

Amber Township Board Meeting Minutes

February 29, 2024 6:30 p.m.

Amber Township Hall

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present- R. Copenhaver, R. Alway, T. Alway, C. Anderson, T. Rohde. Absent-None.

PLEDGE RECITED

PUBLIC/GUESTS/REQUEST to Comment: Question on how much longer is the Mason County Treasurer's office doing taxes and why is an audit taking three years. A resident is receiving letters to lease their property for batteries or solar farms.

MASON COUNTY SHERIFF REPORT: None.

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT: None. Trustee Copenhaver attended the meeting The County is working on bike trails with parks and rec, solid waste management is being replaced by a recyclable system and the County has purchased the small church by the Sheriif Department. Reasearching grant money for blight and they have two properties in sight: the old Scottville school and the Catholice church in Scottville.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion to approve with right of chair to alter as necessary; Move: R. Alway/Support: R. Copenhaver. Ayes-5/Nays-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular meeting minutes from January 22, 2024, Move: R. /Support: R. Copenhaver, Ayes-5 /Nays-0.

CORRESPONDENCE: Read and filed.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Board of Review, Tuesday, March 12th from 1-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. and Thursday, March 14th from 9 a.m until noon and 1-4 p.m. Organizational meeting is Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 4 p.m. Tom Routhier would like to thank the Board of Review members for all of their great service: Loretta Gallie, Noah Van Dusen, Doug Fulton, Tim Gibson and Jim Nickelson.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING AND ZONING: Approved Wilwin lodge for vets, lengthy discussion for billboards, have a cap limit of 24 billboards in the County. DTE is having issues stating that Mason County zoning is more strict than the state for solar and wind farms. Northland Lumberjack wants to put up a new warehouse, they were not at the meeting, so discussion was tabled. Approved another sign for the south side entrance of the new Ten Stop gas station.

FIRE: Will be doing a millage for funds in place of phone charges , may be less expensive for consumers. Nine students curenly going through fire school, 6 will be active in MCRF. Planning commission stilll working on a budget.

DPW: Meeting on January 17, sewer rates increased to \$5.05 per 100CF for 2024 and then increase again to \$5.29 for 2025 and \$5.56 for2026. Motion to approve: R. Alway/Support: R. Copenhaver. Ayes-5/Nays-0.

ROADS: Estimated cost \$21,684.77 for brining for 2024 ,has increased almost three times. Supervisor Alway will check pricing on spot brining.

ELECTIONS: The Presidential Primary was Tuesday, February 27, 2024. We had 528 ballots tabulated, 240 were absentee, 288 in person. It was a pretty steady day, with several new voters. We had 18 voters cast ballots in the nine days of early voting, bringing our total to 546 voters. There will be NO May election for Amber Township voters.

HALL/GROUNDS- Interior construction is finished. The hall carpet is being cleaned on Tuesday. The new addition is pretty much furnished. We will need some lateral file cabinets for the front office area and also need to order eight conference chairs.

CEMETERIES- Ordered flags for flag poles and grave markers today.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Motion to accept the January 2024 bank statements, as presented. Move: C. Anderson /Support: R. Alway, Ayes-5/Nays-0.

PAYMENT OF EXPENSES for February: \$41,881.07 plus \$17,831.72 for a total of \$59,712.79. Move: R. Copenhaver /R. Alway, Ayes-5/Nays-0

OLD BUSINESS

1. Assessor position-Move to discuss at the March meeting.
2. Adoption of the use of a Consent agenda starting for the 2024-2025 fiscal year . Move: T. Alway/Support: T. Rohde. Ayes-5/Nays-0.
3. Cemetery ordinance-final reading. Motion to approve cemetery ordinance as presented, with changes. Move: C. Anderson/Support: R. Alway . Passed by a roll call vote, Ayes-5/Nays-0.

ROLL CALL:

R. Copenhaver: Yes
T. Alway: Yes
T. Rohde: Yes

R. Alway: Yes
C. Anderson: Yes

4. Appointment of a cemetery manager. Letter of interest received from Dan Rohde. Motion to hire Dan Rohde as Cemetery Manager for \$30 per hour, effective April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025. Move: R. Alway/Support: R. Copenhaver. Ayes-5 /Nays-0.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Household Hazardous Waste Program-Requested amount is \$1011.60, we paid \$1100 in 2023. Motion to approve \$1200 payment, Move: R. Alway/Support: R. Copenhaver. Ayes-5/Nays-0.

2. Mason County Chamber Alliance-Asking for another one year fee of \$2500 for the economic development programming. No motion was made.

- 3.. Policies and Procedures- to review and discuss at the next meeting.

- a. Board and Administrative Policy Manual
- b. Private area access
- c. Credit card use and rewards

4. Intergovernmental agreement with Mason County ends March 1, 2024. Amber Township will return to receiving our own taxes after the 2023 tax collection cycle is settled.

Motion to appoint Deputy Treasurer Jeanne Miller as the agent to collect the taxes for Amber Township for the 2024 tax cycle. Move: T. Alway/Support: R. Alway. Ayes-4/Nays-1.

Motion to open a P.O. Box at the City of Scottville Post office for the receiving of tax payments and Treasurer mail. Move: T. Alway/ R. Copenhaver. Ayes-5/Nays-0.

5. Lawncare quotes-LaFreniere Lawn Care sent newest pricing, we will keep them as our lawn care service.

R. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Richard Alway is retiring in November and not seeking re-election.

S. ADJOURN: 8:17 p.m.

Submitted by,

Theresa Rohde

Theresa Rohde, Amber Township Clerk

Drafted 2/29/2024, TBA 1/25/24