

**CARROLLTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 25, 2022**

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Supervisor Abney	Present
	Clerk Fritz	Present
	Treasurer Thurston	Absent - excused
	Trustee Douglas	Present
	Trustee Westphal	Present

There being a quorum, Supervisor Abney called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Also in attendance: Director Craig Oatten, Office Manager Megan Weaver, and Fire Chief Bob Tetloff.

Acceptance of Agenda:

It was moved by Fritz and supported by Abney to accept the agenda as presented. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Employee Recognition:

Board members recognized DPW Laborer Kyle Rivette (not present) for his five years of service.

Public Comments:

Rose King, 3427 N. Michigan, stated that she was very pleased with how well the N. Michigan road construction project was going so far.

Andrew Lamia, 2836 N. Michigan, asked if there was a policy that pertains to Township employees opening the mail addressed to Township Board members and responding to it. He had sent a letter to Supervisor Abney regarding 2831 N. Michigan and received a response from Director Oatten. Mr. Lamia requested a closed session with only the Township Board members present to discuss his concerns. Abney stated that he would have to check the Open Meetings Act to see if the public can even request a closed session.

Mr. Lamia continued to ask why Great Lakes Bay Logistics, LLC (located at 2824 N. Michigan) had not completed the items specified in their site plan. The parking lot was supposed to be resurfaced within 45 days and nothing had been done in eight months. Oatten said he would have to check with the Zoning Administrator. Mr. Lamia asked why he had not received the full response from his FOIA request. Fritz responded that the Township's attorney would be sending the response to Mr. Lamia's attorney (as requested). Mr. Lamia continued to discuss his current lawsuit against the township and Abney stopped him and told him that it was not the place to discuss that topic. Abney asked Mr. Lamia to finish up as he had gone over the allowed time for public comment. Mr. Lamia requested the closed session again and then returned to his seat.

Correspondence:

It was moved by Westphal and supported by Abney to receive and file the correspondence for April 2022. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

It was moved by Douglas and supported by Westphal to approve minutes for: March 28, 2022 - regular meeting and April 11, 2022 – departmental meeting. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Accounts Payable:

It was moved by Douglas and supported by Abney to approve the April Accounts Payable in the amount of \$171,148.99. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Committee/Commission/Board Reports:

Tetloff informed the board that his firefighters had voted and Madison Gonzales was chosen as Firefighter of the Year for 2021.

It was moved by Douglas and supported by Fritz to appoint Kyle Rivette to the position of Lieutenant for the Fire Department. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Oatten stated that his officers had been issuing more traffic violations due to the road construction on N. Michigan. He would be putting a message on the sign boards to remind motorists to drive with caution during the construction.

Fritz asked about the blighted home on the corner of Elm and Tulane. Oatten responded that the property owner was being show-caused to court very soon.

In Sumption's absence, Oatten reviewed the DPW board report. Due to the audit that was completed by EGLE a few months ago, vehicles were no longer allowed to be washed at the Township Office. He further explained that Bridgeview Car Wash in Zilwaukee had offered to supply the DPW and Police Dept. with membership cards to charge the washes and then invoice the Township monthly. Discussion followed. Oatten suggested that when the Township starts to look at correcting the storm water discharge issue and resurfacing the municipal building parking lot, they should hire an engineer to assess everything first. Discussion followed.

Oatten informed the board that the abandoned railroad tracks by Michigan Sugar would be removed by the railroad company in May.

Pending Business:

Oatten stated that he would be contacting the property manager of Carrollton Center regarding the walk-thru scheduled for the May 9 agenda. Discussion followed.

Oatten informed the board that construction on northbound I-675 would begin May 1 and continue for four weeks. This will cause additional congestion on N. Michigan (also under construction currently). Discussion followed.

New Business:

It was moved by Abney and supported by Douglas to approve the quote from Garber Chevrolet for a 2022 Chevrolet Silverado 2500HD work truck with plow package for the DPW in the amount of \$60,952.77 (copy attached). There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Oatten presented the liquor license transfer request for 417 Shattuck. Since it was only a transfer, there was no board action needed.

Oatten presented a summary from Assessor David Cook in reference to the Michigan Tax Tribunal appeal submitted by 3771 N. Michigan Ave, LLC (Carrollton Center). Much discussion followed. It was moved by Douglas and supported by Abney to accept the offer of setting the True Cash Value at \$1,100,000, with a Taxable Value of \$550,000 for 2021 (previously \$680,100). There being all ayes, the motion carried. It was noted that the Taxable Value for 2022 was set at \$538,100.

Public Comments:

Andrew Lamia, 2836 N. Michigan, stated that his calls to the code enforcement officer were never returned. Mr. Lamia then continued to discuss the numerous Planning Commission meetings that he had attended over the years and asked Trustee Douglas why he never brought his concerns to the full Township Board. Mr. Lamia believed it was because Trustee Douglas knew the business owner at 2824 N. Michigan (Mark Knight) personally, so therefore, the Township would not enforce the ordinances/site plan. Trustee Douglas responded that he did not know Mr. Knight personally and Mr. Lamia must be confusing him with someone else. Mr. Lamia responded that Mr. Knight had done work for the school years ago when Douglas was the superintendent. Douglas responded that just because Knight did work for the school doesn't mean he personally knows him. Much discussion followed. Mr. Lamia then accused the board members of violating the Open Meetings Act previously. Abney responded that they have never violated the law and Mr. Lamia's time for public comment had expired. Mr. Lamia continued to state that the board members broke the law as he exited the board room and left the building.

Raymond Jones, 3675 Jackson, asked if the listing of accounts payables was something the public was able to view. Abney responded that it was always available for public view in the office on the Friday preceding the end of the month Township Board meeting. Abney gave Mr. Jones his copy of accounts payable that was approved earlier in the meeting. Weaver told Mr. Jones to stop in the office if he would ever like a copy to review.

Director Comments/Updates:

Oatten informed the board that the school reached out to him about holding the summer lunch program in Hanchett Park. They had done so in previous years, but of course did not offer the program in the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Board members all agreed to welcome the school back and discussed possibly having other activities in the park for kids to do during the summer lunch program.

Oatten stated that his police officers' shooting range accuracy is the best it's ever been with the new guns equipped with optics. Douglas asked about the type of tasers that the officers carry. Oatten stated that he had budgeted to purchase new ones this year as they were due for replacement. There have

been some enhancements made to tasers over the years and it was time to upgrade. Discussion followed.

Weaver stated that Office Clerk Jessi Warzecha had informed the Planning Commission members about upcoming training sponsored by the Michigan Townships Association on May 31 in Frankenmuth. Weaver explained that the registration and book costs exceeded the budget, but it had been many years since the members had attended training and she thought it was important. Discussion followed. It was moved by Fritz and supported by Douglas to approve the MTA training registration and book cost of \$1,235 for the Planning Commission members and Warzecha to attend on May 31. There being all ayes, the motion carried.

Board Comments:

Douglas discussed Mr. Lamia's public comments. He stated that the Open Meetings Act allowed for closed sessions for specific reasons only and he didn't feel that Mr. Lamia could just request a closed session. He felt Mr. Lamia's comments that evening were borderline harassment. He asked Oatten to get a legal opinion reference closed sessions. Discussion followed.

Douglas reminded everyone that the Lions Club Walk/Run for Leader Dogs was Saturday, May 7 at 9am at Carrollton High School. The corn-hole tournament would be held at noon at Heck's Bar.

Fritz informed the board that the State was offering funding of \$1,500 for each election precinct to help pay for cameras, drop boxes, and security for upcoming elections. Discussion followed.

Westphal stated that she would like to see a couple items added to Pending Business on the agenda. It was moved by Westphal and supported by Fritz to add Police Squad Room Renovations and Park Security Cameras under Pending Business on the next meeting agenda. The motion failed due to lack of support. Discussion followed.

Abney asked Oatten to make sure Hanchett Park was cleaned up and ready for the school lunch program.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Fritz and supported by Abney to adjourn. There being all ayes, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry W. Fritz, Clerk

Public in attendance:

Raymond Jones	3675 Jackson
Rose King	3427 N. Michigan
Andrew Lamia	2836 N. Michigan