

## PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 4, 2021 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 (Joined by phone @ 7:50 pm)  
Also Present: Catherine Kaufman, Attorney, ZA Bear Priest
4. **Consent Agenda:** *Motion made by Richardson, supported by Meert, to accept the consent agenda. All yes, motion carried*
5. **Monthly Bills:** *Motion made by Smith, supported by Richardson to pay the monthly bills as presented. Smith will contact Road Commission on two bills. All yes, motion carried.*
6. **Public Comment:** None
7. **Correspondence and Reports:**
  - A. **Library:** Meeting on November 9th
  - B. **Sheriff:** submitted 96 calls for September
  - C. **County Commission:** submitted
  - D. **Road Commission:** submitted Doug Burleson stated that the Seal Coat is done. RC has been Boom Mowing in Pine Grove Twp and have received a complaint that they are checking on. RC will be spraying for brush for evasive species. Road Commission's Annual meeting will be October 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm and October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 3 p.m.
  - E. **Fire Chief:** None
  - F. **Fire Board:** Kehoe stated that there is nothing to report
  - G. **Ambulance:** None
  - H. **Treasurer:** T&A: \$9,953.29 Checking: \$564,674.49 Savings: \$199,927.78 Tax: \$176,589.38
  - I. **Planning Commission:** Meeting Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. with two public hearings.
  - J. **KABA:** Issued permits totaling \$460,887.00 for September and \$2,827.00 was collected in permit fees.
  - K. **OEO:** submitted
  - L. **Letter from North Lake Association:** Smith read the letter into the record from North Lake Association for their support of the use of ARPA funds for the Broadband from Bloomingdale Communications.
8. **Committee Reports:** Bloomingdale Communications Inc presented a letter of support that they would like sent in on their behalf to the Van Buren Funding Committee. Attorney Kaufman stated that she has reviewed the letter and stated that it supports Pine Grove's intent for the funds. **Motion made by Smith, supported by Sell to send the letter to VB Funding Committee in support of Bloomingdale Communications, Inc. All yes, motion carried.**
9. **Old Business:**
  1. **Sheriff – Cost of Deputy 4-5 Hours Per Week for Pine Grove: Reserve Sargent Walter Grech** presented a sample contract and Deputy Tony Evans explained the details. Dep. Evans stated that the cost may fluctuate some due to the assigned deputy, mileage is charged at .65 per mile for cost recovery of gas and maintenance. The assigned deputy can work with the Ordinance Officer and will be available for traffic control, crime, and ordinance enforcement and general patrol. **Motion made by Smith, supported by Richardson to contract with Van Buren County Sheriff's Office for one Deputy for 5 hours per week. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes. Motion carried.**
  2. **House on CR 390 demolition/junk vehicle:** OEO Smith is not here for an update. Sell stated that Tim asked her to look up tax information on where the tax bill goes and it is that actual address. Tim has stated in the past that he has not been able to contact the property owner in person.
  3. **Adoption of Ordinance 20 Revision – Burn Ordinance:** Meert stated that the board is awaiting the Fire Chief's review and suggestions before adopting. Meert and Smith stated that they have not heard anything from the Chief. **Motion made by Richardson, supported by Smith to approve a resolution to adopt the revision of Ordinance 20. Roll Call: Richardson - yes, Meert - yes, Smith - yes, Sell – yes. Motion carried.** Attorney Kaufman stated that someone

has to publish the notice of adoption and asked if the board would like her to do this and Meert stated yes. (Hephner joined by phone at 7:50pm from Saddle Valley Ranch, in Norfolk, Arkansas.)

4. **Recycle/Refuse Center:** Smith presented the new fee schedule and pictures of the proposed new passes. **Motion made by Smith, supported by Richardson to adopt the new Recycle/Transfer Station fee schedule to begin January 1, 2022 as presented. All yes, motion carried.** Sell stated that she would get a bunch printed up and out to the attendants so they can start handing them out. Michelle stated that it should be put on the website, posted outside on board, and available in the office. Smith stated that the township has been covering the overage costs for years and many are non-property owners in Pine Grove Township. Hephner stated that she would suggest new signage at the Recycle/Transfer Station to just Pine Grove, not Gobles/Pine Grove. **Motion made by Hephner, supported by Richardson to change the signage at the Recycle/Transfer Station. All yes, motion carried.**
5. **Appoint Fire Dept. Board Representative:** Meert stated that she received two letters of interest for the position of Fire Dept. Board Representative. First applicant is Jill Hanley, a resident of Pine Grove and is interested in sitting on the board. Jill was not present and sent apologies. Second applicant is Chris Chandler, also a resident of Pine Grove. Meert stated that Chris submitted a resume and has also served with the Fire Department in the past. Chris was present and was given an opportunity to speak. Chris stated that he moved to Pine Grove about 25 years ago and did serve on the Fire Dept. for year. Chris stated that he has recently retired and would like to continue to serve for the community. **Motion made by Richardson, supported by Smith to accept Chris Chandler as a member of the Pine Grove Township Fire Board. Roll Call: Hephner – yes, Sell – yes, Smith - yes, Meert - yes, Richardson – yes. All yes, motion carried.** Hephner stated that she would like to recommend that the Board write a letter to thank Bev Schaffer for all of her years of service and the excellent job that she has done and to wish her well. Smith stated that he and Meert will get this done.

#### 10. New Business:

1. **Ordinance 39 – ZOE:** Smith stated that he read Ordinance 39 and suggested that it remains as is, the Ordinance is basically establishing the office of the Zoning Enforcement Officer. ZA Priest shared many of his experiences as a OEO dealing with enforcement and boards. Attorney Kaufman shared information on how to deal with complainants' that will not give their names or testify.
2. **Adopt Resolution for Paying Bills after Meeting Dates: Motion made by Sell, supported by Hephner to adopt the resolution to allow the Clerk to pay the bills prior to monthly meetings. Roll Call: Richardson–yes, Meert- yes, Smith - yes, Sell - yes, Hephner – yes. Motion carried.**
3. **New Lighting Estimate for Ambulance Building:** Smith stated that the Ambulance Building is owned by the Township and is leased by Life Ambulance. Life submitted an estimate for upgrading lights and no one from Life has contacted the Township stating that there was a need for new lights. Life had gotten an original quote from Esper Electric in May 2020 and a newer one as well. After a short discussion, a **Motion was made by Richardson, supported by Meert, to table this topic until after Smith can do some more checking.** All yes, motion carried.
4. **PA116 Farmland Preservation Agreement:** Meert presented 3 PA166 agreements for Rob Noble. Each are 10-year agreements. **Motion made by Smith, supported Sell to approve the PA 116 Agreement, #26-1-13. All yes, motion carried. Motion made by Smith, supported by Richardson to approve the PA 116 Agreement, #15-1-13. All yes, motion carried. Motion made by Smith, supported by Sell to approve PA 116 Agreement, #17-1-13. All yes, motion carried.**

11. **Public Discussion:** None

12. **Member Comment:** Sell stated that for the November meeting, Chris Imler from MSU Conservation will be attending and presenting information on Gypsy Moth Control.

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

**Adjournment: 8:50 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Twp. Clerk