

GIRARD TOWNSHIP BOARD

1009 Marshal Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036

517-279-2323

June 4, 2018

7:00 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Supervisor, Gene Easterday called the meeting to order @ 7:00 P.M. Board members in attendance were Supervisor Gene Easterday, Trustee George Baker, Clerk Kathy Weigt, and Trustee Candy Cox. Treasurer Julie Waterbury. Note: Approx. 13 public attendees. Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Clerk Kathy Weigt, Supported by Trustee Candy Cox to accept the agenda with additions of accepting the ZBA minutes, and a cemetery request.

Motion by Trustee Candy Cox to approve the May 7, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes as presented, Supported by Trustee George Baker. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

Motion by Treasurer Julie Waterbury, Supported by Trustee Candy Cox to approve the May 17, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

Motion by Trustee Candy Cox, Supported by Trustee George Baker to accept and place on file the May 17, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

Motion by Trustee Candy Cox, Supported by Treasurer Julie Waterbury to accept and place on file the May 29, 2018 Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting Minutes. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

Motion by Trustee Candy Cox, Supported by Treasurer Julie Waterbury to pay the Bills Due. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

Motion by Clerk Kathy Weigt, Supported by Trustee George Baker to accept and place on file the financial report as presented. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

Motion by Treasurer Julie Waterbury, Supported by Trustee Candy Cox to establish the millage rate of .8845 for the 2018 year. Roll Call Vote. Treasurer Julie Waterbury-Yes, Trustees Candy Cox and George Baker-Yes, Supervisor Gene Easterday-Yes, Clerk Kathy Weigt-Yes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Treasurer Julie Waterbury, Supported by Clerk Kathy Weigt to change the Monday August 6, 2018 board meeting to Monday August 13, 2018, also, the Monday November 5, 2018 board meeting to Monday November 12, 2018 due to elections. Roll Call Vote. Treasurer Julie Waterbury-Yes, Trustees Candy Cox and George Baker-Yes, Supervisor Gene Easterday-Yes, Clerk Kathy Weigt-Yes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Trustee George Baker, Supported by Trustee Candy Cox to allow the planting of a tree in Section 9, on the South East corner (North of the driveway) at the Evergreen Cemetery. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay. Type of tree to be determined by Trustee George Baker, something of little or no maintenance to the lawn care provider. Thank- you Stickney brothers for your tree donation.

Public comment: Commissioner Terri Norris gave a monthly report: Jail Millage has been approved for placement on the August 7, 2018 Primary Election ballot. The intent is for voters to decide if they support the construction of a new jail at **1.25 mills over the next 20 years**. Go to yesforbranch countyjail on Facebook for information and calculate the dollar amount this would increase your property taxes.

The BOC approved the partnership between COA and ProMedica to offer a lunch program for \$5.00 per meal. Lunch will be served on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. RSVP's are required. A copy of the full report is on file at the town hall.

Sheriff's Report: \$286,000 was spent on jail maintenance from years 2008-2012.

\$732,000 was spent on jail maintenance from years 2013-2017 plus \$202,000 has been spent in out of County Housing. A 30% increase in maintenance and out of County Housing in the last 5 yrs.

Marine Patrol: Reckless Operation: 32 warnings. Registration Violations: 36. Slow No Wake: 22 Deaths of officers in the line of duty for 2018: (66). By Gun Fire: (28).

A full report has been placed on file at the town hall.

Sextons Report: 4 Foundations, 3 Cremations. Girard Township will supply the flag holders for the Veteran flags.

Zoning Report: (7) permits. (2) junk ordinance violations and (1) grass ordinance violation.

Zoning Administrator Jim Webb is asking the board to consider a resolution regarding medical marijuana within the township. Township Attorney Chuck Lillis is working on this.

Treasurer Report: Township's Auditor will have his report from the May 22, 2018 two-year audit completed and ready to present to the board at the July 2, 2018 meeting.

Assessor Report: State of Michigan is looking at Legislative Action to mandate property assessing laws to specify minimum quality standards that every assessing office and assessor's must meet. This change is intended to improve the taxpayer and local government fairness by providing transparent and consistent assessments.

In addition, the goal is to provide dollars for training and start-up to bolster the state's shrinking assessor and board of review talent pools.

MTA (Michigan Township Association) is concerned with this bill. If passed, it could impact areas regarding cost, the loss of local control, the potential for an overreach of state influence on property taxation policy, conflict between county assessing/county equalization. MTA is studying the proposal in depth. Girard Township Marcia Bail opposes this proposal.

Supervisor's Report: Waffle Farm has completed paperwork and a permit has been issued to allow a firework display on July 7, 2018. Approximately 350 mortars.

Kathy Webber of Cypress Creek Renewables sent a letter to the Girard Township Supervisor, Planning Commission Chair, and Clerk introducing herself as one of the new representatives for contact with questions/concerns regarding possible development opportunities of solar panels within the township. Kathy's office is based in Plymouth, MI.

Motion by Supervisor Gene Easterday, Supported by Trustee George Baker to adjourn.

Adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectively Submitted

Kathy Weigt-Clerk

