

TENTATIVE (pending approval March 2, 2017)

Riley Township

February 2, 2017

7:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Potts at 7:30 PM. Board members present Feldpausch, Martens, Powell and Lawless. Pledge of Allegiance recited.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Powell, support by Feldpausch to approve agenda as presented. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Feldpausch, support by Lawless to approve January 5, 2017 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Feldpausch, support by Lawless to approve the January 21, 2017 special meeting. Motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Treasurer's report presented showing balances of:

General Fund Checking	\$2390.46
General Fund Savings	\$197730.77
Road and Bridge Fund	\$18611.45
TOTAL	\$218732.68

Motion by Powell, support by Martens to approve treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

RECOGNITION OF GUESTS:

Dave Pohl, Clinton County Commissioner-

- Spent funds recently on technology/heating and cooling
- Upcoming security audit to make sure there are no vulnerabilities
- New technology in patrol cars and cameras in jail in the process of being updated
- New tower has improved officer communication significantly with Central Dispatch
- Jail contract continues to be under negotiation with the State of Michigan, which brings revenue to the county

Roy Thelen, DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority –

- Total runs for January for Riley Township was 5
- Election of officers resulted in Roy Thelen as chair of the board
- 2017/2018 budget is underway, township share will increase approximately \$3300
- Considering transition of burn permits from 3 years to 5 years
- Continue to need more volunteer firefighters

Randy Whitney, Riley Township Land Planning Committee –

- New maps received, will have more information at a later date

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Board of review training will be held Feb 7th, the township is in need of a alternate member for the board of review to serve a two day commitment 3 times a year if an alternate is needed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Doug Riley, Clinton County Community Development Director-

- The county has not received any formal application or communication for a potential wind farm or wind turbine in Riley Township
- Allowed by special land use in the zoning ordinance, after intense review
- Upon application, which is extensive, the county reviews it for completeness and then begins the notification process which includes numerous agencies across the state. Notification also goes to all adjacent property owners, published in the paper, and placed on the website. The township would be notified for the opportunity to review and provide a recommendation to the county planning commission.
- The planning commission would hold a public hearing to hear concerns, and then makes a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners.
- A county map was displayed showing the jurisdiction and the associated zoning districts
- Most of the township is A2, which is primarily agriculture which allows special land use for wind farms although it does need to meet the specific requirements of the ordinance
 - Can the township change the zoning?
 - They would have to make a request to the county to amend the zoning ordinance
 - Is there a limit around an airport approach?
 - Those would have to be approved through the FAA
 - Can the county over rule the townships recommendation?
 - Yes
 - What is the counties attitude toward wind farms?
 - The director can't speak to that
 - Is the county soliciting this from DTE?
 - No
 - Concern is expressed over the visual barrier that will be caused
 - What is the root of this coming to our area?
 - Mandate for all energy providers to produce renewable energy sources
 - Can the township draft their own ordinance?
 - This is very resource intensive and not feasible for the township to administer their own zoning
 - The director shared that it is illegal to completely ban a specific land use
 - Is the special use permitting process a compliance check or does public input have impact on the approval of the application
 - If you had a height restriction at the township level, would the county override it?

- The township can make a recommendation to the county to limit height, but can't make an ordinance that is more restrictive
- When the application becomes available, it is easier to make factual comments about compatibility with the community
- Does the company come in and speak to land owners prior to making application
 - Yes, they need to assure they have a viable project before completing application requirement
- So the zoning can do what they want with our property?
 - No, only you can enter into a lease with the company and no one can force this onto your property
- There would be involvement of the FAA due to the numerous runways in the vicinity of the township
- The county has set back requirements, etc that would impact the amount of land they need and noise restrictions that would impact the ability to commence, as well as migratory bird studies
- Many factors that could impact the project before it were to even commence
- Resident from Bengal Township stated that setbacks for shadow flicker and sound are from dwelling, not property lines
- The ordinance allows 30 hours of shadow flicker on houses
- Residents are encouraged to read the ordinance
- What would be the mechanism to keep everyone involved and informed of activity?
 - All information is posted on the Riley Township website
- It would be advantageous for the board to let everyone know if or when an application is received
- Our roads would not support the weight of the traffic that will come to our community during the construction phase of this project
- Atwell Services may approach property owners in the coming weeks to assess interest

2017 Lawn Care:

Recommendation that it be bid for the year, Clerk Powell will compile a bid packet and advertise for a decision at the March meeting

Salaries:

With no motion made, the salaries will remain the same for the upcoming budget year.

Budget Meeting:

The budget will be set for March 28, 2017 at 7:30 PM

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Motion by Feldpausch, support by Lawless to approve bill warrant dated February 2, 2017. Motion carried.

ADJOURN:

Motion by Martens, support by Feldpausch to adjourn, meeting closed 8:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Lisa Powell, Clerk