**ORLEANS TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**

**October 24, 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:**

Supervisor Colwell asked that another Public Comment section be added to the end of the agenda. Motion by B. Colwell, supported by Terrill, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** None

**Consent Agenda:**

The consent agenda contained the September 24, 2024, minutes as well as the Township’s balance sheet, P&L’s and a disbursement ledger for the general and sewer funds for September. Motion by B. Colwell, 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 Emilio Ortiz, showing a total of 41 responses for the month of September 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 14 runs in September 2024. The report is on file in the Orleans Township Clerk’s Office.

C**.        Assessor Report** – Dan Bengel, the Township’s assessor, will terminate his services to the Township on November 1, 2024. Replacement to be addressed in New Business.

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

Almy made a request for a setback variance for Mr. Jeff Kurtz on property located at 2588 West Long Lake Road, Orleans. Motion by Almy, supported by B. Colwell, that the setback variances for Jeff Kurtz at 2588 Long Lake Rd, Orleans, MI, Parcel 34-120-017-000-100-00 to be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

H.        **Treasurer/Sewer**- Treasurer Colwell reported that receipt of State Revenue Sharing is expected in late October.

I. **Cemetery** – Clerk Harper indicated that the Deputy Clerk was notified that the American flag at Greene Cemetery needed to be replaced. A new one is in place.

J.           **Building Authority** –No report

**New Business**

1. **Exemptions from Fire Assessment for Veterans/Poverty** – The Board discussed whether those with Veterans and Poverty tax exemptions should be exempted from the new Fire Assessment. Motion by B. Colwell, supported by Harper, to approve Veterans/Poverty to be exempt from Fire assessment.
2. **Change in Assessor of Record –** Dan Bengel has informed the Township that he will be moving out of the Assessor’s position for the Township. He recommended that we replace him with Jason Kohagen. Motion by Almy, supported by Terrill, to approve the updated assessor contract to replace Dan Bengel with Jason Kohagen effective November 1, 2024. All other terms and conditions remain the same. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Engage Foster Swift for MPSC Appeal –** Supervisor Colwell discussed with the Board joining a class action suit regarding Public Act 233 which regulates placement and oversight of large-scale wind generators and solar panels. Motion by C. Colwell, supported by Almy, to engage the Foster Swift law firm to file an appeal or other appropriate legal action to challenge the MPSC’s October 10, 2024, order concerning PA 233, up to a maximum cost of $10,000.

**Old Business**

1. **Discussion of Approval of Host Community Agreement** –Supervisor Colwell presented the board with a copy of the Host Agreement modifying the annual tonnage from 100,000 tons to 200,000 as proposed by the Ionia County Solid Waste Committee. Pitsch has indicated that he will not accept anything less than 300,000 and will not enter into an agreement for less. He indicated that the Board of Commissioners, after hearing Pitsch’s demand, tabled any action which, in essence, sends the agreement back to the SWC for further work.
2. **Speed Survey** – Prior to the meeting, a number of residents voiced their concerns regard a recent statement by the Ionia County Road Commission that the local 25 MPH speed limit signs will be removed. According the ICRD, the Township must obtain a Speed Study to support any speed limit. Supervisor Colwell informed the audience that the result of the Speed Study would likely increase speed limits. Motion by B. Colwell, supported Harper, to approve a speed study to be done for Orleans Road. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

The next Orleans Township Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2024, at 7:00PM.

 Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Melissa Harper