

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES Regular Meeting**

Thursday, December 9, 2021

6:00 pm

**Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 N. Briggs Rd., Middleville, Michigan 49333**

MINUTES

**MINUTES
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YS Board of Trustees –
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2021**

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Rob Heethuis

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

Roll Call: Mike Cunningham, Deb Mousseau, Dave VanHouten, Rob Heethuis, Larry Knowles (All Present)

Staff Present: Frank Fiala, Rich Beukema, Dennis Buist, Mike Peiffer

Visitors: 5

CALL TO ORDER

**PLEDGE OF
ALLEGIANCE**

INVOCATION

ROLL CALL

ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

Motion by Knowles with support from VanHouten to accept the agenda. Roll Call Vote:
Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes, Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- Board minutes 10/14/2021 Closed Session and 11/11/2021 Regular BOT meeting.
- November Accounts Payable: Checks #916616 through #916664; total amount: \$43,183.66.
- November 30, 2021 Payroll Checks #7124 through #7142 = \$11,463.48 net amount; November 2021 Fed P/R withholding \$2,947.48.

Motion by Knowles with support from Mousseau to approve the consent agenda. Roll Call Vote:
Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes, Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
AGENDA**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CONSENT AGENDA**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF VISITORS

Catherine Getty (County Commissioner): The ARPA forum meeting was held including presentations of projects that were submitted. More will be known after a proposed timeline is presented at the next meeting. Interviews are being done for the Veterans Affairs Committee.

Carol Balkon (Health Department): She is attending with regard to the expansion of the water system in case anyone has questions.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

None

PUBLIC COMMENT

TREASURER’S REPORT: By Deb Mousseau, Treasurer

- November 2021 Financial Statement and Investment reports were reviewed.

Motion by Heethuis with support from Cunningham to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Roll Call Vote: Knowles: yes, Mousseau: yes; Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO ACCEPT
TREASURERS REPORT**

CLERK’S REPORT: By Mike Cunningham, Clerk

- The current invoice register through 12/8/2021 is \$21,888.46

Motion by Mousseau with support from VanHouten to approve the invoice register. Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Heethuis: yes; Knowles: yes; Cunningham: yes; Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION TO APPROVE
CURRENT INVOICE
REGISTER**

- Gun Lake Improvement Board Report: Minutes of 9/23/2021 are attached.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recycling Committee Update

- Three meetings were held in November. Next meeting is 12/13/2021.
- Continuing to meet with other townships in the county to see what others are doing.
- Looking at the capabilities of different trash and recycling haulers for our township.
- A new sign was put up on the recycling container requesting that items be crushed/flattened in order to maximize the use.
- Sally Smith, Mel Bowman, Tom Lawson and Mike Cunningham are the committee members.

**RECYCLING
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Park Committee

- Meeting has been put on hold until later.
- Land Water Conservation Fund grant status: have not received the cost of the parking lot yet. Since that was the number one goal this is on hold until that is received.

**PARK COMMITTEE
REPORT**

Zoning Board of Appeals Report

- No November meeting

ZBA REPORT

- There will be a meeting on December 14.
- Reappointments need to be done due to expiring terms.

Motion by Cunningham with support from VanHouten to appoint Jake Welch and Ron Heilman to new three-year terms expiring 12/31/2024. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; Heethuis: yes; VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Knowles: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

Planning Commission Report

- November 2021 Report attached.
- Revised site plan for the Grooters development was approved.
- Continuing to work on private road ordinance.
- November 2021 Complaint Log attached.
- Special meeting held 11/10/2021 and regular meeting held 11/18/2021.

Fire/EMS Committee

- November 2021 Yankee Springs Township Fire/Emergency Medical Responses attached.
- Gun Lake Tribe donation of \$5,025 for rapid deployment craft was received. The rapid deployment craft was also received.
 - A news event will be held at the Fire Station on Tuesday, December 14 at 10:30 AM.
- Fire Station fuel tank update: VanHouten reported that he was in error when requesting \$4,000 for this project and the total cost will exceed that amount.
- Privacy fence will be put up next week.

Motion by VanHouten with support from Knowles that we approve another \$4,000 to complete the fuel station/ fuel tank project at the Fire Station for a total of \$8,000.

Discussion: This money will be coming from the Fire Equipment Purchase Fund. The original total didn't include the cost of the actual tank and the fence. **Roll Call Vote: VanHouten: yes; Mousseau: yes; Heethuis: yes; Cunningham: yes; Knowles: yes.**

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- VanHouten is going to ask the committee if there is someone else who would like to be the chairperson. He would like to continue as a committee member.

Water Advisory Committee

- Water tower inspection will take place on January 11th. The water tower will then be pressure washed in April or May.
- December 7th meeting minutes are in the meeting packet.
- Received approval from four property owners to have testing done in the Misak landfill area.
- The committee is one member short and will need to put applications out for another

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**MOTION TO
REAPPOINT PLANNING
ZBA MEMBERS**

PC REPORT

FIRE/EMS REPORT

**MOTION TO APPROVE
FUNDS FOR FUEL TANK
PROJECT AT THE FIRE
STATION**

**WATER ADVISORY
REPORT**

member.

- GLASWA 12/2/2021 meeting minutes are in the meeting packet.

Veterans Committee Report

- Seven more bricks were purchased and have been installed by Don Williams.

VETERANS COMMITTEE REPORT

BOARD ACTION ITEMS:

- ARPA update:
 - 12/3/2021 YST project meeting with Barry County ARPA committee.
 - Township project input meetings should be scheduled to allow input from the community on the usage of these funds.
 - Some consideration should be given to "snow birds" when scheduling meetings.
 - The Township Board will make the final decision on ARPA funds spending.
- A meeting was held last week to discuss the possibility of expanding the water system to accommodate the needs of the residents of Yankee Springs Meadows.
 - The background was that Yankee Springs Meadows requested a meeting with the water board.
 - EGLE and the Health Department had notified them that the indicators are showing that they will need to change their water system in the future.
 - Yankee Springs Meadows asked if they put in a water line to the Yankee Springs Water system would GLASWA take them on as a client.
 - At that time it was indicated that GLASWA did not have the capability to do that so the request was denied.
 - ARPA funds and State grants may be available that would help pay for this project.
 - A meeting was held to share ideas as to how this might be possible if grant money could be obtained rather than using Township money.
 - Waiting for a cost estimate to come back from the engineer, Don DeVries of Fleis & Vandenbrink.
 - Increasing the size of the GLASWA system would not be a negative to the current customers and could help.
 - The initial expense is to do the study and the plan could be paid for by ARPA funds. If grant money was received, it may be possible to reimburse what was spent from the ARPA funds. Yankee Springs Meadows could also participate in that cost.
 - Further information will be brought to the January meeting and possibly have a motion to proceed.
- Office/Hall Renovation update:
 - The first design review meeting will be held on Wednesday, 12/15/2021 at 2:00 PM. About 30% of the design should be complete at that time. This will be a Special Meeting and will be noticed as such.
 - Roger Swets has been contacted to find out when he will send RFP to banks

ARPA FUNDS UPDATE

OFFICE/HALL RENOVATION UPDATE

and to make sure that he is pursuing any benefit to working through the county for the financing. The RFP will be sent out about the same time as bidding is done as a signed contract is needed.

- We should begin to consider not using any financing (pay cash). This would save approximately \$7,000 - \$8,000 in interest per year.
- A decision needs to be made as to where to hold the elections and Township meetings when the hall is being renovated.

- Annual review of attorney contact policy
 - Policy was set last year with the stipulation to be reviewed annually.
 - The board doesn't feel there was a need to make any changes.

- Advertisement for Township volunteers:
 - Due to reestablishing several committees, the Township has depleted their volunteer applications.
 - An ad will be put in the newspaper to solicit new applicants.

- YST committee formalization
 - Is there a need to formalize the committee structures?
 - If so, it can be addressed over the next few board meetings.

ATTORNEY CONTACT
POLICY REVIEW

ADVERTISEMENT FOR
VOLUNTEERS

COMMITTEE REVIEW

MOTION TO APPROVE
2022 MEETING
SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Knowles with support from Mousseau to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. Roll Call Vote: Cunningham: yes; VanHouten: yes; Knowles: yes; Heethuis: yes; Mousseau: yes.

Yes: 5, No: 0. **MOTION CARRIED**

- 2022 Road Commission meeting with Yankee Springs Township will be 01/11/2022 at 2:30 PM at the Road Commission.

- 2022 BOT/PC/ZBA Annual Joint Meeting date at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, 01/26/2022.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (Limit 3 minutes)

None.

BOARD COMMENT:

Mousseau: Taxes have gone out and are keeping busy with that. Merry Christmas.

VanHouten: Merry Christmas everybody.

Knowles: Thanks to everyone for all the work going on and Happy Holidays.

Cunningham: The board members are available in the office so if anyone has a question about anything please stop in or call or email. We are happy to answer questions. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Heethuis: Patrick Jameson came in and had a great conversation. Hopefully some rumors that were going around have been dispelled. Merry Christmas.

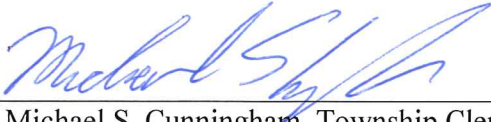
PUBLIC COMMENT

BOARD COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Cunningham with support from Knowles to adjourn meeting at 7:24 PM.
Approved by all. Motion Carried.

Approved by:  Date: 2/11/2022
Michael S. Cunningham, Township Clerk

Respectfully submitted by:
Betsy Frigmanski, Recording Secretary
December 16, 2021