

Erie Township Board
Regular Meeting
Erie, Michigan

May 10, 2022

CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of the Erie Township Board was held Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 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 – Present

Also present was Township Attorney Phil Goldsmith and recording secretary, Jackie Cowdrey

K. Cousino motioned to remove item #9 from the agenda. P. Perry supported the motion. Motion Carried.

B. CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1) Minutes approval from April 12, 2022, Regular Meeting
- 2) Building Report, April 2022
- 3) Treasurer’s Report, April 2022
- 4) Revenue and Expense Report, April 2022

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

C. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1) Monroe County Equalization Department – 2022 Millage Reduction Fraction
- 2) Consumers Energy
- 3) Provident Insurance Privacy Policy
- 4) 2022 – 2023 Department Requested Budget
- 5) State of Michigan Budget Update from SEMCOG

6) Michigan Department of Treasury – Notice of Acceptance of 2021 Retirement System Annual Report

C. Wisbon motioned to approve items 1-6 waiving the reading. P. Perry supported. Motion Carried.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Alex Deek from Bodman PLC spoke on behalf of Jeff Benore regarding not allowing solar farms to be placed on Agricultural Land.

Diane LaPlante spoke regarding the 2022-2023 budget and thanked the Planning Commission for their work.

Danny Taylor asked the board if they had the intention to vote on Solar Farms on this day.

Theresa Himijosa spoke regarding placements of Solar Farms

Kristine Stofka spoke regarding Solar Farms being placed on industrial land only.

Gary Wilmoth spoke regarding being offered \$16,000 per acre and stated he was willing to drop the price to \$5,500 per acre to anyone wanting to buy it as farmland, with the conditions of no solar placement. Mr. Wilmoth also stated that he will abstain from voting on solar issues.

E. BUSINESS:

1) Resolution and Recognition of Robert Morin for 60 Years of Service on Morin Point Fire Department:

Clerk Cousino read the resolution recognizing and thanking Robert Morin for sixty years of service on Morin Point Fire Department. The board presented Robert Morin with a plaque.

P. Perry motioned to accept the resolution and recognition of Robert Morin as read. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

2) Bills Approval:

C. Wisbon made the motion to approve checks #35426 - #35474 from the general fund including payroll and ACH & EFT in the amount of \$90,629.37. Checks #1636 - #1644 from the Trust and Agency account in the amount of \$2,528.94. K. Cousino supported the

motion. Roll was called. P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes. Motion Carried.

3) M-125 at Sterns Rd. Intersection Signal Modernization and Quote to Upgrade:

Michigan Department of Transportation is updating the traffic light at Sterns Rd. and M-125, standard box span update comes at no cost to the township or the board could decide to update to mast arms instead at a cost of \$60,000-\$80,000. Discussion was held, it was decided that the standard box span is sufficient for that intersection.

4) Purchase of 2022 Ford Utility Interceptor and Outfit:

Chief Ames spoke regarding his request for the purchase of a 2022 Ford Utility Interceptor for \$34,300 and the outfitting required for \$13,488.70, a total of \$47,788.70. P. Perry motioned to accept the contracts as presented with Gorno Ford for a 2022 Ford Utility Interceptor for \$34,300 and Ebel Police and Fire Equipment to outfit the vehicle for \$13,488.70. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes. Motion Carried.

5) Authorize Chief Ames to Advertise for Bids for the Ford Crown Victoria Police Cruiser:

C. Wisbon motioned to authorize Chief Ames to advertise the sale of the Ford Crown Victoria police cruiser. S. Mishka supported. Roll Called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

6) Miller Brother's Construction Request for Temporary Use on 3900 Luna Pier Rd. for I-75 Project:

P. Perry motioned to return zoning permit request from Miller Brother's construction for temporary use at 3900 Luna Pier Rd. to Mike Demski with 12-month limit subject to the conditions and restrictions imposed by Mike Demski and county agencies. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried

7) Blue Cross Blue Shield Board of Directors Ballot:

K. Cousino motioned to accept the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Board of Directors ballot as recommended. P. Perry supported. Roll Called. S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes. Motion Carried.

8) Support of Great Lakes Way Initiative:

C. Wisbon motioned to Support Great Lakes Way Initiative. S. Mishka supported the motion. Roll Called. P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes. Motion Carried.

9) Michigan Association of Planning Membership Renewal:

K. Cousino motioned to approve the Renewal of the Michigan Association of Planning Membership for \$725.00 per year. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. G. Wilmoth – yes, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes, C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes. Motion Carried.

10-11) Planning Commission Solar Regulation Recommendation and Solar Regulation Ordinance:

Township Attorney Phil Goldsmith spoke regarding the Erie Township Zoning Ordinance Article 14.07 regarding Solar Farms and the planning commission’s recommendation to the board to allow only in industrial zoned areas. Mr. Goldsmith stated that a public hearing needs to be held by the planning commission before the zoning ordinance can be amended by the township board. Mr. Goldsmith recommended revising Article 14, Article 11 with the assistance from a planner, revisit wind energy as well; suggested adding time to moratorium to not allow any special land use applications.

P. Perry motioned to return the planning commission solar regulation recommendation to the Planning Commission to review alternative energy ordinances with a six-month extension of the moratorium to not allow any special land use applications for alternative energy, recommends hiring a planner to work with the planning commission to revise the ordinance. C. Wisbon supported. Roll Called. C. Wisbon – yes, P. Perry – yes, G. Wilmoth – abstained, S. Mishka – yes, K. Cousino – yes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC AND BOARD MEMBER COMMENT:

Charlie Reau spoke in regards to solar development.

Diane LaPLante spoke in regards to the solar moratorium.

Kristine Stofka spoke regarding board being a disservice to the planning commission.

Jeff Benore asked how many active applications for Solar Farms are in the township-the board responded with none at this time.

Theresa Himinjosa spoke regarding zoning ordinance.

Cindy Wisbon stated that there is a copy of the 2022-2023 budget in correspondence. Budget Public hearing will be held on June 7, 2022, at 7:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT:

K. Cousino made the motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm. P. Perry Supported. Meeting adjourned.

Jackie Cowdrey
Recording Secretary

Kimberly Cousino
Clerk