**ORLEANS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**March 26, 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:**

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

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda contained the February 20, 2024, minutes as well as the Township’s balance sheet, P&L’s and a disbursement ledger for the general and sewer funds for February. Motion by Harper, supported by Terrill, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**Reports**

A. **Police** – A written report was submitted by Sherriff’s Deputy Mike Richards, showing a total of 47 responses for the month of February 2024. 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 9 runs in February 2024. The report is on file in the Orleans Township Clerk’s Office.

C**.        Assessor Report** – Board of Review meetings were held in March

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

H. **Sewer**- Treasurer Colwell informed the board that the 2023 taxes have been

 collected and payments have been disbursed to the County. Mrs. Colwell also

 informed the board we have received a letter from Infrastructure stating that our

 future costs are going up by an estimated 3.5%.

I. **Cemetery** – No report

J.         **Building Authority** –No report

**New Business**

A.      **ICRD Road Proposal & Grade all agreement –** TheBoard reviewed the proposed FY24 Grade All and Brine Agreements submitted by the Ionia County Road Department for the Township’s approval.   Motion by B. Colwell, supported by Almy, to approve the Brine and Grade All agreements. Motion carried unanimously.

      Supervisor Colwell informed the Board that he had had discussion with the ICRD regarding re-graveling of certain roads in the Township.  Trustees Terrill and Almy did an inspection of the list of gravel roads the Road Department recommended for re-gravel. Based on their inspection, they recommended that only 3 roads that need to be addressed for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. They are:  Meade Road in the amount of $39,164.00, Hubbell Road in the amount of $11,610.00 and Youngs Road in the amount of 19,505.00 for a total of $70,279.00.

     B.      **New Assessor Contract –** At the Board of Review meetings, Dean Kohagen, assistant assessor, submitted a new Assessors Contract for the Board’s consideration.  The increase called for in the contract is the first in close to three years as well as a new term from April of 2024 to June of 2026.  Supervisor Colwell forwarded a copy of the proposed contract to all Board member at the time of submission.  Motion by Almy, supported by B. Colwell, to approve the assessor contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

     C.      **FY 25 Budget –** Colwell walked the Board through the proposed FY2025 budget and highlighted major changes where applicable.  A period of discussion followed.  Colwell discussed his intention to research other forms of possible revenue generation to include a Headlee rollback initiative along with a possible fire millage.  After a discussion he indicated to the Board that he would try to develop more information for the Board’s consideration.  Motion by Harper, supported by Almy, to approve the fiscal year 2024-2025 Budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

     D.      **FY 25 Meeting Schedule –** Prior to the meeting, Harper distributed a proposed meeting schedule for FY2025.  Motion by B. Colwell, supported by Terrill, to

               approve the Fiscal year 2024-2025 meeting schedule as amended. Motion

               carried unanimously.

**Old Business**

1. The Board had a lengthy discussion regarding what to do about the blight issue

 that exists in the Township.  Colwell explained to the Board the issues

 surrounding the blight questions and showed the Board numerous pieces of

 correspondence to homeowners in the Township however, enforcement is a

 challenge.  Mike Richards of the Ionia County Sherrif’s department indicated his

 willingness for the Department to assist the Township with this problem.

 However, he agreed that it was a process. Colwell indicated that he would step

 up efforts on the blight issue and would recruit Richards for assistance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

The next Orleans Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 7:00PM

 Date:

Melissa Harper

Orleans Township Clerk