AMBER TOWNSHIP BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

Amber Township Hall, Regular Session

May 20, 2024 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE RECITED

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

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA- None.

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

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA- Move:R. Copenhaver /Support: R. Alway, Ayes-5 /Nays-0.

1. Approval of the April 29, 2024 regular meeting minutes..
2. Approval of the bills for May in the amount of $17,334.06
3. Acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report
4. Supervisor’s Report-attached

PUBLIC COMMENT-Becky Lederer, who is running as a Republican for Mason County Prosecutor introduced herself, she has been a lawyer for the past seventeen years and asked for her support. David Bendele, is running for Mason County Drain Commissioner, as a Republican, introduced himself, he has about 25 years in the ‘drain field” industry and asked for his support.

CORRESPONDENCE-Clerk Rohde received an e-mail from Kevin Motyka in response to our thank-you letter. Clerk Rohde received three FOIA requests from the Editor of the Mason County Press. One was for the Forensic Audit that was performed on Amber Township and its Treasurer, which was forwarded to Attorney Carlos Alvarado for review and to complete. The second was for the hire date of Treasurer Connie Anderson, which was fulfilled. The third request was a lengthy request of minutes, property tax records and payments, audit, law enforcement and Michigan Attorney General correspondence regarding to the investigation of the Treasurer and any written accounting of how much the Township has paid in relation to this situation. The Clerk fulfilled the answers that were public record, the rest was sent to Attorney Carlos Alvarado to review and complete. The Clerk from Sheridan Township sent an e-mail inquiring if Connie Anderson was our Treasurer, as she applied for their Assessor position. The reply was yes and the e-mail was also sent to our attorney for review.

ASSESSOR- Processed eight new building permits, received two requests for split applications, approved one additional split request and approved a combination of two vacant parcels of land on Pine Ridge Rd. for new construction. Sent in a PRE adjustment for overpayment from 2023 for a taxpayer. Equalization is requesting a copy of the assessing database by July 3rd, for summer tax bills, which is being finalized. Currently there is nothing on the agenda for the July 16, 2024 Board of Review.

LOCAL AND STATE OFFICIALS REPORT

MASON COUNTY SHERIFF-Read and filed.

MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONER- None, but he did call to say he was going to be out of town and that he talked to Judge Middlebrook about Junk Authority. The Judge said he is more than willing to come and speak to the board on the ticket policies and procedures. He also stated that they are not being written correctly.

MASON COUNTY ROAD COMMISSSION-None.

STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL-None

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY-The Clerk and Supervisor will meet on May 31st with the Township Attorney to discuss Junk Authority and preview the Sheriff Patrol information. Explained the delicacy of the FOIA request for the 80 page Forensic Audit, there is a lot of personal information to redact. The Attorney General was contacted about the FOIA requests and on how to proceed, no response. The ten-day extension expires tomorrow, May 21, and the Township Attorney is meeting with the FOIA requestee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING COMMISSION- Meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, May 21.

RFA-Meets on Thursday, May 23rd. Working on increasing Fire wages and getting some younger people hired and trained, looking at goals for the next 10 years.

DPW-No meetings.

ROADS and LIGHTING-Amber Road is paved to Johnson. Gordon Road paving will start in mid-June, waiting on a grinder. Nothing to report for street lights.

ELECTIONS- The Bureau of Elections mandatory Clerk Election training is June 5, 2024. The Public Test of the election equipment for the August 6th Primary is June 24, 2024 at 9 a.m. at Amber Township Hall, after completion the Election Commission proceeds to PM Township Hall to test the EV Equipment. Military and Overseas Voters must receive their requested Absentee Ballot by midnight June 22nd. June 27th, is 40 days before the election and regular absentee ballots will be mailed out then.

HALL/GROUNDS- Our risk assessment audit with Par Plan was on May 14th. I just received the reports this afternoon and need to review them. Fire extinguishers need to be inspected annualy. The two FREE water sensors from Par Plan are installed. Jay Shillinger is working on a quote to level the ground on the West side of the hall, and to remove the overgrown brush and add grass, re-do the rock around the hall and also pricing to install a gravel base for the picnic tables and fencing. We had our first rental in May. We have three scheduled for June and one for December.

CEMETERIES- Flags were placed at both cemeteries. Rickey needed two new ones for the flag pole and those were replaced. Bill Lehrbass will look at the hand pump at Rickey, as it’s not working. Started cleaning up the west fence line at Town’s, bruash removal and weed control. Mole Man is treating both cemeteries for moles. Mac’s Tree Sevice, cut down four trees for $2,275.00. Motion to approve payment; Move: T. Alway/Support: R. Alway. Ayes-5/Nays-0.

OLD BUSINESS-

1. Attorney General Investigation – Attorney discussed already.
2. Cemetery Ordinance: Final approval, be effective June 20, 2024. Move: R. Copenhaver/Support: R. Alway. Ayes-5/Nays-0/Absent-0. Ordinance was adopted.
3. Spring clean-up review: Was held on Saturday, May 4, 2024. It was a good day, had two shifts of workers, MCC High School Basketball Team and workers from the Sheriff Department. Maybe send out postcards and do signs next year.
4. Township Hall Technology Upgrade-All of the equipment is at the hall, working on connectivity with Spectrum internet.
5. Junk Authority: Meeting at the end of the month with Attorney.
6. Polices and Procedures: We need to schedule some separate workshops to complete these.
7. Sheriff Patrol for Amber Township: Discussing contract with Attorney.

NEW BUSINESS-

1. Township Hall/Garage Eaves & Rain Gutters: Motion to accept the bid for estimate #1034 from Caleb Shillinger for $2,204 with no gutter guards. Move:C. Anderson/Support: R. Copenhaver. Ayes-5/Nays-0.
2. 2024-2025 Township Goals: Make a list of three or four items that you would like to see the Township accomplish in the next twenty-four months and bring to the June meeting.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURN: 7:44 p.m.

Submitted by,

Theresa Rohde

Theresa Rohde, Amber Township Clerk

Drafted 5/20/2024, TBA 06/24/2024