

Liberty Township Regular Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2024

Liberty Township Hall

7478 N 41 Rd, PO Box 334

Manton MI 49663

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Supervisor Monroe.

Present: Supervisor Beverly Monroe, Treasurer Cynthia Deibert, Clerk Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Trustee/FOIA Coordinator Joe Hurlburt, Trustee Jim Heady

Absent: None

Employees Present: Deputy Supervisor/Hall Manager Mabel Barnes,

Employees Absent: Deputy Clerk Tanja McCane Clark, Deputy Treasurer Lee Deibert, Sexton O'Dell Outdoor Services

Agenda: A motion to approve Agenda with correction adding Cryptkeeper data entry, removing "Audit report pending" change to "Audit process", FOTS stands for First on the Scene, remove "website" from Old Business and moving to New Business, and removing "brief" and Extended" adjectives to public comment made by Hurlburt, 2nd by Heady. 4 yay, Kimbel-Sparks Nay

Guest Speaker: None

Minutes:

- Motion to approve July 10, 2024, Regular meeting minutes as is made by Kimbel-Sparks, 2nd by Hurlburt. 4 yes, Heady abstained.
- Motion made by Deibert to adjourn the meeting. No second motion.

Expense Report

- Motion to approve expenses and pay bills Hurlburt, second by Heady. Roll Call: Deibert yes, Kimbel-Sparks yes; Monroe Yes; Hurlburt Yes; Heady, yes.
- Bills presented at meeting
 - Manton Disposal \$50.00
 - Mabel Barnes timesheet
- Motion to approve bills presented at the meeting by Hurlburt, seconded by Heady. Roll Call: Deibert, yes; Heady, yes; Monroe, Yes; Hurlburt, Yes. Kimbel-Sparks, No.

FOIA Coordinator Report: None

Clerk's Report

- Verbal report
- Motion to allow clerk to purchase additional ballot bags from Election Source for \$182.00 made by Kimbel-Sparks, 2nd by Deibert. Roll Call: Deibert yes, Kimbel-Sparks yes; Monroe Yes; Hurlburt Yes; Heady, yes.
- Public Accuracy Test is scheduled for October 10, 2024, at 2:00pm.
- Motion by Kimbel-Sparks requiring any contact with the township attorney shall be decided by the entire board and any written correspondence or documents prepared by the attorney for the township shall be presented to the board. No second.

Treasurer's Report:

- Written and Verbal
- Advised the board that the accountant, Mike Cool, said violating the law by only having one signature on the ARPA is ok as long as she writes the checks to another bank. No proof or written documentation presented.
- Advised the board that she will be holding the Cryptkeeper software bill until September.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by Monroe, 2nd by Heady. 4 yay, Kimbel-Sparks Nay

Hall Manager Report:

- Verbal report. Hired Greg Campbell to dispose of bees. Said a professional exterminator would not have been able to help us due to the fact the Mr. Campbell had to cut into the new back deck to get to the nest. Presented Greg Campbell's bill at this time for \$51.35.

- Clerk reported to the board that it is bad practice for the township board to hire non-licensed and non-insured individuals and our insurance could drop our township for this type of behavior.

Sexton Report: Not present.

Assessor: Not present

Correspondence: Unfinished Business: (New, Old and in-progress)

- Motion to send Hurlburt to Emerging Issues in Emergency Services for \$125 in Cadillac made by Monroe, 2nd by Heady. Roll Call: Deibert yes, Kimbel-Sparks no; Monroe Yes; Hurlburt Yes; Heady, yes.
- Motion made by Monroe, 2nd by Deibert to pay Greg Campbell \$51.35. Roll Call: Deibert yes, Kimbel-Sparks no; Monroe Yes; Hurlburt Yes; Heady, yes.
- Motion made by Monroe, 2nd by Deibert to send Hurlburt and Kimbel-Sparks to the MTA Regional Meeting on October 2, 2024 at Treetops Resort in Gaylord for \$125 each. Roll Call: Deibert yes, Kimbel-Sparks yes; Monroe Yes; Hurlburt Yes; Heady, yes.

Public comment: Member asked for clarification on Attorney policy and questions on why the board would not want transparency. Kimbel-Sparks chose to answer even though Hurlburt informed the audience that the board cannot answer any questions. AFTER SPEAKING WITH THE MTA DAYS AFTER THE MEETING, HURLBURT REQUESTED THE BOARD CHANGE HIS WORDS BASED ON MTA ADVICE TO NOT SAY THE BOARD CANNOT ANSWER TO "THE BOARD IS TO NOT ANSWER THE PUBLIC". Kimbel-Sparks explained that there is no current policy regarding when the board should be contacting the attorney nor does the board get informed when the attorney is contacted. Current policy allows two appointed board members to contact the attorney but there are no restrictions on this contact. The board only knows about the contact with the attorney when the bill is presented.

Old Business:

- Monroe reported for the third time that Chris Grobbel of WJPC has training available through a grant for Blight Ordinances. Motion made by Hurlburt, 2nd by Monroe to invite Mr. Grobbel to speak to the board. 4 yays, Kimbel-Sparks, nay.
- **Audit process:** not discussed

New Business:

- **First On The Scene** Motion made by Monroe, 2nd Heady after Hurlburt to schedule training for September 12, 2024 from 6pm-10pm to be held at Liberty Township Hall.
- **Website** Motion made by Hurlburt, Monroe 2nd to allow SPG to make a presentation to board members about websites. No vote taken

~~Deibert had to leave 7:50~~ THIS WAS THE THIRD TIME TREARSURE DEIBERT INFORMED THE BOARD SHE WAS LEAVING EARLY BUT THE BOARD VOTED TO HAVE HER FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT STRUCK FROM THE MINUTES BECAUSE SHE HADN'T LEFT THE BUILDING BY THE TIME THE MEETING ADJOURNED.

Public Comment: Member spoke on the inefficient or lack of preparation on the board part. Minutes and reports should be before the meeting, so the board is prepared and comes with questions. Another member asked the board to be nice.

Adjourn:

- Motion by Heady, and 2nd by Hurlburt to Adjourn. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes prepared by Amanda Kimbel-Sparks, Clerk