

Wilson Township Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting November 11, 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.

In review of the minutes, Bill Church stated that there needed to be a change on page four under Unfinished Business, paragraph three, to add that the noise level was also changed for the Commercial Wind Energy Facilities Ordinance text change. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to accept the October minutes with changes. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Planning Commission/Zoning Administrator:

Dana Hayka gave report for the Zoning and Planning

Commission. Dana spoke regarding the Master Plan/Future Land Use Map. She provided a packet which included the minutes of the commission's last four meetings. She stated that Christina McEmber with NEMCOG is looking for approval of the Master Plan draft. Dana stated that the changes that were discussed at previous Zoning and Planning Commission meetings were approved at their meeting held on November 4, 2020. She stated that the next step is for the Wilson Township Board to approve the Master Plan draft. Dana stated that if the board approves the Master Plan draft then there will be a 63-day waiting period. Don Gilmet stated that if the board approves the draft that changes can still be made during the 63-day waiting period. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Bill Church, supported by Cody Werth, to approve the Master Plan Draft. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner - yes, Bill Church - yes, Cody Werth - yes, Penny Szatkowski - yes, Melissa Werth - yes. Motion carried. Melissa will provide a copy of the minutes from this meeting to Dana Hayka to forward to Christina McEmber at NEMCOG to start the 63-day waiting period.

Dana Hayka stated the Denise Klein got back with her about the noise ordinance and because it is not part of

the zoning ordinance, we do not need another public hearing. If the Township Board chooses to approve it, then a notice of adoption containing a summary of the ordinance would need to be published in the newspaper within 30 days of adoption. The ordinance then takes place effective 30 days after publication.

Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Melissa Werth, supported by Cody Werth, to table the noise ordinance. Four board members in favor, one board member nay. Motion carried.

Dana Hayka stated that she was asked to bring to the board's attention the matter of the Wilson Township Park. She stated that at their last meeting Al Trelfa stated that he is very upset over the condition and upkeep of the park. He said that people are complaining about it.

He would like to see a committee established to watch over and take care of the park. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to table further discussion of a new committee to be established until budget time. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that he received two phone calls regarding people inquiring about hunting at the Wilson Township Park. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Melissa Werth, supported by Cody Werth, to not allow hunting at the Wilson Township Park. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dana Hayka stated that the next Zoning and Planning Commission meeting dates are set for April 7, 2021; May 5, 2021; June 2, 2021; August 4, 2021; September 1, 2021; October 6, 2021; and November 3, 2021. Election of officers will be held at the meeting scheduled for April 7, 2021.

Dan Hibner stated that regarding the solar ordinance, the public hearing was held as he received minutes from that meeting, however, he is not sure if it was publicized. Dan stated that he did find it for the solar farm and the only thing that Denise Klein commented on for the solar farm was to change the section that it was to be put into 17-28. Denise said that it would not need to go back through the whole process again just by changing the section. She said to just readopt it and then we can move forward with the solar ordinance. We will

need to hold and advertise for the public hearing for the wind and she said to just email it to the county they will not have to hold a meeting. Dana Hayka stated that it will have to be put off until the April meeting. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to adopt the solar ordinance. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner - yes, Cody Werth - yes, Bill Church - yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth - yes. Motion carried. Dan will email the signed ordinance to Denise Klein and he will take care of the publication for the news.

Zoning:

Tim Slosser stated that at the last zoning meeting a public hearing was held for a special use request for Grochowski's butcher shop. Tim stated that it was approved by the board. The only letter that Tim received was in favor of the butcher shop, but there were concerns about what they will do with their byproduct. This is addressed in the special use permit. They have to provide the township with a plan of what they are going to do. The special use permit was passed unanimously by the planning commission. Tim stated that they are hoping to be up and running by

spring. Discussion ensued. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to approve the special use permit 2020-002 for the Grochowski butcher shop. 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. The county jail project is progressing well. They are expecting to be complete by late November early December.

Don stated that he has inspected and issued a permanent certificate of occupancy for the addition at 9100 Schultz Road.

Don stated that the Jewell's Disposal project is progressing well. The building is framed up and the concrete floor has been placed.

Don stated that he has issued 24 building permits so far this year. He stated that he has been working with

the zoning administrator to ensure customers know how to get their zoning permit approval prior to construction permitting.

Fire Department: Chief Gil LaCross gave the Fire Department report. He stated that the Fire Department will provide fire prevention at Wilson School. He stated that Andy Marceau had agreed to provide this via virtual means on November 22nd and 23rd. The 5th grade students will have an essay contest and prizes will be awarded. Chief LaCross spoke to Lisa Hilberg, Wilson School Principal, she said the 5th grade teachers are swamped and therefore it will need to be pushed into December. Donations have been made by Jewell's Disposal, Midwest Diesel, and Spratt Methodist Church

Chief LaCross stated that Matthew Treinen has passed his background check and he believes Matt will be an excellent addition to our fire department.

Chief LaCross stated that we have gotten all but three people through the 800 radio system training with their pagers and 800 radios. It is supposed to go live December 3rd. The switchover will be good and the

Fire Department is looking forward to having a better communication system. The system will be much better. The only downside is that it has been very costly and Chief LaCross has been working diligently to search every place he can find to get the best price on everything that we have been buying to make the switchover happen. Chief LaCross stated that it is a necessity to have holsters for the 800 radios so they do not get damaged. He stated that he has been buying a couple at a time when they go on sale. He stated that the ones he purchased are a universal holster so they will work with both the old and new radios.

Chief LaCross showed everyone the new pagers. He stated that the township has 16 pagers to pay for. The payment for the pagers can be made over two years.

Chief LaCross stated that the old radios were given to us from Genesee County and they are designed to let us not have to go buy all brand-new radios right away. He stated that as these radios die, they will be gone. We currently have three 800 radios that are ours. Chief LaCross reported that Mark Hall said that there is some talk that the county may go 50/50 match on a couple more this year. Chief LaCross stated that we will wait to

see if they will do that before purchasing anymore. He stated that over the next few years we will need to replace the old ones with new ones so that when the old ones die, we will have a way to communicate.

Chief LaCross stated that they are still holding back on turnout gear because they are waiting to see if the DNR grant was approved. He stated that he is supposed to find out in December.

Correspondence:

Dan Hibner stated that Melissa Werth received a letter from the gentleman who was in the culvert accident on Witt Road. He is naming Alpena County, Alpena County Road Commission, and Wilson Township in a law suit. We contacted our attorney and our insurance company. A motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Bill Church, to sign a rebuttal and send it back to our insurance company to mail to the plaintiff. All in favor. Motion carried. Dan will sign the rebuttal and send to our insurance company.

Unfinished Business: Dan Hibner stated that there have been a few more changes to the Board of Review since our last meeting. The state is now requiring the BOR members to have logged hours and the assessor has to keep track of those logged hours. This will incur more cost. Dan stated that he spoke to Eric Smith and his board has adopted it. He also talked to the Wilson Township BOR members today and they are in support of this as well. They agreed that we should try it for a year and move forward. We lost one BOR member. Kim Rabeau has stated that he is resigning as of the end of the year. Dan stated that given the training requirements and the assessor having to keep track of all of the hours that the township should try it for a year. There is not anything stating that we cannot back out of it if it does not work out. Dan stated that it would be a three-member board. Dan stated that Long Rapids Township and Wellington Township have already linked up. Dan stated that the BOR would most likely be decided by availability and Allen Berg. Dan stated that we would submit names and then Al would pick from those names. We would always have one member there. Time and place of the meetings would rotate

townships. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to adopt by resolution to form a combined and single Board of Review for Green Township and Wilson Township of Alpena County. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner - yes, Cody Werth - yes, Bill Church - yes, Penny Szatkowski – yes, Melissa Werth - yes. Motion carried.

Bill Church asked if the ordinance book had been received back from Pam Walker, former Wilson Township Clerk. Dan stated that it had not been received back yet. Bill stated that he has on his phone all of the correspondence records. Dan asked Bill to send him that correspondence. Bill requested that the board advise him once the ordinance book was returned so that he could delete the information from his phone.

New Business:

Dan Hibner discussed the Constable duties. He obtained a sample ordinance from MTA. Dan stated that he thinks that the board is in agreeance as well as Norm Szatkowski. Dan stated that he spoke to Norm. Norm is a liquor inspector constable. The description

has been chopped down to basically say that as a constable his duties will be to be the liquor inspector,

not all of the other duties. He would still carry the constable label. Dan recommended that the township adopt this as a township ordinance as the duty of our constable. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to adopt the new ordinance for the description of constable's job to entail Section 2 description. Roll call vote: Dan Hibner - yes, Bill Church - yes, Cody Werth - yes, Penny Szatkowski - yes, Melissa Werth - yes. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that the township hall elevator is due for its State of Michigan three year, full-load pressure-relief valve test. The test will be performed by Otis Elevator and it will cost \$1800.00. This is a state required test. Motion was made by Melissa Werth, supported by Cody Werth, to pay \$1800.00 to Otis Elevator to perform the load testing. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that we need a motion to fill out the Tax Names/Mills Report for Wilson Township to be

forwarded to Ted Somers at the Equalization Office. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Melissa Werth, to sign and submit the Tax Names/Mills Report to the Equalization Office. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that Mike Girard has agreed to still snow plow the fire hall and the township hall. He charges \$35.00 each time he plows and he plows both buildings for that price. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Penny Szatkowski, to continue to hire Mike Girard for snow plowing services. All in favor. Motion carried.

Dan Hibner stated that with the ongoing COVID pandemic that if we get shutdown again that we may need to hold virtual meetings again. Motion was made by Melissa Werth, supported by Cody Werth, to hold the township meetings virtually via Zoom if the State of Michigan restrictions increase. All in favor. Motion carried.

Bill Church stated that he had promised to maintain the policy book and he stated that he will continue to do so if the Board allows him to do so. Discussion ensued.

The board agreed to allow Bill to continue to maintain the policy book. Bill submitted a bill for the binders. Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Melissa Werth, to reimburse Bill for the expense of the policy binders. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cody Werth thanked Dan Hibner and Tim Slosser for donating their time and roofing the shed at the cemetery as well as some other repairs to the shed. It is appreciated.

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 Bill Church, 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.

Dan Hibner and other board members thanked Bill Church for his service and efforts on the township board.

Motion was made by Cody Werth, supported by Melissa Werth, to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Wurth

Melissa Werth Wilson Township Clerk