

**PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 11, 2021 7:00 p.m.**

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Smith.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. **Roll Call:** Present: Richardson, Meert, Smith, Sell, Hephner
4. **Consent Agenda:** *Motion made by Hephner, supported by Sell, to accept the Consent Agenda. All yes, motion carried.*
5. **Monthly Bills:** *Motion made by Richardson, supported by Smith, to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$21,829.35 All yes, motion carried.*
6. **Public Comment:** **Brad Page from Southwest Michigan Dust Control**, a local company that has been providing dust control on the roads in Pine Grove Township for many years, just wanted to introduce himself to the board and would like to keep the dust control contract with Pine Grove Township for 2021. Brad stated that their product is a mineral brine with 8-10% chloride and 18% sodium, that is the binder for the road. SMDC has the wells in Bloomingdale and they pump it right out of the ground. It is a by-product of oil wells. They distribute 1500 gallons per mile. SMDC applies 3 times a year, Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Labor Day and guarantee's dust free summers. **Joe Smit** stated that the board is going to discuss and vote on Medical and Recreational Marihuana ordinances under New Business and wanted to say that the people of this township have voted yes twice in the past 10 years, and the citizens trust the board to acknowledge their vote. The 3 key things that the vote supports are the citizens vote, reduces the illegal black market that supplies unsafe product, and is a big economic opportunity, not to mention township revenue. Other communities have done this and it has been positive and it could be positive for Pine Grove Township.
7. **Correspondence and Reports:**
  - A. **Library** – Next meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Township Hall, open to the public – will be going over the plans with the engineer.
  - B. **Sheriff** – 100 calls in April for Pine Grove Township
  - C. **County Commission** – submitted County emails have changed, please make note that county emails will be @vanburencountymi.gov (was vbco.org) Reminder of Veteran Services, up to \$1000 for medical and dental services.
  - D. **Road Commission** – submitted Road projects are underway, gravel roads are getting grades and de-burming has begun.
  - E. **Fire Chief** – submitted. 82 calls to date. Chief asked if special meeting date and times could be put on the new electronic message board at the township. Yes and Hephner will contact Sell when the special meeting date and times need to be added.
  - F. **Fire Board** – The Fire Board Contract will expire December 31st and it is a 5-year contract. Request that board members read through the contract and if anything needs to be changed, it needs to be noticed by July so that the contract can be revised and put to a vote.
  - G. **Ambulance** – 27 calls. Will be raising their rates effective June 1, 2021
  - H. **Treasurer** – T&A: \$10,149.44 Savings: \$199,925.04 Tax: -\$13.47  
General Checking: \$1,112,972.48
  - I. **Planning Commission** – PC had election of officers last month, Chair – Kehoe, Vice Chair – Hill, Secretary – Marculis. ZBA will be meeting Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m.
  - J. **KABA:** 56 permits to date
  - K. **Ordinance Officer:** Report submitted.
8. **Committee Reports:** Hephner reported that MTA just released information on the American Rescue Plan and outlines what the monies can be spent on such as public health, replace public sector revenue losses, pay for essential workers (list of who qualifies as essential workers) and more. This should be an agenda item every month to address.
9. **Old Business:** *Motion made by Smith, supported by Hephner, to amend the agenda to include the Road Commission Maintenance Projects. All yes, motion carried.*

1. **Road Commission Maintenance Project Sheets:** Project 2171 – Driveway Culvers (at cost), Project 2172 – Boom Mowing (\$4500.00), Project 2173 – Misc. Ditching (\$3000.00), Project 2174 – Dust Control (\$17000.00), Project 2175 Gravel (\$22100.00). *Motion made by Hephner, supported by Richardson to approve the Road Maintenance Projects as presented and amended. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith - yes, Sell - yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*
2. **Recycle Center: Fees, Operation:** Smith checked with surrounding townships about their prices for Recycle/Dump Fees. They are very comparable to our current prices. After a lengthy discussion, item was tabled until next meeting for further considerations.

10. **New Business:**

1. **Medical Marihuana Ordinance – Motion made by Smith to repeal Ordinance #111318 Pine Grove Township Prohibition of Marihuana Establishments Ordinance, and direct the township attorney to review the proposed Medical Marihuana Ordinance and the Recreational Marihuana Ordinance along with their respective Application forms.** Smith stated that Ordinance #111318 had to be repealed before the new ordinances could be adopted. Meert stated she believed it would need a public hearing or at least be noticed, that the board cannot just delete an ordinance. Joe Smit asked where this ordinance was because he did not see it on Municode on the website. Smith stated that police ordinances were not on the website only zoning ordinances. Hephner stated that the board should not go forward until there is some legal guidance. There was no support for the motion. Smith asked if there was any sense in reviewing the ordinances. Smith stated that he was going to meet with Katherine when she is here for the Zoning Appeal Board and ask her in person what we need to do. Topic tabled.
2. **Recreational Marihuana Ordinance – included with #1**
3. **Purchase Additional Desks and Chairs –** Smith stated the board discussed the tables and chair but tabled it until the budget was approved. *Motion made by Hephner, supported by Smith to purchase the necessary chairs and 2 additional desks to have the Planning Commission properly seated, not to exceed \$1,500.00. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. Motion carried.*

11. **Public Discussion:** None

12. **Member Comment:** None

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

**Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Twp. Clerk