

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2022

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
4. **Agenda: Motion made by Sell, supported by Meert to approve the agenda. All yes, motion carried.**
5. **Consent Agenda: Motion made by Hephner, supported by Meert to approve the Consent Agenda with correction to January 5 meeting minutes under member comment to include that Hephner requested all township recordings of the zoom meetings be returned to the clerk. All yes, motion carried.**
6. **Monthly Bills: Motion made by Hephner, supported by Richardson, to pay the monthly bills in the amount of \$27812.20. All yes, motion carried.**
7. **Public Comment:** None
8. **Correspondence and Reports:**
 - A. **Library:** nothing submitted.
 - B. **Sheriff:** Smith submitted report, approximately 15 calls. Previous Sheriff Officer for Pine Grove has taken another position. The new Sheriff's name is Lauren.
 - C. **County Commission:** Submitted by Dick Godfrey. On file.
 - D. **Road Commission:** None submitted.
 - E. **Fire Chief:** March 6th, 7:00 AM to 11:00 AM, Pancake Breakfast.
 - F. **Fire Board:** Hephner stated that Kehoe had a lot of experience writing grants and the Fire Board was looking into applying for some of the grants available for the Fire Department.
 - G. **Ambulance:** Ambulance apologized for not being able to attend meetings for a while. Staffing issues are improving.
 - H. **Treasurer:** T&A: \$9,945.62 Checking: \$571318.85 Savings: \$199,926.46 Tax: \$343407.09.
 - I. **Planning Commission: February Meeting cancelled.**
 - J. **KABA:** Submitted Smith stated that 1 building permit was issued, with construction cost of \$64800.00. Collected \$1720.00 in various permit fees.
 - K. **OEO:** submitted
9. **Committee Reports: ARPA FUNDS:** Sell stated that the State had distributed an additional \$621.00. The government has broadened the uses for the funds tremendously. Smith stated he is still working on the costs of the North Lake Project. Smith also stated the Road Commission has sent a letter requesting our support with these funds for repairing CR388. Meert stated that this was the Counties responsibility. Smith stated he would send the County the application for funds and then the Board could consider it from there. Hephner stated that Broadband was certainly important, Meert stated funds could also be used for Fire Trucks now. Sell asked about the North Lake project and stated she was more interested in the pavilion than the outdoor restrooms. She did not feel confidence in maintaining them. Craig Yaple stated that no one at North Lake was willing to maintain them either, for the record. North Lake residents suggested they would prefer the rented port-a-jons which would include maintenance and repairs. Smith stated he is also talking to Eagle about clearing the brush and making the beach nice again.
10. **Old Business:**
 1. **Alternate to Zoning Board of Appeals:** Meert stated the Board had two interested parties. One was from Kevin Ketchum and the other was from Daniel Baker. Daniel was in attendance at the meeting. Daniel stated he had served on the school board for two years and was interested in serving his community. He had worked with the VBC Sheriff's Department for 4 years helping train people through their work release program, and is also a member of the Journey Church. Kevin Ketchum was not in attendance. Meert asked if Kevin was a resident of Pine Grove. Smith stated that he was and that he owned the arcade in downtown Gobles, the arcade on M-40 south of Gobles, and also the one in Paw Paw. Don stated he knew Kevin very well. Trena stated she knew Daniel very well. **Sell made a**

motion supported by Meert to appoint Daniel Baker as the alternate person for the Board of Review. All yes, motion carried.

11. New Business:

- 1. Resolution for granting poverty status:** The Board had already adopted the resolution for the poverty status for 2022 at a previous meeting, but the state was requiring different wording as presented. *Hephner made a motion, supported by Smith to adopt the Resolution of Guidelines for applicants requesting poverty exemption. Roll call vote: Richardson-yes, Meert-yes, Smith-yes, Sell-yes, Hephner-yes. Motion passed.*
- 2. Approval of misc. projects for VBCRC:** Tabled.
- 3. Annual Van Buren Recycle Program Contract:** *Hephner made a motion supported by Richardson to donate the same amount as last year, which was \$1000.00. Roll Call Vote: Richardson-yes, Meert-yes, Smith-yes, Sell-yes, Hephner-yes. Motion passed.*
- 4. Charter VS General Law Township:** Tabled.
- 5. Ideas for a new Township Hall:** Smith is looking at ideas for building a new Township Hall. The current building is deteriorating rapidly, not to mention the mold and asbestos issues. He has reviewed the previous plans and believes the building would not be worth refurbishing. He would like input from the community as well as the Township Board. Citizens in attendance at the meeting had a lot of good input and suggestions. Smith stated this is going to be a long project and he would like it to be a community effort. He would like everyone to start thinking about it and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

12. Member Comment: None.

Motion made by Smith, supported by Hephner to adjourn. All yes, motion carried.

Adjournment: 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Twp. Clerk