**ORLEANS TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**June 27, 2023**

**Orleans Township Hall**

**Call to Order:** Supervisor Colwell called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and led the Pledge Allegiance followed by a short invocation.

**Members present:** Al Almy, Melissa Harper, Bob Terrill, Barb Colwell and Clare Colwell

**Set/Amend Agenda:**

The following items was added to New Business:

Item A. Tree Cutting Long Lake Public “Easement”

Item B. Fire Millage Discussion

The following item was added to Old Business:

Item A. Fire Truck Purchase Financing

Motion by B. Colwell, supported by Terrill, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda contained the May 23, 2023, minutes as well as the township’s balance sheets, P&L’s and a listing of disbursements for the general and sewer funds for May. Supervisor Colwell asked that the following general fund balance sheet items be researched and an update provided at the July meeting: An asset titled “Township Deputy” in the amount of $43,923, liabilities titled “Salaries Payable” in the amount of $7,095, “Payroll Liabilities in the amount of $3,324 and “Deferred Revenue” in the amount of $147,949. Motion by Terrill, supported by B. Colwell, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

A. **Police** – A written report was submitted by the Sherriff’s Deputy~~,~~ Mike Richards, showing a total of 48 calls for the month of May 2023. A copy of the report is on file in the Orleans Township Clerk’s Office.

B. **Fire Department** – Chief Ron Hill stated that there were 18 runs in May 2023.

A copy of the report is on file in the Orleans Township Clerk’s Office.

C**. Assessor Report** – Board of Review meeting July 18th

D. **County Commissioner** – No report given

E. **Long Lake Improvement Board** – No report given

F. **Roads** – No report given.

G. **Permit Officer** - Almy presented the Board with a Permit Activity Report.

Three permits were issued for the month of May. A copy of this report is on file in the Orleans Township Clerk’s Office.

**Setback for 2312 Catalpa Drive –** Mr. Almy presented the Board with a request for a 7.5’ setback for the construction of a 62’x 66’ new home. Parcel #34-120-090-000-190-10. Motion by Almy, supported by Terrill, to approve the variance as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

H. **Sewer**- Treasurer Colwell has reported that we have begun collecting sewer payments.

I. **Cemetery** – Deputy Clerk Ron Harper submitted a report of three cemetery issues that have been addressed satisfactorily in ~~for~~ the Township’s cemeteries

J. **Building Authority** –No report given

**New Business**

1. **Tree cutting Long Lake Easement –** Permit officer Almy informed the board that Anthony Perkins, 2884 Hall Street, requested the Township’s permission to cut a decaying tree located on a public easement at Long Lake. A search by the Ionia County Abstract office indicated that there were no “official owners” listed for the property. Mr. Almy felt that Perkins should receive permission from adjacent property owners and that if that permission was received, the Township would not object to the felling of the tree. Supervisor Colwell indicated the Township would reimburse Almy for the Abstractor’s expense.

**B. Fire Millage** – Supervisor Colwell presented the Board with some general

information regarding the possibility of a new millage for the purpose of helping

to support the expense of the fire department. He provided information that

indicated that 7 of 16 Ionia County townships already have fire/emergency

services millages and wanted the Board’s feeling regarding pursuing something

similar. He provided a very rough estimated income from a hypothetical millage

assessment. The OTFD is the #2 cost center in the Township.

**Old Business**

1. **Fire Truck Purchase Financing** – Supervisor Colwell informed the Board that our

new fire truck would be delivered in the first part of July and that he had obtained

bids from our two depository banks for the financing of same. Independent Bank

offered up to $400,000 at a fixed rate of 5.7% for 15 years with semi-annual P&I

payments. Mercantile Bank offered up to $400,000 with an initial 4.25% for five

years with a 15-year amortization and semi-annual P&I payments. The rate

would reset every five years. Motion by Harper, supported by Terrill, to accept the

Independent Bank proposal.

AYES: C. Colwell, B. Colwell, M. Harper, A. Almy, R. Terrill

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 P.M.

Date:

Melissa Harper, Orleans Township Clerk