

Erie Township Board
Regular Meeting
Erie, Michigan

December 14, 2021

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Erie Township Board was held Tuesday, December 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 – Present
Paul Perry, Trustee – Absent - Excused

B. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Minutes approval from November 9, 2021 Regular Meeting & November 23, 2021 Special Meeting
- 2) Building Report, November 2021
- 3) Treasurer’s Report, November 2021
- 4) Revenue and Expense Report, November 2021
- 5) Erie Police Department; Fines & Fees September & October 2021

C. Wisbon motioned to approve Consent Agenda items 1 – 5, waiving the reading. K. Cousino supported. Motion Carried.

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) Citizen email RE: Food Trucks
- 2) MCRC – Road Improvement Estimate Packet
- 3) Invitation to Peter Sinclair Presentation at Erie VFW – January 13, 2022
- 4) Park Commission December 9, 2021 draft minutes, amended park rental agreement, amended park by-laws
- 5) Erie Fire Department calls to date

C. Wisbon motioned to approve and place on file correspondence items 1-5, waiving the reading. S. Mishka supported. Motion Carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ricki Roelant thanked Gary Wilmoth for holding the solar forum, shared more information regarding solar development, and requested the board to adopt a one-year solar moratorium; she has collected 200 signatures on a petition opposing solar development on agricultural land.

Theresa Pobee-Mensah – 2147 E. Erie Rd. – Requested the board to adopt a one-year solar moratorium.

Brenda Vandercook – 2812 Erie Rd. – Thanked the board for listening to their concerns and that we need to protect agricultural land.

Ann Sweeney – 10253 Cemetery Rd. – Shared concerns about solar development negatively affecting property value and contaminating water.

E. BUSINESS:

1) Bills Approval:

C. Wisbon made the motion to approve checks #35070-35170 from the general fund including payroll and ACH & EFT in the amount of \$215,464.83. Nothing from the Trust and Agency account. K. Cousino supported. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

2) Proposed Ordinance for Dog Control:

K. Cousino moved supported by S. Mishka to adopt the Dog Control Ordinance as presented, waiving the reading. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

3) Erie Police Department Policy & Procedure: Use of Force & Use of Force Report:

C. Wisbon moved supported by K. Cousino to approve the updated use of force and use of force report policy and procedure as presented, waiving the reading. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

4) Erie Police Department Proposed Pay Structure:

C. Wisbon moved supported by K. Cousino to approve the new pay structure for the police department as presented. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

5) Resolution Establishing a Moratorium on Large Scale Solar Farm Energy Systems or Solar Farms Applications:

Discussion was held regarding a solar moratorium. G. Wilmoth stated he wants the entire planning commission to review the current solar ordinance, as a whole, not in a sub-committee, and report back to the township board.

S. Mishka moved supported by C. Wisbon to approve the resolution establishing a six-month moratorium on large scale solar farm energy systems or solar farms applications as presented, directing the full planning commission to review. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

6) Quote from Toledo Mirror & Glass – Installation of Glass Panels on Stairwell Rails:

Action tabled.

7) Morin Point Fire Department Purchase Pumper:

Morin Point Fireman, Pat Foley and Fire Chief Pat Zaleski, presented three separate quotes they have obtained for a combination rescue pumper.

Pierce: \$585,804.00

Spartan: \$615,000.00

Sutphen: \$574,565.00

It is the recommendation and request of Morin Point Fire Department to purchase the pumper from Sutphen, an American made company that has no proprietary parts. The department has visited Frenchtown Township to tour their new Sutphen pumper, Frenchtown Township is very satisfied with the purchase. The manufacturing time for the pumper is 19-23 months. C. Wisbon stated there is sufficient funds in the fire equipment fund to approve and make a down payment of 50% and there will still be enough available for Erie Fire to move ahead with their purchase when ready.

Discussion was held.

C. Wisbon moved supported by K. Cousino to approve Morin Point Fire Department purchase of a new pumper truck from Sutphen, not to exceed \$574,564.00, with 50% down at \$287,283.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

8) Michigan Par Plan Insurance Renewal:

C. Wisbon moved supported by K. Cousino to approve the insurance renewal with Decker Insurance, increasing the auto deductible to \$1,000 and removing the excess liability, for a total premium of \$36,686.00. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

9) Morin Point Fire Department New Firemen: Kevin O'Rourke & Nathan Lampe:

K. Cousino moved supported by C. Wisbon to approve the hire of Kevin O'Rourke and Nathan Lampe to Morin Point Fire Department, pending O'Rourke passing the physical exam. Motion carried.

10) Park Commission Budget Amendment Request:

K. Cousino moved supported by S. Mishka to approve the Park Commission request for a budget amendment; adding \$5,000.00 to Repair and Maintenance and \$3,000.00 to Improvements. Motion carried on a roll call vote, all in favor.

11) Thomas Close Resignation from Erie Fire Department:

C. Wisbon moved supported by K. Cousino to accept the resignation of Thomas Close from Erie Fire Department with regrets. Motion carried.

PUBLIC AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

Supervisor Gary Wilmoth stated he will be abstaining from any future voting on solar developments due to conflict of interest.

Ken Gonyea voiced concern about having enough money in the fire equipment millage fund to purchase two new fire trucks due to the inflation, he suggested it be an ongoing millage.

Terry Rollins stated there is graffiti on the gas station on Luna Pier Rd., he asked if the owners have been contacted. Danny Taylor reported that the owners have been contacted and that the graffiti will be painted over and the door secured.

Theresa Pobee-Mensah – 2147 Erie Rd. – Thanked the Fire Departments and VFW for the Santa Parade and thanked the board for passing the solar moratorium.

ADJOURNMENT:

C. Wisbon moved supported by K. Cousino to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Kimberly Cousino
Clerk