

AURELIUS TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2020
MINUTES

The Aurelius Township Board met in regular session on Tuesday, May 12, 2020, at the Aurelius Township Hall, 1939 S. Aurelius Road, Mason, Michigan.

Board members present: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, Silsby and Malcangi.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Nate Ross, and one other visitor attending remotely via TEAMS.

The regular meeting was called to order by Supervisor Silsby at 7:00 p.m. All present joined in the pledge to the United States flag.

Consent Agenda

Board Meeting Minutes of April 14, 2020, were reviewed for approval.

Expenses were reviewed for approval in the amount of \$51,217.56 covered by vouchers: Payroll Fund: Checks #17022 - #17035, one reprint #17036 and 1 EFT. General Fund, Fire Fund, Street Light Fund: Checks #17037 - #17058.

Motion made by Member Droscha and seconded by Member Malcangi to approve consent agenda with adjustment to April 14, 2020 minutes to clarify parks closure dates and move several unfinished business items to bottom of agenda to address budget concerns first. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, Malcangi, and Silsby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Unfinished Business

Budget concerns were discussed due to loss of state revenue sharing and reduced services for COVID19 shut down. In an effort to save money, Township newsletter will not be mailed until future date. Previously approved improvements for township sign, Hall painting, Columbia Creek Park posts replacement (one broken post to be replaced only), Columbia Creek restroom painting, Hall eavestrough covers will all be put on hold until future date. Annual Clean Up Day will not be held. Lawn mowing will be reduced to once per week. All spending will be approved by Board of Trustees, Bob Baker will need to make of list of items that need to be taken care of before doing the work. Motion made by Member Droscha to approve cost saving measures and seconded by Member Malcangi. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, Malcangi, and Silsby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Columbia Creek cleaning bid was received from Gary Malcangi to clean park for \$25 per week. We are currently paying \$400 per month to Kranz's. Letter was sent to Kranz's asking for a bid. No other bids were received. Member Silsby said the request for bids should have been published in the newspaper. Motion made by Member Droscha and seconded by Member Groh to accept Malcangi bid. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, and Silsby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Abstained: Malcangi. Motion carried.

Land Division Fee Resolution was discussed. Member Groh sent out for comparable fees. Assessor was asked to give input. Assessor recommended updating application to include lot line adjustment and remove the "if over 40 acres" allowance. New fees will be single land consolidation or split will be \$100 with any additional at \$50 each. Lot line adjustment will be \$100. Motion made by Member Ayres and seconded by Member Droscha to approve fee resolution. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, Malcangi, and Silsby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Searing houses and Kidder house properties need to be cleaned by Searings before property closing. Member Silsby stated Searings had agreement with Kidders to clean Kidder property. Closing will take place 30 days after properties are cleaned up. Motion made by Member Malcangi and seconded by Member Droscha to approve. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, Malcangi, and Silsby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

New Business

Policy for Reopening Township Office was discussed. Masks, gloves and hand sanitizer will be provided and social distancing will be practiced. Public restrooms should be closed. A table can be put across doorway to office to keep a six foot distance. Chairs can be placed in vestibule. Building Inspectors can use the employee entrance. The Library needs to be taken into consideration and they need to provide their own PPE. Clerk, Treasurer and Supervisor watched a Michigan Townships Association Reopening webinar that outlined suggested plan. Plan will be on paper by June 9th board meeting. Office will remain closed until after June 9th board meeting. Motion made by Member Groh and seconded by Member Droscha to appoint Silsby COVID19 Work Place Coordinator and Groh COVID19 Assistant Work Place Coordinator. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, Malcangi, and Silsby. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Member Ayres reported Zoning Board of Appeals Membership Ordinance will be discussed at next Planning Commission meeting.

Member Ayres reported Zoning Ordinance Amendment Language for 5 foot setback for Columbia Lakes residents is being worked on by Township Attorney.

Member Ayres reported on Absent Voter Counting Board tabulator purchase. Cheramy Clery from the Bureau of Elections said the agreement to purchase a tabulator is not a grant but a cost share so there will be no resolution sent for approval by the board. Ms. Clery was not sure when tabulator would be available due to the number of people participating in program.

Fire Report from City of Mason Fire Department was shared by Member Ayres.

Member Silsby, Zoning Administrator, reported on Property Clean-up issues, stating residents have not been able to clean due to recycling places being closed. Letters were sent to residents from attorney without Board of Trustees knowledge or approval. Silsby stated Clerk knew about letters because she stamped received on copies of the previously sent resident letters that came back from attorney's office. Clerk stated she only knew about the letter copies because she was able to get the mail before the Supervisor. Trustee Droscha stated mail is to be received by the Clerk and wanted to

go on record stating his disappointment in the Zoning Administrator not keeping the Township Board informed on matters. Letters need to be shared with the Township Board and board needs to approve legal action before contacting attorney. Motion made by Member Droscha for requiring Township Board approval before taking legal action and was seconded by Member Malcangi. Vote: Ayes: Ayres, Droscha, Groh, and Malcangi. Nays: Silsby. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Member Groh shared a graphic showing how all money is to be handled in the township. All money for services requested or provided goes through Treasurer. Cash receipting has been updated and fee schedule has been clarified for processing all cemetery funds.

Member Groh reported speaking with Matt Bennett from the Home Owners Association at Columbia Lakes. Matt was asking for information regarding funding or grants for drilling a new well at Columbia Lakes. The wells were recently inspected by Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and the HOA was advised to drill a new well and may want to consider drilling 2 new wells. Groh stated she would need more information on cost of new wells to take to the board.

Member Ayres shared L4028 draft received from William Fowler as the only correspondence.

Board Reports

Supervisor Silsby shared Sargent Harrison's monthly Sheriff Dept. report. Silsby also gave a road repair update and stated he was waiting for a response from William Conklin at the Ingham County Road Department. Silsby reported county parks restrooms will reopen June 1, we can wait until our next board meeting to open our park restrooms. Silsby has been in contact with Mike Raab of the Softball Association, to discuss social distancing. Silsby reported Granger would not be sending a compactor truck with an employee for third Saturday trash day. Granger could send a recycle bin and 40 yard roll off but it would not be manned. The consensus was a recycle bin only would be acceptable but a roll off may be cost prohibitive and there would be no supervision.

Clerk Ayres reported ballots for August 4th election will be arriving in June and applications for absent voter ballots will go out at the end of May. Ayres provided the Balance Sheet Report.

Treasurer Groh gave the Cash Report at \$737,514.91 with added information showing interest earned and withdrawals. Interest rates have gone down. Groh stated John Way came to discuss installation of new playground equipment. Way said further work was needed for a path to make new equipment ADA compliant. He will give an estimate for additional work. \$355 was the original installation estimate. Way also stated mulch should not be used under playground equipment and that a different material should be used for safety. He also stated the trees in the park have had mulch piled so high that the roots are growing above the ground and he recommended trimming roots and adding soil to gently grade to ground level and adding seed. Now weeds are growing around trees. Trustees felt Round-Up could be used on weeds safely.

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Trustee Droscha was asked about position of new crawlspace heaters. Electrical panel has three heaters but doesn't state the location. Trustees had no other reports.

Public Comment

Nate Ross introduced himself as a candidate running for State Representative in the 67th District.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tracy Ayres, Clerk
Aurelius Township