

PIERSON TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting Minutes ^ corrected
November 17, 2020

7:00 pm at Township Hall (Zoom available).

Revised MDHHS Emergency Order Under MCL 333.2253 – “Gathering Prohibition and Face Covering Order,” effective Oct. 9, 2020 states due to the COVID-19 they are ordering limits on attendance at non-residential venues. Indoor gatherings of more than 10 and up to 500 people occurring at a non-residential venue are permitted only to the extent that the organizers and venue without fixed seating to limit attendance to 20 persons per 1,000 square feet in each occupied room and require that each person at the gathering wear a face covering. Outdoor gatherings of more than 100 and up to 1,000 persons occurring at a non-residential venue without fixed seating to limit attendance to 30 persons per 1,000 square feet including within any distinct area within the event space, and require that each person at the gathering wear a face covering. “Gathering” means any occurrence where two or more persons from more than one household are present in a shared space. Except for incidental gatherings in a shared space, all gatherings must include 6 feet of social distance between households.

A. Call to Order: 7:07 pm

B. Roll Call: Present Via Zoom: Gould & Hyrns Present: VanTil & Burkholder Absent: Scheuermann

C. Approval of Meeting Agenda.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

D. Approval of Consent Agenda: Pierson Township Board Meeting Minutes from October 20, 2020, BA GL 230-571-818.004 to increase \$5,058.00, Register of Warrants/Checks dated **October 20, 2020 – November 17, 2020**, Invoice A19514 to PLM Lake Management from BWL Fund for \$19,400 GL 230-571-818.004, Invoice 30419 to Underwood Distributing for newsletters for \$407.18 from GL 101-101-900.001, Assessor’s report, Zoning Admin Report, Villages of Howard City & Sand Lake Fire Reports, BWL/LWL Sewer Report, and The Right Place monthly report.

All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine in nature and will be approved under one blanket motion.

Motion: Gould

2nd: Burkholder

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

E. Approval of Treasurer's Report.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

F. Public Comments

G. New Business:

1. Pay Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer normal work day if closed for holidays if emails are attended remotely.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Hyrns

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

2. Close for Public Hearing for Alternate Energy: Wind Ordinance: 7:20 pm

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

Open Public Hearing: 7:20 pm

Steven Poulsen of 13176 Plum Tree Dr. in Trufant (also property in Pierson Township) mentioned “his township board approved their own wind ordinance. He shared a Gratiot County representative was there [at the Maple Valley Township Board meeting] and they [Gratiot] got millions of dollars back. They said it helped their fire, police and roads. This talks about economic growth and I see this as a potential for that.” “I know some people talk about windmills looking bad, but it can’t look any worse than the landfill across the road.” He wondered if this [wind energy] will help Pierson Township economically as well.”

Poulson asked if the [Pierson] ordinance was too restrictive. Orvin Moore responded “the short answer to that is possibly” “The set back to me, makes it pretty restrictive.”

Open discussion with Zoning Administrator Orvin Moore and Tyler Lecceadone 342 Sunset Dr (new to Planning Commission) in regards to set backs and amendments, including if there could be an appeal or variance through the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and what the cost of hearing with the ZBA.

Close Public Hearing: 7:38 pm

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

Resume Township Meeting: 7:38 pm

3. Heckman & Son Lawn Care Snowplowing Contract for 2020-2021 winter at \$725.00 for season (plowing, shoveling & salting walks).

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

4. Ark's Electric Bid for LED lighting for the township buildings was tabled for more information about cost savings.

5. Supervisor-Elect and Trustees-Elect to attend MTA New Officials Virtual Training – Virtual \$99 per person, \$100 for GL 101-171-960.003 Supervisor Training/Classes and \$200 for GL 101-101-960.004 Trustee Training/Classes to come from contingency GL 100-900-900.001.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Hyrns

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

6. Digital Camera purchase up to \$325 to be split between the Zoning Administrator & Assessor GL 101-257-727.000 Assessor supplies and GL 101-722-727.000 Zoning supplies.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Hyrns

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

7. Clerk to be Authorized Official for DNR Grant Application (MiRecGrants).

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None

8. ^ Invoice 5375 to Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, PC for \$675.00 for legal services.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

9. COVID Guidelines regarding township office hours and hall rental to River Church. Motion was made to allow church to continue meeting at township hall until specific information regarding “churches” or more guidelines were available was made by Burkholder.

2nd by VanTil

Roll Call Yes: VanTil, Burkholder

No: Hyrns, Gould.

Motion not passed.

H. Open Items

1. Dispute Update: Big Whitefish & Little Whitefish Lake Association (no update)

2. Bids for Township Upgrades (painting Township Hall floor & carpet) tabled for breakdown on carpet area and additional bid(s).

3. Jay Bassett Land Donation - no change

4. Zoning Administrator Update (applicants) – no change

Motion to adopt Ordinance 2020-01 to Amend Zoning Ordinance to provide For Public Utility Facilities and Wind Energy Conversion Systems. Approve draft with two Revisions were made to the Planning Commission presented draft Wind Ordinance, first being Section 2: Amending the section to 5.05 AG Zone Wind Energy Zone and revision of (4) Site Plan (ii) to read: “Nearby Building siting: GIS locations and height of all adjacent buildings, structures and above ground utilities located within

(changed from (3) three) two (2) times minimum set back distance for Non-Participating landowners
... "

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil

No: Burkholder

I. Public Comments

J. County Commissioner – Tony Sorensen (absent)

K. Announcements and Board Comments

Thank you to Trustees Melanie Gould, Chuck Scheuermann and Supervisor Bill VanTil for service to the Pierson Township Board and community. Welcome to Dan Buyze as Supervisor [Elect] and Trustees Jason Bergman and Bill Grice [Elect].

Giving Tree in partnership with Tri County Area Schools, has tags available at the township hall. Gifts are due by December 8.

Township offices will be open during the Pause to Save Lives (MidMichigan Health Department Mandate (November 18 – December 8).

L. Adjournment: 8:26 pm

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder

No: None