requested a motion to get copies printed of both Fisher Hill and Lester Cemetery plotted maps for Sexton Tyler Butters. Rod Bassage so moved, support by Sarah Strong. Motion carried.

G.4. Update for Radar Speed Sign – Supervisor Russ Jennings has not received an update from the County.

G.5. Installation exterior Notice Board – Trustee Rod Bassage stated the current notice board was sided around it when installed. Would prefer a contractor doing the installation of the new board.

G.6. Review budget line item – Treasurer Sarah Strong requested an increased in insurance category 574 from 5,190.00 to 6,125.00 due to moving Accident Fund Insurance annual premium into the insurance category. Motion by Jason Shilling, support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Approval for Wind and Solar Ordinances – done.

H.2. Request for Blight Ordinance – discussion held during Ordinance Violations.

H.3. Meet and Greet MTA Clerk Anne Gary will confirm RSVPs for the event to Coldwater Township Supervisor.

H.4. Request for new front door at Hall – Supervisor Russ Jennings asked for motion to get a contractor to install: Notice board, new drop box, new front exterior door, (which need approval for purchase). Motion by Rod Bassage. Support by Anne Gary. Motion carried.

H.5. November 2, 2021 Election – California Township and Alganssee Township will be voting at Alganssee Township Hall. Clerk Anne Gary requested permission to put notice in the papers announcing the Election Commission to appoint Precinct Election Inspectors will take place immediately following the October 4, 2021 Board meeting.

H.6. Review Mallard Cove Aquatic Weed Fund – Treasurer Sarah Strong reported residual balance of \$14.36. Recommendation to split remaining balance between Teal Drive Road Maintenance and Whistler Road Maintenance accounts based on property owners count per road.

H.7. Petition for Crauns Beach Road Maintenance – Two residents from Crauns Lane and Crauns Beach Drive presented petition with 15 signatures out of 25 recorded properties which abut the road(s) to Clerk Anne

Gary. Petition to increase current road maintenance fund from \$50 per year to \$200.00 per year under Public Act 118 of 1954 as amended effective with the 2021 winter tax roll. Verification of owners' signatures will be done versus list to be provided by Assessor Erica Ewers. A minimum of two residents, from two distinct impacted properties, will be required to attend the next Township Board meeting October 4, 2021 to formalize the petition request. Clerk Anne Gary will mail out letters to impacted properties and place an ad in The Daily Reporter.

H.8. Reminder Saturday September 25th Hazardous waste drop off Schiubatis Hall, County Fairgrounds.

I. Payment of Bills August - Bills presented in the amount of \$38,333.64. 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, August report permits issued 8-1-2021 through 9-13-2021. Copy provided to the Board. A total of 11 permits were issued. No upcoming ZBA Hearings. Supervisor Russ Jennings read the report

J.2. Branch County Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Tom Matthew emailed his report. Supervisor Russ Jennings covered highlights of the report: County will extend an offer to selected applicant for 911 Director by mid-September, new generator expenditure approved for the Courthouse, security systems upgrade at the Courthouse, wireless carriers will discontinue support of 3G devices in 2022.

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

J.4. Assessor's Report- Assessor, Erica Ewers, August 3, 2021-September 7, 2021. Copy provided to the Board. Erica reported Audit of Minimum Assessing Requirements (AMAR) set for September 15 at the Equalization office. Alganssee Residential Sales Study has been finalized with the Equalization Office. Estimating an approximate 10% increase in assessed values for 2022.

K. Correspondence – Treasurer Sarah Strong received letter that TCF Bank will be changing to Huntington Bank effective October 12, 2021. Clerk Anne Gary reviewed email correspondence from the Office of the Governor, State of Michigan regarding Charter Amendments and Revisions. It was agreed by the Board that Alganssee Township is not impacted as we are not a Charter Township.

L. Public Comment – Treasurer Sarah Strong said post-audit review shows that Township employees hired after 1985 need to have on file an I-9 and not a W-9. Sarah will prepare forms for signatures.

M. Next Meeting- The next regular board meeting will be Monday, October 4, 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 9:20 pm.

Anne Gary
Alganssee Township Clerk