

Three Oaks Township Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2023
Spring Creek Schoolhouse

Regular meeting call to order at 7:00 pm.

Pledge to the Flag

Roll Call: Present, Mitchell, Osburn, Gordon and Mangold. Absent, Zabel

Meeting recessed at 7:05 for Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to Donors for the Restoration Project: The Pokagon Fund, The Allen Turner Family, The Berrien Community Foundation, The Fredrick Upton Foundation, The Heart of Cook Foundation, The William J Deputy Foundation, The Michiana Arts Foundation, William McCollum Architects, Triton Construction Services and Family and Friends of Spring Creek Schoolmates. Project Chairman Christian Mitchell expressed words of Thanks. Refreshments were served.

Meeting reconvened at 7:30

Public Comment: None

Agendas: Motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Mangold requested that the Electrical Inspector's Invoice for the year of \$4,883.20 be added to the December Bills to be Paid; bringing the total to \$27,384.14. A motion by Mitchell, supported by Osburn, to approve the Consent Agenda with the adjusted Bills to Paid estimated total of \$27,384.14. Roll Call: Ayes, Osburn, Mitchell, Gordon and Mangold, Nays, None, Absent, Zabel. Motion carried 4-0-1

Old Business: With Pokagon Fund Executive Director, Dan Peterson present, the Board was updated on the possible interest of the Pokagon Fund in obtaining the Three Oaks Elementary School property and with the possibility of including the parcel of land currently owned by Three Oaks Township which includes the Community Gardens. Mr. Peterson expressed that the process will at lease take 16-18 months to obtain the school buildings so at this time they are unable to assess the probability of considering the Township's parcel.

Mangold presented to the Board the Approval Letter of the Deficit Elimination Plan from the State of Michigan, Department of Michigan on the Roads and Bridges Fund.

New Business: Three Oaks Township Fire Chief Dave Flick presented a letter outlining the challenges faced by the Fire Departments along with Details for Consideration. Chief Flick asked for a proposed Resolution of support from The Three Oaks Township Board of Trustees to proceed with the process of exploring the establishment of a Fire Services Regionalization

Effort. New Buffalo Township Fire Chief Jamie Flick and Chikaming Township Fire Chief Allen Weich were also in attendance.

A motion by Mitchell, supported by Gordon, to a Support Resolution, allowing to proceed with the Fire Services Regionalization Effort. Motion carried 4-0-1

Mangold gave an update on the discussions and the proposed cost to bring Broadband throughout Three Oaks Township. Midwest Energy & Communications (MEC) has been selected and awarded a ROBIN Grant to provide High-Speed Broadband throughout Berrien County. A survey conducted in 2022 showed that 33% (435 parcels) in Three Oaks Township currently are underserved or have no service available. Berrien County is asking \$650 per parcel (\$282,750) from Three Oaks Township to bring this service throughout the Township. The timeline for with Terry the project calls for construction to start, in Berrien County, in the second quarter of 2024 with Three Oaks Township scheduled construction, if approved, in the third quarter of 2025. Mangold had a telephone discussion with Commissioner Teri Freehling on seeking a lower amount per parcel charge and discussed the possibility her and Terry Rubenthaler, COO, MEC addressing the issue with the Township Board in perhaps a Town Hall meeting in the Spring of 2024.

Motion by Mangold, supported by Gordon, to reappoint Dan Versaw and Christian Mitchell to the Planning Commission for a Three Year Term: 1/1/2024 – 12/31/2026. Motion Carried.

Mangold presented communications from Clerk Zabel, supplied by the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, requesting the importance of compensating Election Officials appropriately. The information will be reviewed and changes, if any, will be addressed in the 2024-2025 Township Budget presentation in March, 2024.

Final Public Comment: None

The meeting adjourned @ 8:30 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024, 7:00 pm at the Township Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

George A. Mangold