

Wales Township Board of Trustees
Board Meeting
November 02, 2021

Opening

A. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

C. Roll Call: Masters; Bobcean; Messina; Kimmen; Downey, present.
All members present.

Scheduled Public Hearing-Lighting District Special Assessment Adjustments.

A. *Chair opens Public Hearing 7:01.*

B. *Chair Summary of Issue*

i. Statement of General Case

ii. Explanation of Order of Business

iii. Statement of Rules for Public Hearing: Public may speak during Public Input (D); there may be a 3 minute speaking limit imposed.

C. *Applicant Presentation: Lighting District Assessment for 2022*

D. *Public Input (Chair may assess audience and set time limits)*

i. Correspondence Received Pertinent to Application. (None)

ii. Persons speaking in Support (name, address). (None)

iii. Persons Speaking in Opposition (name, address). (None)

E. *Chair closes Public Hearing at 7:04.*

Motion to adopt Resolution 2021-13, to approve Lighting District. **Motion** by Masters, second by Messina, to approve the Lighting District Resolution 2021-13. Roll call vote taken: Masters, aye; Messina, aye; Bobcean, aye; Downey, aye; Kimmen, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Agenda

B. Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting 10-5-21

C. Financial Report 9-30-21 (Treasurer) (included)

D. Approval of Additional Bills and Check Register (Clerk) checks #1824-1862. \$47,524.14.

Motion by Masters, second by Bobcean, to accept the Agenda as amended. Roll call vote taken: Masters, aye; Bobcean, aye; Messina, aye; Downey, aye; Kimmen, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

Comments from the public on agenda items. None.

Guest Presentations- Bob Miller, Emmett Fire Chief. Mr. Miller came to introduce himself to the board as the new Emmett Fire Chief, after the retirement of former Chief Nuss. He said that he has been trying to see that billable fire runs get to the Township as soon as possible, which Clerk Bobcean affirmed. He hopes for a good relationship to continue.

Decker Insurance Group re: cyber insurance. No one from that group appeared.

Dave Rushing, County Commissioner, Grant Funding for COVID relief. There is grant money available for the County for COVID relief of about \$16,000,000. Of that amount, approximately \$65,000 is allocated to Wales Township. Mr. Rushing said that is based on our population, or about \$20.00 per person. He must hear from this Board before the second week of December, with a decision on how the money is to be used. Someone in the audience said, fix the roads. Rushing mentioned ARPA funds. Masters asked Rushing if some of this money is going back to the County Health Department. He said they have their own budget. He said that \$573,000 were released when the quarantine mandate was lifted.

Correspondence and Announcements

A. Richmond-Lenox EMS response report. They are hiring transit drivers.

B. SCC Roads and DPW Minutes. Nolan Road Alpine Drain project approved.

C. Wales Planning Commission 10-18-21 draft Minutes.

Reports

A. Supervisor Liz Masters

1. American Rescue Plan. 1st deadline to report plans of use of funds, April 2022.
2. Failing road tube at Stapleton and Sparling. Masters explained that we are already over budget on road repairs for this year, but we were under budget last year. **Motion** by Bobcean, second by Kimmen, to approve crossroad tube at Sparling and Stapleton roads, at \$5,800.00. Roll call vote taken: Bobcean, aye; Kimmen, aye; Masters, aye, Downey, aye; Messina, aye. All ayes; motion carried.

B. Clerk report, Cindy Bobcean

1. Fire Run reports from Memphis and Emmett.
2. Birthdays this month.

C. Treasurer, Elisha Messina

The Property Tax bills will be coming out in late November. She is requesting that anyone in financial Difficulty to come to the Township before allowing the billings to go to County.

D. Trustee, Jason Downey

He has had someone from Autumn Woods Construction give an estimate of \$13,900 to rebuild both porches, not including fixing the problems where the roof meets the wall, just decking and posts, including the ramp. Audience member Messina suggested pricing composite material.

E. Trustee, Planning, Twp. Assessor, Carly Kimmen

The next Board of Review meeting date December 14, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. The Planning Commission moved to bring the Medical Marijuana Caregivers ordinance project to the Board. It has presented the board with possible fees for annual Caregivers licensing. The next Planning Commission meetings are workshops on November 16, and on December 13. She hopes to bring a finished report to this Board by then.

New Business Item B was moved to this time on the Agenda, since it was just discussed. Audience member Evans questioned the whole process. Messina said we are following lawful procedures. Kimmen said there will be constraints on the volume allowed. Bobcean said there are bills being considered at the State level to change the number of allowable plants per site. Downey asked what would happen if the State changed the rules? We would have to amend our Ordinance replied Kimmen. Kimmen suggested a fee be established for people who don't comply until caught. **Motion** by Messina, second by Kimmen, to set 12-13-21 at 7 p.m. for a Public Hearing on Medical Marijuana Caregivers. Voice vote taken: all ayes, no opposing votes: motion carried. **Motion** by Masters, second by Kimmen, to set annual fees of \$500.00 for one caregiver and 2 patients' inspections; and a graduated increase of \$50.00 each for over two patients. Roll call vote taken: Masters, aye; Kimmen, aye; Bobcean, nay; Downey, aye; Messina, aye. Four ayes one nay; motion carried. Bobcean explained her vote by saying she thinks the fees are too steep. At this time, Bobcean had to leave to tend to election duties for the Yale School District. Time: 8:07.

There was some discussion on the subject by audience members. The proposed Ordinance will be on display for the public before the Public Hearing.

Kimmen asked why we are authorizing payment of bills which have already been paid. The Supervisor and Treasurer both said they also had a problem with that, and it was brought up by our Auditors. Our Policy allows it, but it should be changed. **Motion** by Masters, second by Messina, to put the Accounts Payable Policy on the December Meeting Agenda. Messina explained methods other have for this problem. Motion called; voice vote. All in favor; four ayes. All opposed. None. Four ayes; one absent: motion carried.

F. Building Official, Zoning Administrator; Jim Waddy. Not present. His report was submitted to Clerk.

G. Committees

1. Park – Messina. The person from Caleb's Creations explained why he is not able to keep his time schedules—mostly rain and soft soils. He hasn't forgotten us. The Committee has ordered benches and corn hole games.

2. Fire Ordinance Committee. Kimmen said she did contact the Emmett Fire Department, but that was covered earlier.

Old Business.

A. Kettlewell Pond case. A letter and overhead views of the property were submitted. Downey said he needs to see LIDAR information. The Drain Commissioner said at the last meeting he would get back with us in a week or so. His only contact was a letter and an overhead view of the property. Messina said she believes this should go to Legal. We need definition clarification. Masters doesn't know how this legislative body can override a Zoning Board of Appeals decision. Mr. Kettlewell spoke. He explained that the permit he applied for was for 6.11 acres, with a shared pond agreement. In the Codebook it must say who is responsible. He is that person. Masters presented a part of the Michigan Law on flow doctrine. The LIDAR shows that his property does drain correctly. Masters also believes that this matter should go to Legal. Some of the audience began speaking, and Masters had to reprimand one of them that his language was out of line. **Motion** by Messina, second by Masters, to move this issue to a legal body to see if this was done in a proper manner. Messina amended her motion to include requesting the definition of "shared pond". Masters agreed to the amendment. Roll call vote was taken: Messina, aye; Masters, aye; Kimmen, aye; Downey, aye. Bobcean, absent. Four ayes; one absent; motion carried.

New Business

A. Drain Commission Drains at Large Invoice, and Holland Drain Petition Project.

The yearly billing from the SCC Drain Commission contained a billing for the Holland Drain Petition project. Wales Township's share of the total project is 34,270.45. The township would save \$6,681.88 in interest by paying it off immediately. **Motion** by Messina, second by Masters, to pay the sum of \$31,912.57 to the SCC Drain Commission for the balance of Wales Township's portion of the Holland drain expenditure before the end of November. Roll call vote taken: Messina, aye; Masters, aye; Kimmen, aye; Downey, aye. Four ayes; one absent; motion carried. **Motion** by Masters, second by Messina, to authorize the payment of \$5,772.21 to the SCC Drain Commission, for the yearly billing on all of the drains. Roll call vote taken: Masters, aye; Messina, aye; Downey, aye; Kimmen, aye. Four ayes, one absent; motion carried.


B. Marijuana Caregiver Ordinance-fees, publish and set date. Handled under Reports E., above.

Public Comments. (There may be a 3 minute time limit). Mr. Evans made a vulgar comment about the fact that he was cut short from speaking earlier in the meeting, then having public comments now. Kelly from Marquette Rd. wants to know if the Kettlewell subject will be on next month's agenda. Masters replied that she doesn't know, because the matter is going to legal. Kettlewell questioned the time frame for an answer from legal. Masters replied that she can't answer that at the moment. Kettlewell asked about petitioning the Drain Commission about ditching. Masters said to come to her first to be put on a possible ditching list that is made after the spring road tour. Evans questioned the condition of the roads in the township in the last years. He feels they are being neglected.

John Martindale from Caleb's Creations said he was thinking about something like a boat dock with pylons and ropes, with openings for pedestrians, for a barrier at the park to cut down on vandalism. Messina said we haven't had to deal with vandals until recently. Kelly asked if we have mining, referring to cryptocurrency. It is all about high voltage electricity. Messina said ITC was supposed to increase the power to this area if they were allowed to build here, but she can't see that happening.

Motion by Kimmen, second by Messina, to adjourn. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting closed at 9:24 p.m. Next Meeting December 7, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,


Cynthia Bobcean, Clerk