

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE OTSEGO TOWNSHIP BOARD
HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Otsego Township Board was held on Monday, November 9, 2020 at the Otsego Township Hall, 400 North 16th Street, Otsego, Michigan.

Members Present: Supervisor Winn, Clerk Squibbs, Treasurer Lunarde-Alexander, Trustees McPherson, Moll, Bumgart and Burns.

Members Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Winn.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Consent Agenda:

A motion by Winn with support by McPherson was made to approve the consent agenda consisting of the September 14, 2020 Board Minutes, Agenda Items and Payment of Bills in the amount of \$326,389.62.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

Open Forum:

Judge Marge Bakker was present from the Allegan County Courts to give a presentation on the Allegan County Legal Assistance Center. This is a nonprofit organization which provides free legal assistance to people navigating the civil court system. Commissioner Dugan was present from the Allegan County Board of Commissioners and gave a brief report regarding County business. Fire Chief Weber was present. He indicated the aerial fire truck would be going in for evaluation and repairs and would be out of commission for 45 to 60 days. Kim Rohr, a township resident, was present to express her disappointment with the board decision to allow 15th Street north of 110th Avenue be returned to a gravel road. She feels the road is unsafe and has issues which should be addressed.

Old Business:

Andrews Mobile Home Park: The Township received two bids to complete work to hook Andrews Mobile Home Park to the township's water system. The township has been awarded a grant from the State of Michigan to have the work performed. The sealed bids were opened at 10:00am, Monday, November 14th by the Township Engineer Mike Schwartz. Prein and Newhof prepared a bid tabulation indicating McDonald Plumbing as the low bidder with a bid of \$111,579.

Motion by McPherson with support by Moll to accepted the bid from McDonald Plumbing in the amount of \$111,579 for construction of water lines necessary to hook up to Otsego Township public utilities.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.

No – None.

Motion carried.

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USDA Loan Application Submittal: Supervisor Winn updated board members letting them know the application for loans for potential utility construction has been submitted to USDA Rural Development. Engineer Schwartz indicated we would likely have a response in 4 to 6 weeks and could then move forward with planning public outreach regarding the proposed projects.

New Business:

Emerald Place Apartment Homes PILOT: Peter Jobsen of Excel-Deal 24 LLC presented a request for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) ordinance for a proposed project located on 103rd Avenue. The project is for the construction of 24 rent subsidized apartment homes near the existing Emerald Park and Emerald Woods complexes. He is requesting an annual service charge of 8% on collected rents less and utilities paid which would be collected instead of ad valorem taxes on the property.

Motion by Squibbs with support by McPherson to adopt Ordinance 326, The Township of Otsego Tax Exemption Ordinance – Emerald Place Apartment Homes allowing for a payment of an annual 8% service fee in lieu of ad valorem taxes.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.
No – None.

Motion carried.

Annexation Request: The Township received a request from RHS Commercial, LLC to annex a parcel of containing approximately 1.55 acres which will be split off of parcel number 0317-023-021-01 located on M-89 Highway. The intention is to expand the current use at Vicinia Gardens, a senior living complex, adding a new building.

Motion by Winn with support by Lunarde-Alexander to approve the resolution granting the annexation of property to be split from parcel 0317-023-021-01 containing 1.55 acres.

Roll Call: Yes – McPherson, Burns, Moll, Bumgart, Lunarde-Alexander, Squibbs, Winn.
No – None.

Motion carried.

Swearing In of Board Members: Pursuant to the election on November 3 2020, the township officials were sworn in. Bryan Winn was sworn in as Township Supervisor, Carrie Lunarde-Alexander was sworn in as Township Treasurer, Jen Colin was sworn in as Township Clerk. Lori Bumgart, Matt McPherson, Karen Burns and Rick Moll were sworn in as Township Trustees.

ZBA and Planning Commission Appointments: Two members of the Board are appointed as liaisons to the Zoning Board of Appeals and to the Planning Commission for a four-year term.

Motion by Winn with support from McPherson to appoint Rick Moll as the liaison to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion carried.

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Motion by Winn with support from Moll to appoint Karen Burns as the liaison to the Planning Commission.

Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion carried.

Trash Pickup Discussion: Supervisor Winn indicated there had been many problems this year with the bulk trash pickup offered to township residents. He would like to consider a different approach next year. Usually, the trash is picked up from the end of each resident's driveway but this method has had many problems this year due in some part to COVID19 hampering Waste Management's ability to stick to an agreed upon schedule for the removal of trash. Another issue is the increasing quantity of trash, it seems likely there is outside trash being brought into the township during the pickups leading to higher costs for the service. A suggested alternative would be to place a number of dumpsters which would be monitored in the lower parking level of the township hall, scheduled for 2 or 3 different Saturdays and requiring the residents to bring their trash to the central location. Supervisor Winn asked board members to take some time to think about this issue, he is open to new ideas for next year.

Communications and Reports:

Some general election results were given to the board members. Clerk Squibbs noted turn out for the election was quite high and gave thanks to the election workers for their efforts in running the election.

Allegan County Road Commission sent the PASER ratings for review.

With no further business before the Board, a motion by Winn with support by Moll was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Yes – 7, No – 0. Motion carried.

Joan Squibbs, Clerk

Bryan Winn, Supervisor

I, the undersigned Joan Squibbs, the duly qualified and elected Clerk for the Township of Otsego, Allegan County, Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of certain proceedings taken by the Township Board of said Township at a regular board meeting held on the 9th day of November, 2020.

Joan Squibbs, Clerk
Otsego Township