

## PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 3, 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  
Also Present: Attorney Eccleston, MSU Chris Emler
4. **Agenda: Motion made by Richardson, supported by Meert, to accept the agenda. All yes, motion carried.**
5. **Consent Agenda: Motion made by Smith, supported by Sell to approve the Consent Agenda with the correction of the date of meeting from October 4 to October 6, the actual date of the meeting on the Minutes. All yes, motion carried.**
6. **Monthly Bills: Motion made by Smith, supported by Richardson to pay the monthly bills as presented in the amount of \$19,479.22. All yes, motion carried.**
7. **Public Comment:** Kathy Garrett asked what was being done about the speeding cars going through Kendall and stated her safety concerns. Russell Doll stated that the North Lake Swimming Beach has a lot of winter traffic with the ice fisherman and wonders if a porta potty could be put there all winter, also that the small picnic table needs to be replaced and there is a large dead elm that is starting to fall down, limb by limb and wondering if it could be taken down to avoid any damage to persons or vehicles parked near it. Supervisor Smith stated that addressing the speeding concerns, the township has contracted with Van Buren Co. Sheriff's Office for a deputy to be on patrol in Kendall for 5 hours per week to work traffic and other criminal complaints. The Deputy started on Wednesday, October 27th has already written some tickets and has made one arrest. Steve Schultz from Bloomingdale Communications stated that he has submitted an application for ARPA funds and Supervisor Smith stated that the township has received the application.
8. **Presentation on Gypsy Moths by Southwest Extension Office MSU:** Chris Emler stated that MSU received around 80 phone calls and confirmed reports in southwest Michigan, and 9-12 complaints from Pine Grove Township. The gypsy moths appear in 3-4-year cycles and then may be low levels for 5-10 years. The moths feed on leaves of oak trees and other preferred tree's including aspen, apple, basswood, birch, crabapple, willow and many other types of trees. Treatment for gypsy moths runs between \$35 - \$600 per acre so some type of joint response lowers the cost to residents. There are several options available from simply monitoring and education to a community blanket pest application. Please check Township's website for further communications regarding the Gypsy Moths.
9. **Correspondence and Reports:**
  - A. **Library:** Meeting on November 9<sup>th</sup> with architect and library staff.
  - B. **Sheriff:** none
  - C. **County Commission:** submitted Dick Godfrey stated that Wamhoff's will once again be hosting Trees for Troops on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> and are looking for volunteers for loading trees.
  - D. **Road Commission:** none
  - E. **Fire Chief:** none
  - F. **Fire Board:** Kehoe stated that there is nothing to report
  - G. **Ambulance:** submitted
  - H. **Treasurer:** T&A: \$9,951.37 Checking: \$573,904.04 Savings: \$199,927.42 Tax: \$43,245.95
  - I. **Planning Commission:** Kehoe stated that due to no agenda items, the Nov. 15th meeting has been cancelled but the December 20th meeting will be held.
  - J. **KABA:** submitted
  - K. **OEO:** none
10. **Committee Reports:** Smith stated that the Township did receive an application from Bloomingdale Communications for ARPA Funds. Smith stated that no decisions have been made.
11. **Old Business:**
  1. **Maintenance at Ambulance Station; Lights in Truck Bay: Motion made by Smith, supported by Hephner to accept bid Option #1 from Esper Electric for \$1,880.00 to change out the light fixtures in the equipment bay area at the Ambulance Station. Roll Call: Richardson - yes, Meert - yes, Smith - yes, Sell - yes, Hephner - yes. All yes, motion carried.**

2. **Signs at Recycle Station:** Smith stated that he contacted 3 different sign companies, one said with staff shortages, they could not make a bid but did received bids from RWL and Sign Writer. After discussing, *Motion made by Hephner, supported by Meert to accept the bid from RWL for \$3,698.00 for signs at the Recycle Center. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*

Sell stated that the transfer station attendants are getting many questions regarding the January 1<sup>st</sup> start date for the new prices as some resident's current pass is expiring now, do they have to buy a \$20 pass for the rest of this year? After a discussion, residents/property owners can obtain their "free" card for recycling now that will be good through 2022. Nonresident/property owners will be charged \$50 and may be purchased during the remainder of 2021 and will be good through 2022. Sell stated that as soon as the winter tax roll comes out, she will print a report for the recycle station attendants so they will know who is a resident/property owner in Pine Grove Township. The new signage will help with this matter as well.

12. **New Business:**

1. **Issues with Cell Tower at 23661 CR 388:** Smith stated that the township has received an irrevocable bond per the SLU permit issued. Smith stated that there are still issues with the fencing, landscaping and driveway special conditions that were established and there has not been much progress made. After some discussion, Smith stated that he will inform Zoning Administrator Bear Priest that the board will recommend that the SLU permit be returned to the Planning Commission after 60 days to possibly revoke the Special Land Use Permit if the conditions have not been met.
2. **Approval of KABA Budget for 2022 Fiscal Year:** *Motion made by Sell, supported by Richardson to accept the KABA Budget for 2022 Fiscal Year as presented. All yes, motion carried.*
3. **Resolution to Approve Zoning Ordinance Addition/Modification:** Smith stated that he received a resolution from Attorney Kaufman regarding the amendment for ZO Section 2.02 Definitions. The Planning Committee recommended adding the "Short-Term Rentals" definition and making a minor change to the current "Permanent Resident" definition. Attorney Kaufman recommended adding the definition of Short-Term Rentals and completely removing the "Permanent Resident" definition from the Zoning Ordinance. After discussing, *Motion made by Hephner, supported by Sell to approve the resolution on the Zoning Ordinance 2.02 Definitions as presented by the Planning Commission with the understanding that the Planning Commission will review the attorney's recommendation of removing the Permanent Resident definition at the Planning Commissions December 2021 meeting. Roll Call: Richardson - yes, Meert - yes, Smith - yes, Sell - yes, Hephner - yes. All yes, motion carried.*
4. **Amend Budget to Reflect Expenditure for Deputy:** Smith stated that the budget needs to be amended to account for the expenditure for the contract deputy. *Motion made by Meert, supported by Richardson to amend the 2021-2022 fiscal budget to allow for the expenditure for a sheriff's deputy in the amount of \$4500.00. Roll Call: Richardson – yes, Meert – yes, Smith – yes, Sell – yes, Hephner – yes. All yes, motion carried.*

13. **Public Discussion:** none

14. **Member Comment:** none

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

**Adjournment: 9:02 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Meert, Pine Grove Twp. Clerk