

Erie Township Board
Regular Meeting
Erie, Michigan

September 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Erie Township Board was held Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at the Erie Township Hall, 2065 Erie Rd. Erie, Michigan. Township Supervisor Gary Wilmoth called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The roll was called, and the Pledge of Allegiance recited. Prayer provided by Danny Taylor.

Gary Wilmoth, Supervisor – Present
Cindy Wisbon, Treasurer- Present
Kimberly Cousino, Clerk- Present
Steve Mishka, Trustee – Absent - Excused
Paul Perry, Trustee – Present

Also present was recording secretary, Jackie Cowdrey

B. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Minutes approval from August 10, 2021, Regular Meeting and Public Hearing
- 2) Building Report, August 2021
- 3) Treasurer’s Report, August 2021
- 4) Revenue and Expense Report, August 2021

C. Wisbon motioned to approve items 1 – 4 waiving the reading. P. Perry supported. Motion Carried.

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) American Rescue Plan Act – Notice of Approval of Funds
- 2) Consumers Energy – Notice of Hearing
- 3) Michigan Gas – Notice of Hearing

K. Cousino motioned to approve and place on file correspondence items 1-3 waiving the reading. C. Wisbon supported the motion. Motion Carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ricki R. 11625 Geiger Rd., Temperance - Spoke regarding placement on Solar Panels on Agricultural land. She spoke regarding the chemicals that could potentially leak into the soil if the panels were to become compromised as well as the long-term effects and autoimmune disorders these chemicals could cause. She asked the board to make an amendment to prohibit solar panels from being placed on agricultural grounds.

Diane LaPlante spoke regarding Bedford's most recent board meeting and how the Solar Panel site at Sterns and Dixie looks like a weed fest, landscaping is dead. Also asked if there was a change to the golf cart ordinance due to the amount of golf carts on roads with a speed limit posted higher than 25.

Ken Gonyea 8311 Lambert St., Lambertville - stated that Bedford township residents had negative feedback regarding the solar panels at Sterns and Dixie.

Charlie Reau 1633 Dean Rd., Erie - stated that if property owners don't mow their land Mike Demski will send a bill for mowing. Mr. Reau offered to mow land of Solar Panel property.

Andrew Allen (Gonyea) 10744 Cemetery Rd., Erie - Stated that attempts to contact owners of solar panels has been unsuccessful

Kristine Stofka 1008 Rauch Rd. Erie., - spoke regarding solar panels would line her street and the solar panel companies have been trolling areas. Mrs. Stofka stated that solar panels being placed on agricultural land destroys what's good about Erie.

Theresa Himinjosa 2147 E. Erie Rd., Erie - stated that she moved to Erie in high school and loves how rural it is.

Mary Tizdes 7341 Geiger Rd., Temperance - spoke regarding the salesmen that are attempting to sell the solar products show maps where the solar panels would be placed around homes. Values of homes would drop.

Supervisor Wilmoth spoke regarding the price per acre and rental fees until land is farmed.

Denise Benore 1417 Dean Rd., Erie - stated that they lease land to the farmers

Supervisor Wilmoth stated that he will talk with the Township Attorney's to determine if an amendment needs to be made.

Paul Perry stated that the current Solar Panels placed at Sterns and Dixie were placed in an industrial zoned area, not on agricultural land. Solar Panels aren't allowed to just be placed anywhere, the Erie Township zoning ordinance does allow solar field development on industrial zoned land, agriculture land is a special use.

Pat Banachowski 3625 Cousino Rd., Erie - requested no more solar panels be placed in Erie. Erie already has the garbage dump and one solar panel field.

Brenda Vandercook 2012 E. Erie Rd., Erie - stated that her family farms to preserve heritage and continue family legacy.

E. BUSINESS:

1) Bills Approval:

C. Wisbon made the motion to approve checks #34861 - #34943 from the general fund including payroll and ACH & EFT in the amount of \$310,547.39. Checks #1617 - #1618 from the Trust and Agency account in the amount of \$624.00. P. Perry supported the motion. K. Cousino mentioned that majority of the money spent was for road repairs. Roll was called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

2) Public Hearing for Morin Point West SAD:

C. Wisbon motioned to close Regular Meeting at 7:36 pm and open Public Hearing for the Morin Point West Special Assessment District. K. Cousino supported the motion. Motion carried.

No residents were present from Morin Point West.

C. Wisbon motioned to close the Public Hearing at 7:37 pm. P. Perry supported. Motion carried.

C. Wisbon motioned to open Regular Meeting at 7:37 pm. P. Perry supported. Motion carried.

3)Resolution to Approve the Special Assessment District Extension for Morin Point West:

C. Wisbon motioned to approve the extension of the Morin Point West Special Assessment District, \$100.00 will be assessed per parcel in the district, per year, for five years, the first assessment will be placed on the 2021 winter tax bill and the last installment will be on the 2025 winter tax bill. K. Cousino supported. Roll Called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

4) Public Hearing: Transportation Alternatives Grant:

C. Wisbon motioned to close Regular Meeting and Open Public Hearing for the Transportation Alternative Grant at 7:39 pm. P. Perry Supported. Motion carried.

Lucy Fortin from Mannik and Smith was present to discuss the proposed downtown improvements that the Downtown Revitalization Committee has been working on for a couple of years and the Transportation Alternative Grant Program. The total cost for the project would be \$627,000.00. If awarded the grant, the township's share would be 20% of the total project cost.

Mark Sherwood 2632 Erie Rd., Erie - Suggested a blinking light to alert residents to slow down when going through town.

Tom Sancrant 10325 S. Dixie Hwy., Erie - asked about the possibility of the VFW to display flags downtown for certain commemorative dates and utilizing the light fixtures to do so.

Mike Bash Bay Creek Rd., Erie - asked about a 4-way stop being placed at the intersection of Manhattan and Dixie Hwy. Lucy responded that because Dixie Hwy. is a state route, certain traffic studies would need to be completed, and ultimate approval of any traffic signal is the state's decision.

Diane LaPlante – asked about the timeline for the grant. Lucy stated that it is a rolling deadline and that if submitted in October the township would have results in March and Construction would possibly start fall of 2022 if funds are approved through the state.

P. Perry motioned to close the Public Hearing at 7:59 pm. C. Wisbon supported. Motion Carried.

P. Perry motioned to open Regular Meeting at 7:59 pm. K. Cousino supported. Motion Carried.

5) Resolution of Support Downtown Erie Transportation Alternatives Program Application:

K. Cousino motioned to accept the Resolution of Support Downtown Erie Transportation Alternatives Program Application as presented. P. Perry supported. Roll Called. G. Wilmoth – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes. Motion Carried.

6) Resolution Authorizing VFW Santa Comes to Erie Parade Local Road Closure on December 11, 2021:

K. Cousino motioned to accept the Resolution Authorizing VFW Santa Comes to Erie Parade local road closure on December 11, 2021, as presented. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. G. Wilmoth – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

7) MDOT Performance Resolution – VFW Santa Comes to Erie Parade on December 11, 2021:

K. Cousino motioned to accept the MDOT Performance Resolution for the VFW Santa Comes to Erie Parade, closing Dixie Hwy. between Erie Rd. and Manhattan St., on December 11, 2021, as presented. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, K. Cousino – yes. C. Wisbon – yes. Motion Carried.

8 - 9) Erie Township Police Department Policy #45 LEIN Information Security Response; Erie Township Police Department Policy #46 LEIN Criminal Justice Information:

P. Perry motioned to accept Erie Township Police Department Policy #45 LEIN Information Security Response and Policy #46 LEIN Criminal Justice Information as presented. K. Cousino supported. Roll Called. Wilmoth – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes. Motion Carried.

10) Recommendation To Hire Part Time Police Officer: Jason Matthews:

Chief Ames recommended the board to hire Jason Matthews as a part time police officer, he is MCOLES certified, has experience, and currently working part time in another jurisdiction.

C. Wisbon motioned to hire police officer Jason Matthews at \$22.00 per hour, on an as-needed, part-time basis. P. Perry supported. Roll Called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

11) Morin Point Fire Department New Hires:

K. Cousino motioned to approve the hiring of Michael Roberts and Brandon Roberts to the Morin Point Fire Department, subject to the standard two years' probation period, and contingent upon their ability to pass agility training and physical. P. Perry Supported. Roll Called. G. Wilmoth – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

12) Darrick Whitaker Retirement:

K. Cousino motioned to accept electrical inspector, Darrick Whitaker's retirement with regrets. C. Wisbon supported. Motion Carried.

13)Recommendation to Hire Part Time Electrical Inspector: Dale Kohler:

K. Cousino motioned to Hire Part Time Electrical Inspector: Dale Kohler. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. K. Cousino – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

Rose Sancraint 10325 S. Dixie Hwy., Erie – Representative from the VFW Auxiliary thanked the board for the approval of the road closure for the Santa Comes to Erie Parade.

Diane LaPlante commented on the stopped trains.

Chief Ames spoke regarding the pattern of the stopped trains.

Trustee Paul Perry encouraged residents that are interested in zoning procedures to read the documents and attend the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

P. Perry made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm. C. Wisbon Supported. Motion carried.

Jackie Cowdrey
Recording Secretary

Kimberly Cousino
Clerk