**ORLEANS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**January 23, 2024**

**Orleans Township Hall**

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

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

**Set/Amend Agenda:**

The following item was added to Old Business:

Item A: Residential Dwelling Ordinance Discussion

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

**Public Comment:**  Mr. Gerald Andrews attended the meeting at the request of Trustee Almy. Mr. Andrews has purchased a building located at 5460 Orleans Road, Orleans, which has been the subject of a number of blight citations by the Township because of its run-down condition and possible “attractive nuisance” situation. Mr. Andrews made the Board aware that as a result of his recent purchase he was in the process of bringing the property up to Township standards.

Motion by Almy, supported by Terrill, to grant Mr. Andres 6 months to complete the repairs he described to the board. The Board will review progress on the property at the end of that period to determine if any further Township action was required. Motion carried unanimously.

**Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda contained the December 21, 2023, minutes as well as the Township’s balance sheet, P&L’s and a disbursement ledger for the general and sewer funds for December. 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 Sherriff’s Deputy Mike Richards, showing a total of 41 responses for the month of December 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 24 runs in December 2023. The report is on file in the Orleans Township Clerk’s Office.

C**. Assessor Report** – Board of Review meeting will be held on

March 11th 9:00am - 4:00pm and March 13th 2:00pm – 9:00pm

D. **County Commissioner** – No report

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

F. **Roads** – No report

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

discussed in detail. One permit was issued for the month of December.

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

H. **Sewer**- Treasurer Colwell informed the board she is looking into sending postcards

out for the quarterly billing instead of the current statement in an effort to save money on both supplies and postage. No decision at this time.

I. **Cemetery** – No report

J. **Building Authority** –No report

K. **New Business**

A. **Appoint Building Authority Chairman –** Colwell informed the Board that Judy Brune’s 3-year term on the Orleans Township Building Authority expired on 12/31/23 and that she was willing to serve another term. Motion by Almy, supported by B. Colwell, to appoint Judy Brune to a 3-year term on the Orleans Township Building Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

B. **Reschedule February Meeting Date** – Harper informed the Board that our regularly scheduled Board meeting on February 27, 2024, conflicts with the Township’s election schedule and would need to be moved. Motion by Harper, supported by B. Colwell, to move the February 27th board meeting to February 20th at 7:00 pm, to alleviate the conflict. Motion carried unanimously.

C. **Approve Election Inspectors** – Harper submitted a list of proposed election inspectors for the upcoming election. She also asked the Board for some leeway in appointing election workers to fill last-minute vacancies. Motion by Harper, supported by B. Colwell, to approve the elections inspectors appointments and to sub in election workers if needed. Motion carried unanimously.

D**. Increase Election Inspector Wage** – Harper informed the Board that she had made a survey of what surrounding Townships were paying their election workers and election chairmen. In her opinion, Orleans Township was low. Motion by Harper, supported by Almy, to increase election inspector to $16.00 an hour and chairperson to $18.00 an hour. Motion carried unanimously.

E. **Township Mowing** – Colwell informed the Board that despite seeking bids from numerous firms for next spring’s lawn mowing services, Ron Harper was only able to obtain two bids. Of those bids, North Woods Lawn Care was, by far, the low bidder. Motion by C. Colwell, supported by Terrill, to award the 2024 contract to North Woods Lawn Care in the amount of $625.00 per mow. Motion carried unanimously.

**L. Old Business**

A. **Residential Dwelling Ordinance Discussion –** Mr. Almy discussed with the board some of the amendments he suggested we should make to the dwelling ordinance. Board members to review and plan on voting on the amendments at the February 2024 meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Next Orleans Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 7:00PM

Date:

Melissa Harper

Orleans Township Clerk