

PIERSON TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2019

7:00 pm

- I. Call to order: 7:00 pm
- II. This meeting will be recorded.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Invocation: Ross Merlington
- V. Roll Call:

Present: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann Absent: none

- VI. Approval of Revised Meeting Agenda and Consent Agenda, approval of minutes from Pierson Township Board Meeting on June 11, 2019, and the Meeting Minutes from the Special Meeting on June 7, 2019, and presentation of bills. Fence repair was approved via text/email \$325.00 EMS Contracting, Inc.; Supervisor Computer Support GL was created with BA 769 from contingency with budget of \$250; Text approval of Clerk to attend MTA Clerk Retreat on July 18, 2019

Approved bills to be paid: Heckman & Son: Mowing for the Cemetery & Twp. Hall \$800 (\$3,200 season); IT: \$137.50 phone system reprogramming/\$ 27.50 Supervisor; \$250.00 Treasurers office and Battery back-up for server for township in the amount of \$168.41.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil Roll call yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

Motion to move \$150 from contingency 101-900-900.001 to 101-101-730.000 for Township Computer Support for phone system reprogramming.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- VII. Guest Speakers

- a. Matt & Lindsey Baczewski: Requesting assistance from Pierson Township to have MDOT to close he car pool lot 22 mile/Whitefish Lake Rd. Sheriff Michael Williams was in attendance and indicted that the Michigan State Police were the servicers for Pierson Township but offered to see if additional patrols could be made. Clearing of brush and proper lighting were also suggested as options, however, the Baczewski's were less optimistic that that would cure the issues. Clerk to contact Montcalm Road Commission as to the option of clean up at least on 131 side. Baczewski's will likely attend the County Commissioner's meeting on July 15 at 6pm to see if they can get any further assistance.
- b. Bill Grice: LWL Dispute Update/Attorney: Trustee Scheuermann informed that a meeting has been set for July 22, 2019 with Attorney Thrall in Kalamazoo. Clerk Burkholder asked if the

Township has engaged/retained Attorney Thrall and was informed that this meeting was to do such. Public comments from Grice and BWL resident Jerry Rohen regarding the length of time to obtain an attorney meeting. Discussion amongst the Board and residents concerning the meeting on June 7, 2019 with the Montcalm County Commissioners (meeting minutes were approved and are posted on the township website). Clerk Burkholder would like to have the entire Board in attendance, due to the urgency, and to keep momentum and work to resolve the LWL Sewer Dispute with the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner's office. Trustee Scheuermann will inquire to see if the appointment can be relocated to the Pierson Township hall for the same date, or the Board will attend in Kalamazoo. If the meeting is held at the Township hall and is subject to OMA, the meeting will be posted 18 hours prior as required. Grice also inquired of Buyze to how long BWL has been paid off, but he was unsure of that information.

VIII. Presentation of Accounts by Treasurer

- a. Sweep accounts are accumulating interest: June interest for the General Fund of \$593.98; Parks & Recreation \$188.27 and the Road Fund has earned \$167.95 (Sweep interest bearing accounts verse traditional CD's).

IX. Correspondence

- a. Village of Howard City "Bark in the Park" Event at Ensley Park on July 20-21.

X. Public Comments

- a. Dan Buyze of BWL Association let the Board know that they have filed. FOIA request from the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner's office concerning Operations and Maintenance ledgers from 2016-17-18 for the BWL & LWL Sewer System.

Buyze also restated the need for the management to be removed from the Drain Commissioner's office and instead with a Sewer Authority. Clerk Burkholder indicated that the option to take over from the Drain Commissioner has been offered in the past, however the stance of the Township has always been that they would consider if they knew what the status of the situation (balances) was.

- b. Orvin Moore, LWL resident also agreed that the Sewer Authority could be a good option but agreed that it should start with a clean slate.

XI. New Business:

- a. Public Hearing for Big Whitefish Lake Association renewal for the Weed Special Assessment was opened by motion by Clerk Burkholder.

Bob DeJonge of 2970 Shorecrest Dr, expressed his displeasure of weed control at BWL. He feels the treatments have the adverse effect of killing the natural shoreline, and a clean, clear shore for his grandchildren to swim. He indicated the large boats and the wake they create make comprise the enjoyment of the lake. He also feels the entire township should contribute to the assessment since it is a public lake.

Dan Buyze, President of the BWL Association responded Bob's concerns. He also offered to work with him on a compromise or solution for the for his concerns of recreational enjoyment at this location of the lake.

Laura O'Rourke of 2480 Dagget shared that it was her belief the lake issues were from the use of lawn fertilizers. Dan Buyze responded that it was not the biggest contributor to the water issue, more so was the record rain fall and the "invasive", but the fertilizer does feed the "invasive".

Jerry Kohn 2685 Elmwood Dr. had concerns that the seagulls from the landfill were more problematic than the fertilizers.

Burkholder motioned to close the floor of the public hearing.

2nd: Scheuermann Roll Call Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- b. Motion made to adopt Big Whitefish Lake Special Assessment Resolution No. 4: 2019-14 to confirm the roll and establish special assessment repayment terms. The special assessment will be payable in five annual installments for treatments to the BWL in 2020 and through and including 2025. The first installment will be billed on the December 2020 tax bill and will be due without penalty if paid by February 14, 2021.

Motion to adopt Resolution No. 4: 2019-14: Burkholder

2nd: Scheuermann Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

The penalty rate for unpaid assessments after the February tax deadline each year will be subject to a 3% penalty, and the special assessment will be delinquent and turned over to Montcalm County for collection in accordance with Resolution No. 4 and section 55 of the General Property Tax Act, MCL 211.55.

Motion made by: Hyrns

2nd: Scheuermann Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann.

- c. Motion to allow a Pierson Township Farmers Market at Pierson Township Hall starting in August through September for 2019 and possibly earlier in further years (July- September), Friday evenings from 4 pm – 8 pm. Vendors will be required to sign a waiver to participate. The first date will be posted to the website and Facebook page. (Allowable under MCL 41.110c).

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Hyrns Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder No: Scheuermann

Farmers Market to have a \$200 budget from contingency for marketing (signage)/advertising. This would be a legal expenditure for the township under MCL 123.51 Section 1 [create GL under "703" Community & Economic Development].

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: VanTil Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- d. **Budget Amendments:** General Fund: BA 768 from 101-900-900-001 Contingency to 101-101-956.000 Township Miscellaneous in the amount of \$200 (Meeting dues), BA 769 from 101-900-900.001 Contingency to 101-171-730.000 for Supervisor Computer Support in the amount of \$250.00, and from 101-262-802.000 General Election fund to 101-262-729.000 Election Computer Support for set up of new election laptop in the amount of \$82.50.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- e. Little Whitefish Lake Special Assessment Update [Burkholder]:
Petitions are being collected showing in favor of a Special Assessment District for Weed Control. The signatures will be verified and counted by the Clerk. LWL Association is collecting donations for the Special Assessment Escrow to begin the process, with hopes of getting the Special Assessment in place by December 2019 tax roll.

XII. Open Items:

- a. Dispute Update for Little Whitefish Lake Association and Big Whitefish Lake Association's assist request to resolve issues of the Sewer District Fund by Montcalm County [Scheuermann]: *Discussed in Pubic Comments Section.*

- b. Application for Exemption of Real and/or Personal Property [Tax exemption 501/5019(c)] created by Mika Meyers. (Application will be posted to the website).

Motion: VanTil

2nd: Scheuermann Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- c. Pierson Township Policies & Procedures] Update [Burkholder]:

- i. Expense Reimbursement Policy: Addition of the word "Itemized" under allowable charges for meals.

Motion: Burkholder

2nd: Gould Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- ii. Credit Card Resolution 2017-06: Additions to clarify items tabled for further information.

- d. Township Phone [Warranty] Update: Deputy Clerk phone has been exchanged for another office phone and is working properly. (*\$127.50 for reprograming main twp. phone since warranty was not an option*): Resolved.

- e. Township Grounds – Gardening [Hyrns]

- i. Karri Lewis to weed flower beds at the township hall for \$14 per hour as an employee.
ii. New bark (3 yds) to be purchased (last purchase was 2017) when quotes are obtained by Hyrns.

Motion: Hyrns

2nd: Burkholder Roll Call: Yes: Gould, Hyrns, VanTil, Burkholder, Scheuermann

- f. Township Dehumidifier Update [VanTil]: Trustee Scheuermann is working on the project [create a drain for the dehumidifier in the township vault].

XIII. Committee Reports:

- a. Planning Committee: July 18, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
- b. Zoning Board of Appeals: July 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm.
- c. Sewer Advisory Committee –Sandy Raines to schedule.
- d. Montcalm County Commissioners Meeting: July 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm in Stanton.
- e. Solid Waste Committee – No meeting scheduled.
- f. Road Committee – Scheuermann Road Report. Next meeting: July 17, 2019.
- g. County Commissioner – Tom Porter (absent)
- h. Election Committee: Tri County School Bond Special Election August 6, 2019, clerk will be in for Voter Registration and Absentee Voter ballots on Saturday, August 3, 2019 from 8 a – 4 pm. and Monday, August 5 from 8 a – 4 pm.
- i. Board of Reviews: July 16, 2019 at 2 pm
- j. Parks & Recreation Meeting –Now meeting quarterly: October 10 at 5 pm. Update from Trustee Gould that the signs and lights are installed at Winslow park and the feedback to the Board was that the committee has done a super job.
- k. Fire Committee –Orvin Moore is working on creating a map of the [fire] service areas of Sand Lake Fire and the Village of Howard City Fire, so a meeting can be set to discuss options.
- l. Assessor’s Activity Report – see attached.
- m. Monthly Zoning Report – 2 permits issued: 1 Garage/Pole barn, 1 addition.

XIV. Public Comments

Dan Buyze (BWL Association) thanked the Board for the ease of the new Special Assessment Policy.

Orvin Moore mentioned there are areas around the township needing some enforcement and violations. Supervisor VanTil to follow up with Zoning Administrator Alan Richard.

XV. Board Comments

Clerk Comments: Pierson Township website www.piersontwp.org is being updated frequently, with the addition of a “community” page. Township residents will find information about local activities and updates for BWL and LWL regarding Specials and the LWL Dispute. To have an event added contact the clerk.

XVI. Adjournment: 9:05pm.