

BOWNE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2021

The regular monthly meeting of the Bowne Township Board of Trustees was held in the Historic Township Hall, 8240 Alden Nash Avenue SE., the meeting was called to order by Supervisor Wilcox.

MEMBERS PRESENT: RANDY WILCOX – SUPERVISOR
SANDRA L. KOWALCZYK – CLERK
TAMMI WINGEIER – TREASURER
ROBERT FLYNN – TRUSTEE

MEMBERS ABSENT: DAVID FUSS – TRUSTEE

OTHERS PRESENT: RICK VRIESENKA – FIRE CHIEF
LANI FORBES – FREEPORT FIRE DEPT. REP.
JOHN SIMMONS – HISTORICAL COMMISSION
JOSH MANNARD – INFRASTRUCTURE ALTERNATIVES

MINUTES:

Motion by Trustee Flynn that the minutes of the January board meeting be approved as printed, supported by Treasurer Wingeier. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: GENERAL FUND CASH	\$168,885.78
GENERAL FUND TIME CERTIFICATES	\$ 49,447.90
GENERAL FUND MONEY MARKET	\$132,522.59
FIRE FUND CASH	\$ 51,959.12
FIRE BUILDING FUND	\$ 39,102.80
FIRE EQUIPMENT FUND	\$ 417.66
FIRE FUND-CARES ACT MONEY	\$ 89,717.70
SEWER FUND CASH	\$223,246.85
SEWER FUND TIME CERTIFICATES	\$ 75,629.22
CURRENT TAX ACCOUNT	\$602,063.47

Motion by Clerk Kowalczyk that the Treasurer’s report be approved as printed, supported by Trustee Flynn. Motion carried.

MONTHLY BILLS DUE & PAYABLE FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021:

Motion by Clerk Kowalczyk that the monthly bills be allowed and paid for February and March bills, supported by Trustee Flynn: Motion carried.

GENERAL FUND CHECKS #12499-12539	\$ 26,462.57
FIRE FUND CHECKS #7361-7390	\$ 15,090.01
SEWER FUND CHECKS #2765-2767	\$ 4,583.38

PAGE -2-
TWP. BD. MTG. MINUTES
FEBRUARY 15, 2021 MEETING

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Chief Vriesenga reported 16 runs this last month. 15 year old security cameras need replaced and hose drops are needed as we only have one. Brief recap of 2020 shows 36 runs for this time last year of which were 33 false cell phone calls, 1 accident on freeway and 2 fires. Lowell Twp. Has proposed a cost recovery plan for calls to the freeway which would include gathering information and billing to automobile owners or their insurance companies through our department. Discussion followed.

Motion by Clerk Kowalczyk that we do not participate in the "Cost Recovery Plan" for calls on the expressway as proposed by Lowell Township, due to the hazardous conditions that would create for our firemen to engage in fact gathering for the purpose of billing various drivers and their insurance companies when various cell phone calls are anonymous, supported by Trustee Flynn. Motion carried.

FREEPORT FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Representative Lani Forbes reported 17 incidents for 2021 3 of them were house fires. They continue training in CPR, fire gear, blood work etc. They are working with Kent County Dispatch to sort out some dispatching difficulties they are experiencing, some cell phone calls go to Kent County and some go to Ionia County. Currently are updating their fire station.

PROFESSIONAL CODE INSPECTION OF MI REPORT: 1 permit Construction value 0 \$21,975.00
Alternate Energy-7330 Snow Avenue SE-Solar Power System.

MINUTES: DDA, HISTORICAL COMMISSION & PLANNING COMMISSION

HISTORICAL COMMISSION REP. JOHN SIMMONS mentioned that the museum and old schoolhouse need a few repairs and would like the township board to include these costs in the new budget.

ALTO SANITARY SEWER REPORT:

Operative Mannard provided his report for the month of January where no corrective actions were taken. He has been monitoring the phosphorous levels and to this point nothing has changed, but it may change as the lagoon re-establishes biological activity.

BOARD OF REVIEW APPOINTMENTS:

Motion by Clerk Kowalczyk that the following be appointed to serve the next two years on the Board of Review for 2021 and 2022 – Cheryl Poll, Bruce Wingeier and Lou D’Agostino, supported by Treasurer Wingeier. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CLEANING PERSON:

Motion by Trustee Flynn that we increase the cleaning fee from \$80.00 per time of the fire station to \$100 for Michelle Wilkinson, supported by Treasurer Wingeier. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION FOR CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE:

Resolution offered by Trustee Flynn and supported by Clerk Kowalczyk that the request from Dairy Discovery of Alto, Michigan County of Kent asking that they be recognized as a nonprofit organization Operating in the community for the purpose of obtaining charitable games licenses, be considered for approval. Ayes – Flynn, Wilcox, Kowalczyk, Wingeier. Nays: None. Abstains: None. Resolution declared adopted.

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH TOWNSHIP OFFICERS SALARY FOR 2021-2022 BUDGET:

Resolution offered by Trustee Flynn and supported by Treasurer Wingeier the township board deems that an adjustment in the salary of the office of Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees is warranted in consideration of the increase in the cost of living and/or additional responsibilities taken by the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer and Trustees since township board members salaries were last adjusted. Upon a roll call vote, the following voted: AYES – Flynn, Wilcox, Kowalczyk, Wingeier. NAYS – None, ABSTAINS – None. Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION TO ALLOW EXTENSION OF PROVERTY EXEMPTION:

Resolution offered by Board Member Flynn and supported by Board Member Kowalczyk that pursuant to MCL 211.7u(8), that Bowne Township, Kent County, continues the poverty exemption through tax year 2021 for all principal residences within the township that were exempt in tax year 2019 or 2020, or both. The township board requires owners of a principal residence exempt from the collection of taxes pursuant to this provision to affirm ownership, poverty, and occupancy status in writing by filing Treasury Form 5739—Affirmation of Ownership and Occupancy to Remain Exempt by Reason of Poverty with the township. Upon roll call vote, the following voted: AYES: Flynn, Wilcox, Kowalczyk, Wingeier. NAYS: None. ABSTAINS: None. The Supervisor declared the resolution adopted.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Supervisor Wilcox read a letter of resignation from township treasurer Tammi Wingeier stating March 31, 2021 as her last day. Thank you for your 16 years of service.

Supervisor Wilcox brought to the Boards attention the draft's of two letters being sent out for ordinance violations by the township Attorney Cliff Bloom.

Kent County Road Commission for planning the 2021 local road program

Page -4-
Bowne Twp. Bd.
February 15, 2021 Minutes

CORRESPONDENCE:

Rep. Thomas Alberts news letter

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Treasurer Wingeier that the meeting be adjourned at 7:36 PM. supported by Trustee Flynn.
Motion carried.

Sandra L. Kowalczyk
Bowne Township Clerk