

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 1, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

1. **Meeting was called to order** at 7:00 P.M. by Smith
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Roll Call: Present:** Richardson, Meert, Smith, Sell, Hephner. Catherine Kaufman
4. **Agenda: Motion by Hephner supported by Smith to approve the agenda as presented. All yes, motion carried.**
5. **Consent Agenda: Motion made by Sell, supported by Richardson to approve the Consent Agenda. All Yes, motion carried.**
6. **Monthly Bills: Motion made by Sell, supported by Hephner to approve the monthly bills for a total of \$20181.30. All yes, motion carried.**
7. **Correspondence and Reports:** Bestway Disposal has sent the Township a letter of price increases for 2023.
 - A. **Library:** Nothing at this time.
 - B. **Sheriff:** Submitted. 62 Calls-Majority were traffic crashes-mainly car/deer. Officer suggested the Township send notices and copies of ordinances for blight violations as a first means of contact. Please do not drive though a road closed sign. Crews are trimming trees on CR388, and the road is closed in spots. You will be issued a ticket. Please continue to be aware of family and friends as suicide rates are very high. VanBuren County Sheriff Dan Abbott was also in attendance and talked about issues in the community.
 - C. **County Commission:** Submitted.
 - D. **Road Commission:** None.
 - E. **Fire Chief:** None -23 calls this month.
 - F. **Fire Board:** Submitted. The GPGFD Board is in the process of hiring a new Chief. They have had several applications and hope to hire someone as soon as possible, giving the person a chance to work with Chief Wioskowski for 30 days before taking over position. The City of Gobles has approved the Fire Board Budget for 2023-24.
 - G. **Ambulance:** Submitted. 21 total responses. Life will have the 5-year contract renewal available for the May meeting. Kathy Garrett thanked Life EMS for their excellence and professionalism in handling a recent call.
 - H. **Treasurer: As of 1-31-23: Tax: \$-4615.52 General: \$824353.38 T&A: \$9,985.70 PNC Savings: \$199,922.15 Consumers Xtra Protect: \$250,710.53 Consumers Money Market: \$251,425.72 ARPA: \$309,957.77 Allegan CU: \$211,957.15**
 - I. **Planning Commission:** Meeting March 20, 2023, at 6 p.m. Working on updating the Master Plan for the Township. Almost completed.
 - J. **KABA:** Submitted. For February 2023, KABA collected \$982.00 and 4 building permits. Smith stated just as a note the house on the corner of 29th Street and CR388 is on this report with a building permit. It has been long overdue.
8. **Committee Reports: Building Committee:** Next meeting scheduled for Monday, March 6th at 6:30 p.m. Hephner stated some of the repairs for estimates are addressed later in the agenda. One item she would like to address is in the corner of the basement a large Rubbermaid container. She thought we could put that up and move the garbage cans that are in front of the door exit at the bottom of the stairs into the container by the back door. Smith stated he would take a look at it and see if Jeff Gasper would be willing to put it up. Hephner asked Smith if had gotten any estimates on the brick mortar and if anything had been sprayed on the bricks? Smith replied he had not forgotten it, but he had not had time to get to it.
9. **Public Comment (limit two minutes):** Kathy Garrett asked about the installation of the lights in the Kendall Park and stated the garbage needed emptied. Smith stated Esper electric was scheduled to install the new lights as soon as weather permitted. He would also see that the trash is emptied. Eric Mathis stated Joe Parma has never gotten back with him regarding when the Kendall drain on CR388 was going to be cleared. All that stagnant water is sitting there with nowhere to go. Sell stated they were supposed to work on it last fall, weather permitting. Sell stated it is on the agenda. Smith stated he believes when they do the road, they will also do the drain because they have to go under the road. Smith stated Mathis could contact the county commission and ask why the drain commission is not responding to his questions.

10. **Old Business:**

1. **Bid for Fence Replacement at the Recycle Center:** Smith stated the Board received 7 bids for fence replacement. Wright fence was the company that had replaced the main entrance gate. Sell stated there was a complaint, but Smith said everything had been corrected and a new latch has been installed. The gap in the fence was corrected by the new latch. Smith stated that all 7 bids were for the exact same dimensions, gates, removal, and disposal of the old fence. No barb wire around the top, 8 foot fence, 20 foot wide gate that opens both ways, all new posts, remove old fence and put in our recycle container. Meert asked what was the difference between Primal Fence and the other bids? It was approximately \$3500.00 less than the all the other bids. Smith stated that all the bids were exactly the same. ***Motion by Hephner supported by Meert to use Primal Fence to replace fence at the recycle center in the amount of \$12948.14. Roll Call Vote: Richardson-yes, Meert-yes, Smith-yes, Sell-yes, Hephner-yes.***
2. **Township Website:** Smith stated he had contacted websites last year about updating. He would like to know is what the Board is looking for in the new website. Sell stated she would like something more user friendly, more modern, and easier to navigate. Smith stated he would like everyone to submit their suggestions to him.
3. **Basement Cleanup:** Hephner submitted a list of items to be disposed of from the basement. Meert stated the tall gray box was for the voting booths and should be kept. ***Motion by Smith supported by Richardson to allow Hephner to hire removal of attached list of items because of no public purpose or value (with the exception of tall grey box) from basement not to exceed \$300.00. All yes. Motion passed.***

11. **New Business:**

1. **Resolution Supporting VBCC Broadband Support:** Pine Grove Township to adopt resolution of support for VanBuren County-backed Robin grant applications. Funds are for Internet Service Providers that intend to expand their services to unserved areas of the County through a ROBIN grant. ***Motion by Smith supported by Sell to adopt resolution of support for County-backed Robin grant applications. Roll Call Vote: Richardson-yes, Meert-yes, Smith-yes, Sell-yes, Hephner-no. Motion passed.***
 2. **Approval of Cemetery fees:** Cemetery fees for opening and closing grave sites have been reviewed and are way below standard rates. The following are recommendations for increases: Increases of \$50.00 for cremations, \$150.00 for weekday grave opening, and \$200 for Saturday grave opening. ***Motion by Hephner supported Richardson to approve the Cemetery Fee increases effective March 1, 2023. All yes. Motion passed.***
 3. **Approve VBCRC Project fees:** Smith submitted road project sheets from the VBCRC, miscellaneous ditching in the amount of \$3000.00 and Boom mowing in the amount of \$3500.00. ***Motion by Smith supported by Hephner to approve project sheets for a total amount of \$6500.00 for boom mowing and Misc. ditching. All yes. Motion passed.***
 4. **Approve Letting for bids Replacement of window and 2 doors:** Board agreed to release for bids, 3 doors, 1 window and sash, plaster repair and paint costs for Township Hall. Smith will write Bid proposal ads.
 5. **Generator:** Board agreed to look into the purchase of a generator. Smith will advertise for bids on generator for Township Hall.
12. **Member Comment:** Meert stated for next month we need to look at the ordinance for Michigan gas utilities right of way. Attorney Kaufmann will look over and suggest changes before the next meeting. Smith stated he will be gone on vacation from March 19th thru April 20th.
13. **Adjournment:** ***Motion made by Smith, supported by Richardson to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.***

Adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Twp. Clerk

