

November 14, 2022 Alganssee Township Board Minutes

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER on Monday, November 14, 2022 at 7:30 pm. Supervisor Russ Jennings called the Alganssee Township Board meeting to order. Members present – Supervisor Russ Jennings, Treasurer Sarah Strong, Trustees Rod Bassage, Jason Shilling and Clerk Anne Gary.

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

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

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

C.1. Sheriff John Pollack gave third quarter 2022 statistics for Alganssee Township activity-111 total complaints. Marine patrol all boats are now equipped with tactical sonar. Two new boats are slated to arrive this month. Received a private donation to complete drone project.
No additional public comment.

MINUTES

D.1. October 3, 2022 Board Minutes - Motion by Sarah Strong to approve minutes. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried.

D.2. October 5, 2022 Planning Commission Minutes – Board review after next PC Meeting.

D.3. October 8, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes – Motion by Rod Bassage to approve. Support by Jason Chilling. Motion carried.

E. TREASURER’S REPORT

November Treasurer’s Report – The Township’s October balance was \$642,148.58 with October income of \$40,642.00 and October expenses of \$94,511.52 giving a November balance of \$588,559.06. The Clerk agrees. Rod Bassage motioned to accept the November Treasurer’s report. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

F.1. Quincy Fire Association (QFA) – Supervisor Russ Jennings summarized QFA meeting he attended. Year to date calls are 118 down 76 calls from 2021. The new air packs are now in use. Three high school students are attending the Branch County Fire Academy. Damage done to the 1996 tanker when the wiring harness caught on fire. QFA regular meeting will be Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 5:30 pm.

F.2. Planning Commission Report – No report.

F.3. Zoning Board of Appeals – No report. After discussion, determined a quorum will suffice for the ZBA meeting Thursday November 17, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Member Shane Metzger has moved to North Carolina. A new member is required needed to bring the ZBA back to a total of 5.

F.4. Alganssee website – Sharon Atkinson learned that our website needs to have ADA access. She reported last month 150 users of which 71% were based in the USA.

F.5. Ordinance Violations – One still pending will be reviewed during Matt’s report.

G. OLD BUSINESS

G.1. Update for Grants – Treasurer Sarah Strong is working on getting log-in access for Sharon to initiate the grant application process. Sharon will be meeting with Jay Miller Thursday about grants for mobile radar speed signs.

G.2. Pete Girod BOR Appeal – No date set yet for State Tribunal. Assessor Erica Ewers wanted confirmation from the Board to proceed with setting the Tax Tribunal hearing as appraisal valuations remain an issue. Board agreed to proceed.

H. NEW BUSINESS

H.1. Next step for use of ARPA funds – Supervisor Russ Jennings asked for a motion to approve \$800.00 for Ed Reed to do a new survey of the Township Hall site. Last survey was done in 2002 – which did not include the addition to the Hall completed in 2008. Assessor Erica Ewers asked the existing well be located on the survey. Motion by Anne Gary. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

H.2. Review December CD renewal – Treasurer Sarah Strong presented current CD rates from banks on the Township approved list. Highest rate for 24-month CD 2% at Southern Michigan Bank & Trust. Motion by Rod Bassage to place CD with Southern. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried. Signors on the new CD 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.3. FOIA requests received – Request from Laura Bartling, 134 Wilmin Rd, Quincy, MI for copy of Township Board meeting minutes from June 22, 1957 showing plat approval of Wilmin Acres 2. Request from Madeleine Miehl, 1458 Ridgeview Circle, Lake Orion, MI for copy of tabulator tapes from the General Election of 11/8/2022. Each Township in Branch County, and including Branch County office, received the same request. Tapes are a public record that can be provided; however, election records need to remain secure until security is released after the final canvass and certification, recounts, and audits.

H.4. Township documents missing previous years – Township records were destroyed when Walter Loucks' (Clerk) home was destroyed in the Palm Sunday tornado of 1965 that hit Branch County. The gap years for the minutes of Algansee Township runs from March of 1934 through December of 1964.

H.5. Comments General Election 11/8/2022 – Clerk Anne Gary shared the turnout results. Algansee Township came in at number one out of 16 Townships with turnout of 58.83% (823 voters of 1,399 registered voters). AV ballots return rate of 93.95%. (263 of 281 sent). Absentee voting was 32% of total voting. The Election Inspectors Team did a great job. Power got restored at the Hall about 6:00 pm Monday evening before Election Day Tuesday. Anne expressed gratitude for Pine Ridge Bible Church willingness to provide a backup facility if the Precinct had to be move for Election Day. The power outage highlights the need for a backup generator to be installed at the Hall.

H.6. Proposal 22-2 Amendment to Article 2 Elections, future impact – Clerk Anne Gary reviewed the following items:

- *If a voter signs an Affidavit verifying their identity, a voter may be issued a regular ballot if voter is a registered voter.
- *State-funded prepaid postage on AV mailings to facilitate Absentee voting.
- *State-funded system to permit voters to elect to receive electronic notifications of tracking AV documents.
- *Right to at least one (1) state-funded secure drop-box to be located at the Township Hall.
- *A single signed Absent Voter Ballot Application may cover all future elections.
- *Statewide and Federal Election early voting sites shall be open for at least nine (9) consecutive days beginning on the second Saturday before the Election and ending on the Sunday before the Election, for at least eight (8) hours each day.

H.7. Clerk Anne Gary presented quotes from two tree removal services from four companies contacted. Board requested an ad be run in the Shoppers Guides seeking additional bids.

H.8. Request to increase wages for Zoning Administrator – Requested increase from Matt Ashenfelter to an annual amount of \$10,200. Matt agreed to incorporate the request when the Board does its annual budgeting. Supervisor Russ Jennings got clarification From Decker Agency regarding liability insurance. If a contract employee is paid with a W-2, he/she may remain on the Township liability insurance coverage.

H.9. Branch County 911 Communications - Clerk Anne Gary asked for contacts to be listed on the form.

I. Payment of Bills January - Bills presented in the amount of \$27,089.25. Rod Bassage motioned to approve payment of the bills. Support by Jason Shilling. Motion carried.

J. SPECIAL REPORTS

J.1. Zoning Administrator's Report – Matt Ashenfelter, 10/1/22–11/8/222 Report. Copy provided to the Board. Zoning permits issued: 22, Land splits processed: 0, Zoning violations/Complaints: 1 open (Beeman). Supervisor Russ Jennings requested that a ticket be issued to set up a court appearance.

J.2. Branch Commissioner's Report – Supervisor Russ Jennings read highlights of the report. Branch County did a final approval of their Master Plan. This will impact un-zoned Townships within Branch County.

J.3. Algansee Library Report – sent via email.

J.4. Assessor's Report- Assessor, Erica Ewers, 10/4/22-11/14/22. Copy provided to the Board. Board of Review is set for Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 2:00 pm at the Hall.

K. Correspondence – None requiring a response.

L. Public Comment – None.

M. Next Meeting- The next regular board meeting will be Monday, December 5, 2022 7:30 pm at the Algansee Township Hall.

N. Adjournment- Sarah Strong motioned to adjourn. Support by Rod Bassage. Motion carried. Board meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Anne Gary, Clerk