

Wilson Township Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting
October 14, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present included Dan Hibner, Cody Werth, Bill Church, Penny Szatkowski, and Melissa Werth.

Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to accept the previous minutes as presented. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Planning Commission/Zoning Administrator:

Dan Hibner stated that he spoke with Kim Elkie regarding the Master Plan and she had spoken with NEMCOG and we are ahead of everyone else. Bill Church stated that they went over chapter 6 and 7 and they made one correction.

Planning Commission:

Wolf Creek Park had the sod give away again off the dock. There was a complaint made to the township board that there was a huge hole. Dan Hibner recommended that the township obtain bids to get that problem repaired in the spring. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Melissa Werth, supported by Cody Werth, to have Don Gilmet work with Penny Szatkowski to get bids to have the problem repaired in the spring. All in favor. Motion carried.

Zoning Administrator – Adoption of Meat Processing:

Tim Slosser presented the letter of support from the County Planning Commission for the proposed Wilson Township zoning ordinance amendment in Section 500, adding section 1502 “Butcher Services” less than 50 animal units per week under commercial/business/service in R-2 (agriculture) district only. The County Planning Commission unanimously supports Wilson Township Planning Commission’s recommendation and approved adding additional language as presented. This added language that was suggested by the County Planning Commission is that the person applying for the special use permit should have a byproduct waste mitigation plan prior to approval and it must be submitted with the special use permit application. Tim stated that he will post it in the newspaper tomorrow. It needs to be posted at least once. He stated that it goes into effect on the eighth day after it is posted. Motion was made by Penny Szatkowski, supported by Cody Werth, to adopt the zoning text amendment 10-20. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner - yes, Cody Werth - yes, Bill Church - yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth – yes. Motion carried.

Building Department:

Don Gilmet gave the Building Department report. He stated that jail project is progressing well. They are expecting to be complete late November. He stated that he inspected and issued a permanent occupancy permit to 1111 Oakridge Drive. Don stated that an agreement has been reached between the owners and the contractor of the leaky roof on Carney Road. The contractor refunded 100% of the amount he charged to replace the roof and the case will be closed by Lansing. The home owners are able to acquire funds from the Alpena County Home Improvement Program to get the roof fixed. Don stated that he has issued twenty building permits so far this year.

Fire Department:

Chief LaCross gave the Fire Department report. He stated that the fire department has picked up another new member, Matthew Treinen. Chief LaCross stated that Matthew has a long list of credentials and will be a big asset to our township. He is recommending that the board hire Matthew pending his background check. Motion was made by Melissa Werth, supported by Cody Werth, to hire Matthew Treinen pending his background check. All in favor. Motion carried.

Chief LaCross stated that we now have 16 employees for the Fire Department. He stated that two are attending the firefighter I and II class. We have three that are EMS only, six that are firefighter and EMS, and five that are firefighter only. Jake Trelfa attended the free used fire equipment giveaway in Presque Isle and he picked up 4 or 5 sets of decent turn out gear. Chief LaCross state that they are good for backup. Jake also obtained three pair of boots, but they do not fit the new people. Chief LaCross will need to send two people to get boots at Great Lakes. Chief LaCross stated that we are short on helmets and he is requesting \$1250.00 to purchase three new helmets. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Melissa Werth, to allow Chief LaCross to purchase three new helmets in the cost of \$1250.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Discussion ensued regarding the fire department budget. It was decided that this issue would be tabled until the next board meeting.

Dan Hibner stated that as far as the 800's go, the last he heard we were 25th in the queue. They are all programmed and ready to go we are just waiting on the state to approve it and set all of the towers up. It is a slow process. Dan stated that he does not foresee it being ready before Christmas.

Chief LaCross stated that he applied for a \$5000.00 DNR grant for structural turnout gear. He will not know until December whether or not we will receive it. He stated that he still has the quote for \$5500.00 for four sets of gear. He stated that he is going to sit on the quote until at least December and then we can revisit that.

Dan Hibner stated that he recommends that we add the pagers and radios to the Lappan Insurance quote. Tony Parris stated that we were supposed to get 16 used radios. Tony stated all together we will have 19 handheld radios. We will have 16 pagers. The Board will add those radios and pagers to the Lappan Insurance policy so they are covered.

Chief LaCross stated that the Grochowski family is putting on a luncheon for the fire department on Sunday in appreciation for their help after their fire.

Chief LaCross stated that he took five bottles down to Great Lakes to be hydro tested. Once those five come back he will take another five and then the remaining ten bottles next year. The cost is \$40.00 per bottle.

Cemetery:

Dan Hibner stated that he spoke with Carl Kowalski who works with the League of Marines and they would like to put a flag pole at the cemetery at no cost to the township. Dan recommended to the board that we allow the flag pole to be installed. Cody Werth stated that the flag must have a light on it. He recommended that the township purchase a solar light for the flag pole prior to the American Legion installing it. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to allow the American Legion to install a flag pole and to purchase a solar light for the flag pole. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that the Alpena County Department of Veterans Affairs got a grant to get grave markers and flags for veterans' grave sites. This grant is for a one-time only purchase of markers and flags to give each township an opportunity to update their cemeteries. If the township chooses to accept the flags and markers through the grant, we will need to sign an agreement with the Veterans Office. In signing this agreement, the township would be responsible for ensuring that flags and markers are placed at all veterans' grave sites by the township or a designated group. The markers and flags must be placed on gravesites by Memorial Day weekend and removed after Veterans Day in November each and every year. Dan recommended that we enter into this agreement with the Alpena County Department of Veterans Affairs. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to enter into the agreement with the Alpena County Department of Veterans Affairs to receive flags and markers for the Wilson Township Cemetery. All in favor. Motion carried.

Communications:

Dan Hibner stated that he spoke with Colonel Rossi from the CRTC regarding the PFAS investigative contract awarded and it is going to be executed this fiscal year. The intention of the contract is to accomplish remedial investigation to collect data so that they can come up with a good profile of the impact of any environmental impact in the area. Colonel Rossi stated he wanted to touch base with us to introduce himself and to begin to establish a working relationship with the board and township. He stated that he knows the CRTC has a strong relationship with Wilson Township and he desires to continue in that relationship.

Dan Hibner presented the Biosolids Application Notification from the City of Alpena Water/Wastewater Utility.

Dan Hibner presented the Alpena Power Renewable energy cost letter.

Unfinished Business:

Bill Church presented three proposals. These proposals have gone through all of the special hearings and the county board of commissioners has approved all of them. The commissioners did state that the noise ordinance was a little vague. Bill added language to paragraph two stating that the noise level would be measurable. Having added that language it should go back to the planning commission for approval. Motion was made by Bill Church, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to take the noise ordinance back to the planning commission. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill Church presented the Solar Farm Ordinance. He stated that it did not change. Bill stated that it has been through all of the proper processes and it is now up to the board to adopt it or not. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to adopt by resolution the Solar Farm Ordinance. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner – yes, Cody Werth – yes, Bill Church – yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth – yes. Motion carried.

Bill Church presented the Commercial Wind Energy Facilities ordinance text change. The only thing that changed was the setback. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Melissa Werth, to adopt the Commercial Wind Energy Facilities Ordinance text change. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner – yes, Bill Church – yes, Cody Werth – yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth – yes. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that Allan Berg is looking at combining some of the review boards. Discussion ensued. It was decided to table this issue at this time.

New Business:

Dan Hibner stated that a Post Audit Policy is something that MTA has been doing for a long time. Dan recommended that we adopt a Post Audit Policy Resolution. This Post Audit Policy Resolution will allow the authorization of pre-payment of certain bills such as utility bills, expenses already approved by the board, burials, and board of review members. This would allow for the bills to be paid on time. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to adopt the Post Audit Policy Resolution. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner – yes, Bill Church – yes, Cody Werth – yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth – yes. Motion carries. The Post Audit Policy Resolution is assigned resolution number 10-20.

Bill Church questioned the board as to whether there was a written job description for the liquor inspector, Norm Szatkowski. Dan Hibner will contact MTA and this will be tabled until the next meeting.

Dan Hibner and Tim Slosser will arrange a date to pick up the boxes that are left at Pam Walker's house and they will transport to a storage facility either at the Wilson Hall or at Melissa Werth's home.

Financial report:

Penny Szatkowski gave the financial report. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Melissa Werth, to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor – motion carried.

Pay bills:

Melissa Werth presented the bills to the board. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to accept and pay all bills as presented. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner – yes, Bill Church – yes, Cody Werth – yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth – yes. Motion carried.

Penny Szatkowski addressed the issue that we currently do not have a caretaker for the hall. Dan Hibner stated that he has someone that might be interested and he will be speaking with her.

Dan Hibner and the rest of the board thanked Don Gilmet as he has paid for the yearly registration for our website.

Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Werth
Wilson Township Clerk