

**PAW PAW TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
September 12, 2022
114 N. GREMPS STREET
PAW PAW, MICHIGAN 49079**

Supervisor Stull called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public comment:

Kevin Kniss- Suicide prevention, on behalf of Paw Paw Township Senior Center the Township has his support.

Board members present:

Donald Stull, Matthew Miller, Fran Sanders, and Lisa Zinkil

Board members absent:

Rebecca Payne

Guests present:

Tom Palenick, Catherine Kaufman, Kevin Kniss, Gary Schanz, Pat Truesdale, Greg Nitzel, Kent Schwingendorf, Beverly Kralovec, Matt Kahle and several others who did not sign in.

Stull stated that the next item on the agenda is the consideration of an aquatic plant control project for Lake Cora, the estimate of the costs of that project, review of the plans for the project, review of the petitions submitted for the project and the establishment of a special assessment district for that project.

“Today’s public hearing is the first of two that are required before the special assessment process is complete. Today’s hearing is on the petitions submitted for the project, the estimate of costs for the project, the plans for the proposed aquatic plant control project, the special assessment district proposed to be created for the recovery of the cost of the project and the question of whether the Township Board should proceed further with the special assessment project. The proposed new special assessment project will be three years, 2022 - 2024 inclusive.

The Township Board asks that any person speaking at the public hearing give his or her name so there will be an accurate record of the public hearing.

If the Township Board proceeds to a second hearing in the special assessment process, the second hearing will be on the special assessment roll.

If any interested person wishes to protest the special assessment and has not previously done so, he or she should feel free to do so prior to the close of the public hearing today. Such protest by the close of the second public hearing on the special assessment roll is a requirement to being able to appeal a party’s special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.”

Supervisor Stull closed the regular meeting at 7:02 and opened the public hearing on Lake Cora SAD.

Supervisor Stull than asked for any comments or objections from the public to the proposed aquatic plant control project, the cost estimates and plans for the project, and the proposed establishment of the special assessment district.

Attorney Kaufman advise that the township had noticed with the corrected amounts and if there were any comments on the updated costs.

Supervisor Stull asked if everyone was here in support? The crowd responded yes.

Attorney Kaufman advised that anyone in objection must protest now or provide written notice, or they will not be able to protest to the tax tribunal.

Supervisor Stull closed the Public Hearing and opened the Regular Meeting at 7:04.

Approval of minutes.

Motion by Stull seconded by Zinkil to approve the August 8, 2022, regular and the August 16, 2022, and August 23, 2022 special minutes.

In Favor Aye: All Aye

Motion Carried

Additions to Agenda:

None

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Stull seconded by Sanders to approve agenda as presented.

In Favor Aye: All Aye

Motion Carried

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Sheriff's Report

Deputy read highlights from the 108 calls on the August 2022 sheriff's report.

Motion by Miller seconded by Stull to approve Resolution 220912-1 on Lake Cora Aquatic Plant Control.

Roll Call Vote: Miller Yes, Sanders Yes, Stull Yes, Zinkil Yes

Yeas: (4) Nays: (0) Absent (1). Motion carried.

Motion by Miller seconded by Sanders to approve Resolution 220912-2 on Assessment Roll.

Roll Call Vote: Miller Yes, Sanders Yes, Stull Yes, Zinkil Yes

Yeas: (4) Nays: (0) Absent (1). Motion carried.

Update on fifth third bank property. Everyone received the report on the inspection. The board agreed to take a few days to really look it over and have a special meeting on Wednesday September 21st at 2Pm to go over.

Update on sale of lots at 35 ½ street we have had no interest.

Mr. Palenick discussed reasons why the assistant Cannabis Coordinator salary should be increased. Trustee Sanders questioned why her cannabis work is worth more than other responsibilities.

Motion by Zinkil seconded by Stull to increase the Assistant Cannabis Coordinator pay to \$20.50.
Roll Call Vote: Sanders Nay, Stull Yea, Zinkil Yea, Miller Yea
Yeas: (3) Nays: (1) Absent (1). Motion carried.

Supervisor Stull asked the board to think about using some of the Township ARPA monies for the county broadband project. Will bring more information and discuss at the October meeting.

Supervisor stull advised that he received complaints about the political booths being located on Township property during the Winefest. Will need to address this before we grant permission for use next year. It was suggested again that it be utilized for handicap parking during the festival.

Treasurer's Report

Zinkil presented Board with expenditure report.

General Fund expenditures	\$ 33,766.07
Sewer Fund expenditures	\$ 20,911.06
Payroll expenditures	\$ 41,768.25

Motion by Zinkil seconded by Sanders to approve expenditures as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Sanders Yea, Stull Yea, Zinkil Yea, Miller Yea

Yeas: (4) Nays: (0) Absent (1). Motion carried.

Zinkil gave the Impress Fund balance of \$941,609.94 (which does include cannabis this month).

Treasurer Zinkil started a discussion on investing the ARPA funds. Discussion on cd's or money market accounts. There is a possibility for a much better return than what we are getting now. The Board agreed it is a good idea and for Zinkil to bring more information to the special meeting on Wednesday.

Treasurer Zinkil updated the board on the Senior Center. There is a 15 month lease with Freshwater starting October 1, 2022 until December 31, 2023.

The Center will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

Looking to hire Gary Schanz as the Director of the Paw Paw Senior Center 4 days a week. As well a cook and an office assistant for the center 3 days a week.

Discussion on getting reorganized and up and running by early October.

Kevin Kniss said that he had talked with Rigozzi (Senior Services of Van Buren County) and he is on board with the Townships plan.

Zinkil asked the board if we are ok to start in October?

Gary Schanz covered days and times that he would like to be open. He informed the board that he was meeting with Rick Reo for the senior meals at the schools. He had talked with some of the previous volunteers and they are coming on board with our new program.

The Board discussed possible prices for meals and non-residents activities.

Kevin Kniss remarked on statistics of senior citizen suicide.

The Board discussed possible door hangers to get the information out.

Board discussion on the hours and rate of pay as well as benefits for the new staff members.

Treasurer Zinkil went over the cost of the lease at Freshwater.

Discussion on cash handling or credit cards possible punch cards.

Motion by Zinkil seconded by Sanders to hire 3 positions Director at \$41,600 salary for 32 hours per week, Assistant \$18 per hour for up to 28 hours per week and a cook \$15 per hour up to 28 hours per week all with same benefit package of other Township employees. With a hire date of September 12, 2022.

Roll Call Vote: Miller Yes, Sanders Yes, Stull Yes, Zinkil Yes

Yeas: (4) Nays: (0) Absent (1). Motion carried.

Motion by Zinkil seconded by Stull to approve lease with Freshwater starting October1, 2022 thru December 31, 2023 for \$2084 per month for 15 months. Authorizing Donald Stull to sign the lease.

Roll Call Vote: Miller Yes, Sanders Yes, Stull Yes, Zinkil Yes

Yeas: (4) Nays: (0) Absent (1). Motion carried.

Clerks Report:

TRUSTEES REPORT

PLANNING COMMISSION

Sanders informed the board that the Planning Commission had a meeting on August 16th, and they did the annual review for Huntington Valley. They put the zoning amendment for Moyle on hold and held a hearing on an indoor grow with concerns for Pependick Lake but did approve it.

FIRE BOARD

Sanders read fire report with 8 calls to Township in August. Sanders also informed the Board that Jim Jackson will be retiring on October 6th.

Public comment:

Discussion with attorney on the Cannabis amendment. Kaughman also advised that there is an upcoming virtual cannabis meeting put on by the State and we may want to hear that before going forward.

Supervisor Stull adjourned the meeting at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca F. Payne, Clerk
Paw Paw Township