

## GIRARD TOWNSHIP BOARD

1009 Marshal Rd., Coldwater, MI 49036

517-279-2323

March 5, 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, Treasurer Julie Waterbury, Clerk Kathy Weigt, and Trustee Candy Cox. Note: Approx. 8 public attendees. Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion by** Trustee George Baker, Supported by Trustee Candy Cox to accept the agenda with the addition of Dave Rhinehart. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

**Motion by** Treasurer Julie Waterbury to approve the February 5, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes as presented, Supported by Clerk Kathy Weigt. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

**Motion by** Trustee Candy Cox, Supported by Treasurer Julie Waterbury to accept and place on file the minutes of the February 15, 2018 Planning Commission Meeting. Motion Carried. 5 Ayes, 0 Nay.

**Motion by** Trustee George Baker, Supported by Clerk Kathy Weigt 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.

Public Comment: Public attendee Dave Rinehart came before the board to express his opposition of the Wind Turbines making their way into Branch County. Light Flicker, excessive noise from the generators and hydraulic pumps (most run at peak outlet during the evening hours), Companies will not remove the towers or the bases at the end of the lease. Removal is left to the property owner at a costly price. Turbine motors can start on fire and left to burn. The blades have detached, flying a great distance, causing possible danger to the surroundings

Mr. Rinehart is asking the board to consider a (2) year moratorium regarding wind turbines in Girard Township. According to Zoning Administrator Jim Webb, Girard Township has a well written ordinance regarding solar and wind power systems. However, if the board directs him to add or make changes he will comply.

Unfinished Business: Trustee Candy Cox inquired as to what Supervisor Gene Easterday found out from Attorney Chuck Lillis regarding the grass seeding and mulching of the demolition site after the building is removed.

According to Supervisor Easterday, Attorney Lillis said "How it was advertised is the way it should be done".

Treasurer's report: In the process of preparing and finalizing the settlement reports to be turned over to the county.

Financial side: After reviewing the financial figures, Treasurer Julie Waterbury feels with just a month away, the Income will come in close to budget with the expenses ending under the budgeted amount.

Treasurer Julie Waterbury and Clerk Kathy Weigt are working with the Auditor to set a date for this year's audit.

Assessors Report: Next year we will be migrating to new rates for assessing through Marshall Swift Software. Assessor Marcia Bail will input data into the software, which then calculates the new rate for her to use for assessing properties. This new software will require more memory. A computer upgrade for the assessing may be needed.

Assessor Marcia Bail would like the board to consider budgeting next year for an Apex Sketch Program (software) to add on her computer at the town hall. Marcia has this program (software) on her home computer and feels it would be an asset to have on the computer at the town hall. Especially, during Board of Review. Once again, a computer upgrade may be necessary to handle this program.

Sextons Report: One burial this past month

Zoning Report: Three permits for month of February.

Mr. Webb is requesting members of the Board of Appeals to attend an upcoming training class. March 22, 2018 in Battle Creek MI. Information Brochures will be in Jim's box at the town hall. Would like Attorney Chuck Lillis to advance with court proceedings regarding the clean-up at Peacock Dr.

Robert Hawley filled in for Zoning Admin. Jim Webb during his February absence; Mr. Webb is asking the board to consider Mr. Hawley as his replacement upon retirement in the near future.

Supervisor's Report: Mr. Easterday gave each board member a copy of a letter sent by the Branch County Road Commission signed by Garrett Myland, their Project Engineer. The letter was giving thanks to Girard Township for their past and present partnership in funding for the purpose of maintaining local roads within the township.

Supervisor Gene Easterday would like to set a date for a Budget Workshop and Budget Hearing. Dates considered are March 20, 2018 or March 27, 2018 depending on the publishing requirements. Both the workshop and the hearing will be conducted on the same day with the budget workshop at 6:00p.m and the hearing at 7:00p.m.

Clerk Kathy Weigt will send an email to the other board members when the official date has been determined.

**Motion by** Clerk Kathy Weigt to adjourn, Supported by Trustee George Baker.  
Adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectively Submitted by, Kathy Weigt-Clerk

