

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MONITOR
REGULAR TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

APRIL 26, 2021

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch, Walsh

Members absent: None

Also present: R. Sheppard, Township Attorney

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Public input opened at 7:02

B. Reder, 775 Midland Rd, former board member, explained how Auburn did away with their Police Dept. Our contract with the Bay Co. Sheriff Dept. isn't us just getting two deputies, it is an 8-million-dollar operation that benefits many of the contributing townships. Our contract includes backup, vehicles, storage, equipment, etc. The costs to fund one maybe two people is wrong, wrong idea, wrong time. We have something that works. If you have a complaint – fix it.

C. McKee, 2245 Midland Rd, lived here since 2000. He told how his Jeep was broken into at 5:30 a.m., that motorcycles speed 100 mph down Midland road, currently there are 13 drivers training students in Briar/Rueger subdivisions.

B. Krause, 4489 8 Mile Road, Bay Co. Register of Deeds since 2008. The people are here because of an issue, do your due diligence and listen to your constituents.

Woman spoke to Bangor Supervisor - he said it is not cost effective. Need lab, detective, computer tech, dispatchers, etc. How will this affect our taxes. The people should vote on this. Pinconning disbanded their Police dept. Liability insurance - Who pays? Lawsuit - Who Pays? I don't think we are given an opportunity to vote on this.

J. Leuenberger, 3368 Fraser Road, agrees with B. Krause.

B. Dorn, Fisher, wrote a F.O.I.A. to the Sheriff and to the township, wanting the logs when the deputies are in the township. Why pay \$200,000 on our mileage, officers mostly at Meijer/Menards not larceny from the citizens. Why do we need a police dept., let alone our own Police Dept.

E. Kochany, 2914 Noreen, previous 28-year board member. Did the board vote on getting rid of the gates and signage at the township park? If the park floods or there is a problem, it can be closed. Did the board vote to get rid of the newsletter and replace the park gate? In all my years on the board, never once did the board discuss replacing the Police Dept. even when marijuana came in when we thought we would need to add another deputy but didn't.

J. Marter, 2923 Imperial Drive, I want to stay with the Bay Co. professional law enforcement. A 1 and ½ person police dept. is not in the best interests of the township.

C. Mausolf, the undersheriff with Bay County. I'm available tonight to answer any questions.

R. Thibo, 5413 Goetz Ct., ... by telling you the location of the officers, that is the last thing to do, when the public knows where the police are this creates a problem. Please meet with Troy Cunningham, Sheriff, he will address your issues.

Public input closed at 7:23 p.m.

Motion by Pike seconded by Brandt to adopt the Agenda with the addition of:

Acceptance of Fire Chief report

Memo for Budget adjustment of the 2020 True up bill for Road Patrol

Treasurer Report, Water & Sewer tap report, Accumed report

Addition to bills list

Arnold requested the Supervisor Report be added as an Agenda item to enable a vote on Monitor

Township Police Dept.

Township Policies under new business, Brandt

Motion carried.

Motion by McCulloch seconded by Brandt to approve the Minutes of the Regular March 22, 2021 meeting as presented.

Motion carried.

Motion by McCulloch seconded by Brandt.

To approve the Minutes of the Special April 12, 2021 meeting as presented.

Motion carried.

Motion by Pike seconded by McCulloch to pay the bills in the amount of \$89,597.05 from General Fund.

Yes: McCulloch, Walsh, Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by McCulloch seconded by Arnold to receive the Monthly Account Balance and the Rev. & Exp. Report for March 2021.

Yes: Walsh, Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Ferguson seconded by Arnold to receive the Treasurers report – sewer & water tap and Accumed.

Yes: Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch, Walsh

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Pike seconded by Walsh to refund the \$600 paid on 4/14/2021 for the 2nd site planning review at 1600 S. Euclid to change the location of the fire hydrant from the original plan.

Yes: Pike, McCulloch, Walsh, Spencer

No: Ferguson, Arnold, Brandt

Motion carried.

Motion by Brandt seconded by Walsh to approve the Building permit Application at 1600 S. Euclid for this demolition project only.

Yes: Pike, Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch, Walsh, Spencer

No: Ferguson

Motion carried.

Motion by Ferguson seconded by Pike to approve the Bond Ordinance #68 ...for improvements to the sewage disposal system of the Township . . . \$3 million

Yes: Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch, Walsh, Spencer, Ferguson, Pike

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Pike seconded by McCulloch to make a 2020 General Fund budget adjustment to 101-301-801 for the Road Patrol True-up bill of \$701.00

Yes: Brandt, McCulloch, Walsh, Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Brandt seconded by Arnold that the Charter Township of Monitor policies can't be changed unless approved by the Charter Township of Monitor Board.

Yes: McCulloch, Walsh, Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt

No: None

Motion carried.

Supervisor report. On April 17th, I joined with the Fraternal Police Lodge #103 in a 3-mile road cleanup program on West Side Saginaw road. April 22nd held a successful blood drive here. Another is scheduled for June 24th here. Park cleanup turnout was fabulous. Flower beds were recreated into matching circular beds. Shed was repainted. Clements Electric donated 40 parking blocks to the park. They were scraped and painted by volunteers. Serenus Johnson helped to load and transport the parking blocks to the park. The gate post was in the flower box, and the gates were removed along with sign. The sign will be going back up. The gates haven't been locked in years. The park is now open year-round.

Spencer reviewed the current Bay Co. Sheriff Deputy partnership with the Township and possible improvements to the service.

Public comment reopened at 8:30 p.m.

A resident asks at what point does it goes to public for a vote, like the Fire Department did. The Fire Station construction was a millage that is why it went to the public for a vote.

B. Krause, the \$200,000 per year divided by the households of 3,975 is an annual cost of \$50.31 or \$4.19 /mo. Add all businesses to that and we are paying pennies for our public safety. I would be happy to increase that. Hampton and Monitor are roughly the same size. Their run report the last 5 years had 500 more calls and they have 10 officers (9 officers & the chief). Can't do a Police Dept. based on 1-2 people with training, classes, sick days, etc. They need coverage when the officers are gone. Appreciate our officer's chain of command. They

need to report to the Sheriff. In Pinconning, the 3 cars were purchased by the township, we didn't purchase a car. They can't use a car if it is parked here. Traffic stops numbers – we are in a pandemic, emergency calls take priority.

J. Marter, 2923 Imperial Dr., I did not hear anything to change my mind. Want to say Thanks to our Sheriffs here. A change this drastic needs to be put to public vote.

L. Norman, 3395 Northway Ct., was on Police dept. for 25 years, was 911 director, has 39 years in law/public safety career. In 1991, when the two Bay City officers were ambushed and killed, Bay Co. Sheriff Deputies responded they are one of the most professional entities. They keep the peace. The deductible on Risk Management was \$50,000 in the late 1990's. The planning, organizing needed – why entertain that thought? The current 911 plan in effect on file Bay Co. Board Comm. Office, State Police has it. Decided to work together. Fire Dept., Townships, Sheriff and the State police may come back to it. Things are not bad, things are good. Stick with the Sheriff.

M. & P. Clark, 2212 Whiteherse, issue is communicating with the public, newsletter, website not enough. He is a tech/communication teacher – ask him. He thanked the Sheriff for service, the State police and all agencies who serve us in some way. How to reach individuals: management related issues, how decisions are made and shared with the public. How many had reported concerns? What's the numbers to date? There is not that info. She proposed to put this to rest, work with those we are contracted with.

Caryn, Westgate, requested a FOIA, know your dept. before you create one. How many officers died from Covid? 8-10 in the last year. The Township had a month to set up a hybrid meeting so my 94-year-old neighbor could listen too. She also shared info. from the State of MI. on Police Dept. budgets with the cheapest being \$230,000/year.

Public input closed at 8:53.

Motion by Arnold seconded by Brandt to suspend the regular order of the Agenda to consider a motion to suspend the consideration of a Monitor Township Police Dept.

Yes: Walsh, Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch

No: None

Motion carried

Motion by Arnold seconded by Brandt to No longer pursue the idea of establishing a Township Police Dept. instead work with the Sheriff Dept. to rectify the administration issues.

Yes: Spencer, Ferguson, Pike, Arnold, Brandt, McCulloch, Walsh

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Pike seconded by McCulloch to return to public comment.

Motion carried.

Public comment opened at 9:11

V. Begick, 5353 Lorraine Crt., County Commissioner, reported the Fireworks Festival is back on for July! The 10 million dollars from the government is supposed to come on May 10th. Restrictions on use are – can't lower taxes or finance pensions. The county has established a State of Emergency through July 13th so we can have virtual meetings.

B. Krause, made a final comment, as a MI Certified Public Manager, the work done here was a text book example in the handling of the meeting tonight.

Public input was closed at 9:15.

D. Scherzer, with the passing of the Ord. 68 tonight the SRF project is on schedule now. The 2019 Sanitary Sewer projects has all the punch lists taken care of. The Steih Park Grant has been submitted for the April 1st due date. In December is the final results for the Grant scoring. Shooting for preliminaries to be in Aug./Sept. of 2022 with construction in 2023. Fire Station construction on schedule and on budget. Industrial Park Grant will present to the Board in May.

J. Baker, discussed Fire Safety Consultant services, may be utilized for Planning Commission reviews.

B. Walsh reported on the Planning Commission. Three new plans approved.

T. Pichitino, Deputy reported on the quarterly report included in the board packet.

Motion by McCulloch seconded by Pike to accept all communications.
Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn at 9:55.
Motion carried.

Linda Ferguson, Clerk