

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 4, 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, **Absent:** Hephner Catherine Kaufman
4. **Agenda:** Richardson asked to add Arborist to New Business. *Motion by Richardson, supported by Sell to approve the agenda with the addition of Arborist as #5 under New Business. All yes, motion carried.*
5. **Consent Agenda:** *Motion made by Smith, supported by Sell to approve the Consent Agenda. All Yes, motion carried.*
6. **Monthly Bills:** *Motion made by Richardson, supported by Smith to approve the monthly bills for a total of \$67,509.92. All yes, motion carried.*
7. **Correspondence and Reports:**
 - A. **Library:** Nothing at this time.
 - B. **Sheriff:** Submitted. Very busy in Township with OWI, Thefts, Suicides
 - C. **County Commission:** Submitted.
 - D. **Road Commission:** Barry made a presentation on the upcoming project of CR388 through Kendall to CR 653. Barry stated everyone that lives along CR388 should have received a flyer in the mail with numbers to call with questions/concerns regarding the marked trees along their property. Barry stated that the road right-of-way is 66 feet. When the project is done, the pavement with the shoulder with take up 34 of those 66 feet, so with drainage improvements, ditching, etc., there are only 16 feet on each side of the road to work with and that is what determines what trees were marked for removal. Barry stated that he believes this summer MDOT will be redoing a culvert on M40 and the detour route will be coming through Kendall on Cr 388 and the traffic will increase drastically.
 - E. **Fire Chief:** None
 - F. **Fire Board:** Submitted. Approved the proposed budget for consideration.
 - G. **Ambulance:** Submitted. Pipes in the building have been fixed.
 - H. **Treasurer:** As of 11-30-22: **Tax: \$-612.69 General: \$718,183 T&A: \$9,989.53**
PNC Savings: \$199,922.76 Consumers Xtra Protect: \$250,625.38
Consumers Money Market: \$251,254.98 ARPA: \$309,905.12 AlleganCU: \$211,957.15
 - I. **Planning Commission:** Meeting January 19, 2023 at 6 p.m.
 - J. **KABA:** Submitted. For December 2022, KABA collected \$1,562.00 in Building permit fees, 3 electrical permits, 4 mechanical permits, 1 plumbing permit.
 - K. **Ordinance Officer:** None
8. **Committee Reports: Building Committee:** Next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 9th at 6:30 p.m. Old files will be removed from the basement on January 6th. The cement work and filling the tunnel has been completed.
9. **Public Comment (limit two minutes):** Connie stated she came to the meeting regarding the trees along CR 388 that are marked to be cut down. Connie stated that she believes that other meetings need to be set up so each resident individually dealing with the project can come together collectively to voice their concerns with the Road Commission and hopes that the Board will stand behind that. Mr. Whitman stated that he is an arborist and moved to Pine Grove Twp. because of all the trees and explained the value of the trees to the environment. Denise stated that she has driven CCR 388 or 50 years and has never had traffic issues, nor drove through collected water anywhere on the roadway, no accidents due to the trees being too close to the roadway and is happy to hear that the Road Commission is willing to work with the arborist. Another resident voiced his concerns over the removal of the trees along CR 388 in Kendall. Pam stated that in the 60's-70's, 27th Street was lined with the beautiful oak trees, which the Road Commission took down and if you go down 27th Street now, it is not the beautiful road that it used to be.
10. **Old Business:**
 1. **Resolution for Agreement with Southwest Michigan Communications, Inc.:** Smith presented a resolution to enter into an agreement with Southwest Michigan Communications, Inc. SMC stated that they submitted an agreement to use \$150,000.00 or Pine Grove Township ARPA funds for the construction

of the north part of the M40/M43 project in Pine Grove Township. Smith stated that the Board and Attorney Kaufman have reviewed the resolution. Meert stated that she has not reviewed this final draft and would like Attorney Kaufman to have a final review before adopting the resolution. ***Motion by Smith, supported by Sell to adopt the resolution to enter into an agreement with Southwest Michigan Communications Inc. subject to a final review by the township attorney. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes. All yes, motion carried.***

2. **Clean Up of Basement:** Hephner made arrangements with Data Guardian to pick up the old documents from the basement on January 6th. Meert stated that she signed the contract with Data Guardian for the removal and the estimated cost. Hephner could not be at the meeting tonight. Smith stated that once the boxes of old records are gone, he will obtain estimates for mold remediation and asbestos removal.

11. **New Business:**

1. **Review Township Officials Wages:**

Motion by Smith, supported by Richardson to adopt the resolution to approve the Supervisor’s salary at \$15,000.00 for 2023. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell -yes. All yes, motion carried.

Motion by Richardson, supported by Smith to adopt the resolution to approve the Clerk’s salary at \$21,750 for 2023. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes. All yes, motion carried.

Motion by Richardson, supported by Meert to adopt the resolution to approve the Treasurer’s salary at \$21,750 for 2023. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes. All yes, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, support by Meert to adopt the resolution to approve Trustee Richardson’s salary at \$4,200 for 2023. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes. All yes, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, supported by Meert to adopt the resolution to approve Trustee Hephner’s salary at \$4,200.00 for 2023. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes. All yes, motion carried.

2. **Review and Approval of the Fire Board Budget for 2023/2024:** ***Motion by Smith, supported by Richardson to approve the Fire Board Budget for 2023/2024. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell -yes. All yes, motion carried.***
3. **Establish Dates for Township Budget Workshop and Hearing:** The township budget workshop and hearing will be February 1, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
4. **Resolution on Policy for Personal Property Tax Review:** After a short discussion, ***Motion made by Meert, supported by Sell to table the resolution on Policy for Personal Property Tax Review until February Board Meeting. All yes, motion carried.***
5. **Arborist:** Barry, Road Commissioner, stated that flyers were sent out to all property owners regarding the marked trees, to call with questions or concerns and that offer is still on the table, but the Road Commission is only willing to work with the property owners on a one-on-one basis. Many residents voiced their concerns and would like to see the Road Commission work with an arborist to save the tree’s or as many as possible. The trees are a big part of the community. Barry stated that he can be contacted at 674-8011 ext. 244. The next Road Commission meeting will be 1-12-23 at 5 p.m.

12. **Member Comment:** None

13. **Adjournment:** ***Motion made by Smith, supported by Meert to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.***

Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Twp. Clerk