

Jonesfield Township Board Minutes

January 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.

PRESENT: Tibbits, Nock, Buckley, Parker, Stanley

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Richard Bluemer, Jonesfield Township Planning Commission Chair; Jim Gray, Jonesfield Township Zoning Administrator and Rochelle Siler, township resident

PERMITS: None

- I. Pledge of Allegiance
- II. Public Comments –None.
- III. Additions to Agenda –None.
- IV. Approval of minutes from the December 16, 2019 Board Meeting – Trustee Nock made a motion to approve minutes. Second by Trustee Buckley. Carried.
- V. Reports:
 - a. Treasurer Report – General Fund - \$22,664.22, Trash Fund - \$35,383.90, Police Fund - \$26,326.16 and Water Fund - \$185,637.63.
 - b. Police Report – Clerk Stanley spoke on behalf of Officer Shields. We are still waiting for the new police vehicle – hoping for February arrival. As far as violations in the area, nothing out of the ordinary activity.
 - c. Jim Gray, Zoning and Code Enforcement – Jim Gray reported on the following:
 - Meridian Road complaint (Bennett) – Letter has been sent to Mr. Bennett.
 - M-46 complaints (two homes side by side) – issue with non-licensed vehicles
 - Supervisor Tibbits also mentioned that he has spoken with Campers Choice – they are inquiring about a variance to the Special Permit for an

additional 5 feet to the west of their property. They would like to add an extension to a portion of their building to be able to accommodate the larger trailers that they need to work on.

VI. Reports from Commissions/Boards/Committees:

- a. Planning Commission – Trustee Nock reported on the January 14, 2020 meeting.
 - Final corrections were made to the Master Plan. Chairperson Bluemer is to contact Mike DeBeau, Village of Merrill Planning Commission Chair, and pass on the Master Plan for their review.
 - The Commission will be updating the Census information when the 2020 Census is completed. Currently the Census information is from 2010.
 - A proposal was submitted by Spicers Engineering for the planning and reviewing of the Special Use Permit that will be submitted by DTE for the Wind Project. They will present any findings and any changes needs to the Planning Commission at the Special Use Permit Public Hearing. The Planning Commission will have the options to either accept, accept with conditions, postpone or deny within 60 days of public hearing. After this process, Spicer will begin reviewing the site planning. Only 1 permit will be submitted for the whole project, but each turbine will be reviewed individually to make sure requirements are being met.
 - The Planning Commission voted on the officer positions for Chairman & Secretary. Richard Bluemer was nominated as chairman – passed by vote. Kathy Nock was nominated as Secretary – passed by vote. Richard’s term will be ending in 2021. Mike Kenny and John Siler’s terms are ending in June 2020.
 - DTE Representatives were present at meeting. Discussion was held on Surety bond to be held in township’s name for decommissioning of turbines; escrow account to cover all expenses related to the reviewing and processing of Special Use Permit; restoring of roads and bridges after project is completed – pictures/video will be taken of said roads and bridges prior to the beginning of the project for restoration purposes; project will be combined with Porter and Mt Haley Townships also – work will be done simultaneously with all three townships. It was also announced that non-participating property owners, even if next to a participating property owner would be able to do as they wish with property, but a participating property owner would need to contact both DTE and Jonesfield Township if any additional structures would want to be added to the property. It is not the township’s responsibility to see that the owner contacts DTE.

- b. Police Board – No meeting
- c. Waste Authority – Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 23, 2020.
- d. Saga (GIS) – None.
- e. Municipal Water – None.

VII. Information Items:

- a. Planning Commission 2019 Annual Report – Richard Bluemer submitted a summary of the work done by the Planning Commission for the 2019 year. Highlights are:
 - First four chapters of the Zoning Ordinances and the complete Master Plan has been reviewed. Master Plan is now with the Village of Merrill Planning Commission for their review.
 - A new solar ordinance is in place
 - Pursued several ordinance violations.
 - Wind energy ordinance – after many months of work and a special election, the revised ordinance was rejected. The township is back to the original 2004 wind ordinance.
 - 2020 Planning commission meeting dates were set, and discussion of Planning Commission member terms were reviewed.
- b. Third Quarter Report – Clerk Stanley presented the board members with the third quarter standings with the general fund budget. Line items were reviewed and discussed.

VIII. Discussion Items:

- a) Possible Spicer Engagement for Wind Special Use Permit – Discussion was held regarding the current situation with the possibility of a special use permit being submitted by DTE to the Planning Commission for wind turbines and what the next steps will be.
- b) Roundtable for the good of the township –
 - Richard Bluemer, Planning Commission Chair, suggested contacting TV5 regarding the various required postings and the problem with no local papers available for postings. Suggested to see if there is a way to have a legal posting airing, like the obituary airing on TV.
 - Trustee Buckley asked about the excavator that was seen by the new Chapin Road Bridge; wondered if there is was an issue with the new bridge. Supervisor Tibbits stated that he thought it might be due to the erosion of some of the soil around the new bridge but was not for certain that this was the situation.

IX. Action Items:

- a) Motion to pay bills – Motion made by Treasurer Parker to pay bills presented. General fund - \$8,481.02, Police - \$19,826.45, Trash - \$4,188.38; total bills - \$32,495.85. Second by Trustee Nock. Carried.
 - b) Need to move March 16, 2020 Meeting Date – Clerk Stanley has a conflict with the March 16, 2020 board meeting and has asked for a date change. It was decided by board to move said meeting to March 23, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m. Trustee Buckley also commented that he had a conflict with the February 17, 2020 meeting date. Decision was made by board to move said meeting to February 24, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.
 - c) Board Budget Development Working Session Date - Supervisor Tibbits suggested possible dates for the township budget workshop to be held. After a group discussion, the date of February 27, 2020 @ 6:00 was agreed upon by board.
- X. Extended Public Comment – Resident Rochelle Siler voiced concerns to the board about the pending special use permit to DTE for the wind turbine project. Discussion was held regarding her concerns.
- XI. Next Meeting: Monday, February 24, 2020 @ 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by Clerk Stanley to adjourn meeting at 7:53 p.m. Second by Treasurer Parker. Carried.

Signed,

Marcia J. Stanley
Jonesfield Township Clerk