

PIERSON TOWNSHIP
Board Special Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2020

5:00 pm

In accordance with Governor Gretchen Whitmer's Executive Order 2020-15 to address meetings of public bodies, such as township boards, village councils, county boards of commissioners, etc., required under the Open Meetings Act ("OMA"), MCL 15.261 et seq., in the wake of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Acting under the Michigan Constitution of 1963 and Michigan law, Governor Gretchen Witmer's Executive Order 2020-15 "I order the following: 1. Effective immediately and continuing until April 15, 2020 at 11:59 pm, to the extent that the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, MCL 15.261 to 15.272 ("OMA") requires that a meeting of a public body be held in a physical place available to the general public or requires the physical presence of one or more members of a public body, strict compliance with section 3 of the OMA, MCL 15.263, is temporarily suspended in order to alleviate any such physical-place or physical presence requirements, as follows:

(a) A meeting of a public body may be held electronically, including by telephonic conferencing or video conferencing, in a manner in which both the general public and the members of the public body may participate by electronic means." (full verbiage is posted on township website or upon request).

In conjunction with Executive Order 2020-21 "In All in-person government activities at whatever level (state, county or local) that are not necessary to sustain or protect life, or to support those businesses and operations that are necessary to sustain or protect life, are suspended."

A. Meeting

1. Call to order: 5:04 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

Present: Gould, VanTil, Burkholder Video Present: Hyrns Voice Present: Scheuermann

B. Approve Meeting Agenda with an additional invoice.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

C. Approve Consent Agenda: Pierson Township Board Meeting Minutes from February 18, 2020; Pierson Township Special Meeting Minutes from February 25, 2020; Pierson Township Special Meeting Minutes from March 2, 2020; Pierson Township Special Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2020; Pierson Township Board Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2020 – Cancelled; Budget Amendments: **from Contingency 101-900-900.001: BA944** Township Computer Server Maintenance 101-101-919.001 for \$300; **BA 945** Building Improvement 101-265-934.000 for \$5,000; **BA 946** for Supervisor Mileage 101-171-860.000 \$80 and Assessor Supplies 101-257-727.000 for \$250; **BA947** for Non-Statutory Wages \$460 Treasurer 101-253-703.008 for BWL & LWL admin fees; **BA 954** Howard City Fire Contract 101-336-819.005 for \$40.66. GJ 948 to correct GL error: 101-101-956.000 Bank Service Charges total \$132.00 to GL 101-101-960.004 Trustee/Twp Training/Courses; Correspondence (needing no action); Register of Warrants/Checks dated

Pierson Township meetings are be recorded.

February 19, 2020 – March 30, 2020; Committee’s meeting schedules. Assessor activity report, Zoning Report, Sand Lake Fire Report, Howard City Fire Report, Big& Little Whitefish Sewer Reports.

Motion: VanTil

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

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

D. Treasurers Report and update of new Account/Funds for General Fund 2 and Building and Grounds Improvement.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

E. Public Comments:

Dan Buyze (phone attendee) inquired about accountability of the Board regarding residency requirements for the upcoming election.

F. New Business:

1. Pay the Deputy Clerk and Deputy Treasurer the base weekly salary for the weeks the offices are closed due to the COVID-19 Virus.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

2. Pest Services with Rose Exterminating for \$215 set up and \$43 monthly for the Township Hall & Grounds, to be paid one year advance payment for 5% discount.

Motion: VanTil

2nd: Burkholder

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

3. Amend motion made March 19, 2020 for the Community & Economic Growth first meeting was postponed, therefore the BA of \$121.05 from contingency was not required.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

4. Township Board Suggested Projects for 2020-2021: Tabled until next month.

5. Policies or processes for committee placement, family employment and road projects to be tabled for future board discussion.

6. Road Fund to receive \$25,000 for Future Funds and \$27,000 for 2020-2021 Projects.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Hyrns

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

Road Contracts for 2020-2021 to be reviewed by the Road Committee at the meeting on April 15 at 7 pm for their recommendations to be presented to the Board at the April 21, 2020 meeting for approval.

7. Creekside Computer invoice for \$45.00 for Treasurer remote set-up.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

8. Building painting overage in the amount of \$400 making the total invoice \$4,900.00 to be paid to Picture Perfect Painting.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

9. Building & Grounds Improvement Fund set up with \$20,000 from the 2019-20 budget for an Electronic Sign or improvements. Bids and designs and additional funding to be presented at a future 2020 meetings.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

G. Open Items:

1. Dispute Update: Big Whitefish & Little Whitefish Lake Association – waiting on County response/Accounting firm hired for Drain Commissioners Office.
2. Planning Commission: Master Plan (Waiting period for comments/suggestions has expired on February 20, 2020 with no responses.) **Planning Commission to hold Public Hearing for 2020 Master Plan at the meeting on April 16, 2020 at 7 pm.**
3. Jay Bassett Land Donation – no change
4. Zoning Update

H. Public Comments:

Bill Grice expressed desire to be on the Road Committee when a seat opens.

Dan Buyze suggested the Board be accountable for other job descriptions, functions and projects for future boards to have a guide of continuity. – This is included in the policies manual that is being updated.

I. County Commissioner – Tony Sorensen (absent)

J. Announcements and Board Comment

- Voters may add themselves to the Absentee Voter/Application List from now until the August 4 Election. Stop by the Township Hall during office hours T-Th 9am-2pm, or email clerk@piersontwp.org

K. Adjournment: 6:14 pm

Motion: Gould

2nd: VanTil

Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann