

Jonesfield Township Board Minutes

April 20, 2020

Supervisor Larry Tibbits called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance to the flag – meeting held via video conferencing as allowed by the Governor’s COVID-19 Executive Order.

PRESENT: Tibbits, Nock, Buckley, Parker, Stanley

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Jim Gray – Zoning Administrator, Kirt Shields – Jonesfield/Richland Township Police Officer, Richard Bluemer – Planning Commission Chair, Mark Gath – Police Board Member, Lee Glazier and Stanley Brown – Jonesfield Township residents.

PERMITS: Building Permit – 05-20-J (Willman), Plumbing Permit – 03-20-J (Buckley), Electrical & Mechanical Permit 04-20-J (Taylor), and Electrical Permit 05-20-J (Willman)

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comments – None.
- III. Additions to Agenda –None.
- IV. Approval of minutes from the March 23, 2020 Public Budget Hearing & Board Meeting – Treasurer Parker made a motion to approve minutes with typographical correction to Section III-c. Second by Trustee Nock. Carried.
- V. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Report – General Fund - \$74,883.59, Trash Fund - \$71,395.41, Police Fund - \$95,228.86 and Water Fund - \$222,673.29.
 - b. Police Report – Officer Kirt Shields reported that he has seen an increase in family dispute calls due to the Stay Home order due to the pandemic. Officer Shields has also been working on an attempted B&E that occurred on North Chapin Road – Kirt is asking everyone to keep an eye out for a white Ford van that is of interest.
 - c. Jim Gray, Zoning and Code Enforcement – Jim reported that he spoke with the resident on the M-46 complaint. The resident’s boyfriend is running a body shop out of this residence. Jim informed him that this could not continue – property is

not zoned to be used for commercial use. Jim also reported that he has spoken with the resident of the Meridian Road property and they are going through a divorce, due to be final in June. Property is going to the female owner and she will be working on completing the cleanup of the property once her ex-husband has moved out.

VI. Reports from Commissions/Boards/Committees:

- a. Planning Commission – Richard Bluemer reported that the April meeting has been postponed; will be waiting till the end of the month to reschedule- after the Governor’s next announcement. Once there is a meeting, they will be working on the Master Plan with the Village of Merrill. The commission will also be selecting an engineering firm to advise the Planning Commission on the upcoming wind energy special use permit.
- b. Waste Authority – Supervisor Tibbits reported the Waste Authority will be hiring a new staff member.
- c. Saga (GIS) – None.
- d. Municipal Water – None.

VII. Information Items:

- a. To place the township hall millage on the August primary ballot, the wording petition needs to be submitted to the County Clerk by April 28 and the ballot wording by May 12th. To be part of the November ballot, the deadlines are July 28th and August 11th – Discussion was held on this millage proposal and due to current situation with the COVID 19 pandemic it was decided to table this topic again for another month.
- b. Mike Kenny and John Siler Jr’s terms on the Township Planning Commission expire on June 1st. John has asked to step down after many years serving our township. Mike has agreed to be appointed for another three year term. The Supervisor appoints Mark Gath to step into John’s seat on the Planning Commission. MCL 125.3815 provides for the appointment of the commission members by the chief elected official (Township Supervisor), with the approval of the legislative body (Township Board). See Action Item below. – Discussion was held by the board regarding these appointments. It was asked as to how a resident can be considered for these positions and it was stated that any resident interested in any boards or commission just needs to let any board member know of this interest and it should be passed onto the Supervisor.

- c. Jonesfield Township's three representatives on the Jonesfield Lakefield Fire District Board have terms expiring at the end of June. Jim White and Thomas Mayan II are willing to serve another three-year term. Dave Larsen has asked to step down and Roger Poscal has agreed to serve on the board representing Jonesfield Township. The Police and Fire Protection Act, Public Act 33 of 195, MCL 41.801, *et seq.* gives the township board authority to approve our township members for terms on the board. See Action Items below. – Discussion was held by board regarding these appointments.
- d. Renewal of auditor Gardner, Provenzano, Thomas and Luplow for the year ending March 31, 2021 – Clerk Stanley supplied each board member with a copy of the engagement letter received from our current auditor for the next fiscal year. Discussion was held by board on if we were satisfied with the service received from our auditor and it was determined that it was satisfactory and Clerk Stanley will sign letter and return back to auditor accepting their service for the 2020/2021 fiscal year.

VIII. Discussion Items:

- a. Roundtable for the Good of the Township – none.

IX. Action Items:

- a. Motion to Approve Hall Millage Resolution – This topic has been tabled till next board meeting.
- b. Planning Commission Appointment Motion and Approval – Motion was made by Supervisor Tibbits to appoint Mike Kenny to a new three year term beginning June 1, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Nock. Clerk Stanley held roll call vote: Ayes – Tibbits, Nock, Parker, and Stanley. Trustee Buckley abstained from vote due to a possible conflict of interest. Nays – None. Carried.

Motion was made by Supervisor Tibbits to appoint Mark Gath to a three year term on the Planning Commission beginning June 1, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Buckley. Clerk Stanley held roll call vote: Ayes – Tibbits, Nock, Parker, Buckley, and Stanley. Nays – None. Carried.

- c. Fire Board Appointments Motion and Approval – Motion was made by Supervisor Tibbits to appoint Thomas Mayan II to a new three year term on the Jonesfield

Lakefield Township Fire District Board. Seconded by Trustee Nock. Clerk Stanley held roll call vote: Ayes – Tibbits, Nock, Parker, Buckley and Stanley. Nays – None. Carried.

Motion made by Supervisor Tibbits to appoint Jim White to a new three year term on the Jonesfield Lakefield Township Fire District Board. Seconded by Clerk Stanley. Clerk Stanley held roll call vote: Ayes – Tibbits, Nock, Parker, Buckley and Stanley. Nays – None. Carried.

Motion made by Supervisor Tibbits to appoint Roger Poscal to a new three year term on the Jonesfield Lakefield Township Fire District Board. Seconded by Trustee Buckley. Clerk Stanley held roll call vote: Ayes – Tibbits, Nock, Parker, Buckley and Stanley. Nays – None. Carried.

- d. Motion to Approve Gardner, Provenzano, Thomas and Luplow for another year - Motion made by Clerk Stanley to approve the engagement of the auditing services from Gardner, Provenzano, Thomas and Luplow for the 2020/2021 fiscal year. Seconded by Trustee Nock. Carried.
 - e. Motion to pay bills – Motion made by Treasurer Parker to pay bills presented. General fund - \$8,559.58, Police - \$19,792.25, Trash - \$4,057.17, Water - \$112,456.00; total bills - \$144,865.00. Second by Supervisor Tibbits. Carried.
- X. Extended Public Comment – Trustee Buckley mentioned the issue with the erosion of the side of the road by a culvert on Chapin Road. Discussion was held regarding this situation.
- XI. Next Meeting: Monday, May 18, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Supervisor Tibbits to adjourn meeting at 6:52p.m. Second by Clerk Stanley. Carried.

Signed,

Marcia J. Stanley
Jonesfield Township Clerk