

January 12, 2021 Edenville Township Board Meeting

- Invocation given by Terry Hall
- Terry called meeting to order
- Pledge was given
- Roll Call: Jim Sperling here; Crystal Starkey here; Karen Carey here, Anedra Lewis here, Terry Hall here.
- Crystal moved to approve Agenda for January 12th Board Meeting; Anedra seconded
- Karen moved to approve Minutes from the regular Board Meeting held on December 8, 2020. Jim seconded. Tenses to be consistent in future.
- Anedra moved to approve Minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on December 18, 2020. Crystal seconded.
- Board Reports:
 - Clerk's Report: Anedra asked for a motion to approve pay the Payment of Bills. Jim seconded. Discussion: did we find the missing receipt for \$10. Terry asked if the Trustees had time to review the bills: both Jim and Crystal concurred. Jim moved. Crystal seconded. Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes; Terrance: Yes.
 - Financial Report: Karen Carey asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report as well as the Special Assessment Bills (Republic Services and Midland Co Treasurer). Jim moved and Anedra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes.
 - Supervisor Report:
 - spoke with Midland Area Community Foundation; Started a dialogue with them regarding grant money availability for Granson Park, proposed Heritage Trails Park
 - Roads: First one is for Enchanted Forest Drive, Lake Forest Lane = \$28,200.00—both private roads and won't cost the Township any money. Terry will entertain a motion; Karen moved; Anedra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Terry: Yes
 - Road Commission: Sandy Ridge/Cedar Dr. \$187, 245; Levely/Water Rd/Flanders Beach to Curtis/Baker Rd. Drainage= \$46,763.50; Star Rd drainage = \$95,996.62; Shearer Rd/M18 to Bergman = \$23,640.10; Shearer Rd Bergman to Dead End \$26,474.27; Fike Rd, Lk Sanford to Verity \$42,883; Shaffer Rd, Lk Sanford to Skenes *2/Skenes Rd, Shaffer to South *2 = \$40,464.29
 - Total = \$208k (plus change) in total in cost to the Township
 - Karen moved to allow Supervisor to sign Midland County Road Commission to do said road work; Anedra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes; Terry: Yes
 - Special Meeting for Harper Park FEMA grant funding: \$29k to repair and give Harper Park a facelift, including an elevator to better serve the elderly and those with physical disabilities.

- Public Comment: What about an assist that goes down to the water. Terry says that is a possibility. Many options available depending upon what we are allowed to do
- Public Correspondence: Mr. Carey: Please install a new street light at the intersection of Water Rd. and Fike Rd. A street light may well have prevented the accident that occurred there. This will not increase the Township costs. Roger Dufresne concurred with Bill Carey's sentiments from his experience with the Fire Dept.

Correspondence: Telephonic notification of possible ordinance violation: First complaint was made regarding the sign at the corner of Water Rd and Curtis Rd. That was resolved peacefully with the homeowner. The second complaint was too ambiguous and could not be resolved. So, Terry sent a letter that included the official complaint form. Then Terry received this voicemail: Voice mail left for Terry Hall from Tami Luty (Ranke)

It is Past time for someone to enforce the township ordinance to have the Trump Campaign signs taken down that go N on Lake Sanford Rd to Curtis Rd and West on Curtis Rd. We've talked about this before you sent me that nice little packet that you could have emailed to me and saved the township the postage, it would be much better for our finances if we started using electronic. But regardless I got the package and my name is not spelled Tammy but Tamie I think I spelled it for you when we spoke but that's ok I'll spell it again Tamie. I am at a loss as to why our Republican township supervisor that's you refuses to enforce having the campaign sign removed from the properties on the Curtis and Lake Sanford Rd fields I counted 7 or 8 signs today as I drove by. Either come up with an explanation as to why the republican township supervisor is refusing to do this to enforce this, or maybe there is some reason that this person is being protected, this republican person is being protected by a republican supervisor, in any case it's against the law, so Id like you to enforce the ordinances, at this point and time I have kept this private on social media with friends of mine.but it is apparently in order to convince them that it is against the law I may have to publish something on public social media sites and maybe get some people to tell me why it is not being enforced, something as simple as taking political signs down when the law says they can no longer be displayed on the property. Do I sound a little tense or upset I am because I want you to do the job that my taxes are paying you to do. That's all Thank you Goodby.

No number

No email

Already submitted to Jerry Cole.

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- Karen said Tamie Luty also came into the Township Office to make yet another complaint to Karen; Karen asked if she would like to speak with the Supervisor, and Tamie said “No I have already spoken to him.
- Terry said there is no time for Edenville Township Officials to drive around and figure out every single taxpayer that may be in violation of some code. This is why we have a formal process for complaints such as this. Folks have to complete the complaint form in order for the process to work.
- I went to the homeowners property to discuss with them this issue. The signs that they have are well off the side of the road, off the easement, and my personal opinion is that they are expresses of free speech and their right to communicate their beliefs, political or not.
- Karen said she was always under the thought that if the sign says “paid for by XXXX” then that can be construed as a political sign; if it does not have that then it can be considered art. Jim concurred and agreed with this.
- Terry said if we have a sign or a flag that supports who or what we support in our own private yard, it is not for us to say whether they can or cannot have it. If it is too near the road or on the easement, then yes we can enforce it. But, otherwise, it is not within our legal rights to enforce this complaint.
- Public Comments:
 - Elizabeth Dole Foundation Representative, Stephanie Hall: “Caregivers have a host of responsibilities...that’s why community support for caregivers and providing them with opportunities to connect with one another is absolutely essential. To date, over 160 cities and counties from coast to coast have signed onto this initiative in support of 5.5 million spouses, parents, children, and other loved ones caring for America’s wounded warriors at home....It is time that our communities embrace them and provide the support and recognition they deserve.”
 - Terry: by passing this resolution we open the door for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation to assist us in helping Veterans and their caregivers. They provide personnel, funding, and materials to help us assist and celebrate our veterans as well as their caregivers. Mrs. Hall has also worked with the Governor to become a Representative on the Elizabeth Dole Foundation.
 - Karen, we also have a County Rep, Brian Ross, right? Also, Stephanie, you can help veterans in our area if they have concerns or need help?
 - Stephanie: Yes, we can offer a number of resources to our local veterans and their caregivers. Recently, we delivered over 1,000 care packages to Michigan veterans. We also provided them with other resources and extra support. We had folks nominating care givers to receive these resources and care packages.
 - Jim: I know Galen worked on a Veteran’s list but I don’t think it has been updated.
 - Terry: You and I can work together on updating that list. We can at least start with those folks who request a Veteran’s Tax Exemption.

- Anedra made a motion to adopt this resolution and Crystal Seconded.
 - Public Comment: PLEASE HAVE A SPEAKER AT THE NEXT MEETING FOR FOLKS WHO CAN'T HEAR THE BOARD'S DISCUSSION
 - Anyone on the phone who would like to partake in public comment? You do not have to identify yourself to speak. (asked three times; no one spoke).
 - Is there anyone present who would like to speak on Public Comment:
 - Dr, Jocelyn Jacobs, I have lived on XXX for 30 years; I used to own a Veterinarian Clinic in Freeland and just sold it to a company. Retired, got bored and volunteered to help other Veterinarian in the area. Apparently, the complaintant about the signs is upset with me. She never contacted me in any way. Last Wednesday, my boss forwarded me an email that she sent to my boss that said how could he have someone like me working for him and that he should fire me. My boss wrote back that what she does on her property is her business. She is a good Veterinarian. I feel targeted and do plan to file a police report; I don't like the idea of social media threats because that can affect my license and job and personal life. I had already planned to take the signs down once Biden was I am also getting a Theological degree. I plan to fly a flag that says "Protect our Constitution"
 - Jerry Cole: I drove by when Terry contacted me, yeah you had a couple little signs and a flag in the yard. But here's the thing, there is no law that you have to move the sign. If you are on an MDOT Road there is an ordinance; our ordinance is a slippery slope about all sorts of signs. A penal punishment of a fine is part of what changes people's behavior. She (the complaintant) is confused on the law; yes, in the law municipalities are bound to enforce laws, but NOT ordinances. It would break every municipality in the state to enforce every code on the books. It would consume a lot of the Township's money that could go to other things.
 - Dr. Jacobs: What is the size ordinance for a sign I can put up in my yard?
 - Terry provided her a copy of our Township Sign Ordinance. Even law enforcement can't ticket every single person who drives above 55mph on Meridian Road.
 - Anedra to Jerry: Aren't the majority of the sign ordinances on the books in regards to signs on the easement and/or road right of way. Jerry: not on these roads, only MDOT roads.
 - Terry: Any other public comments (x3). No additional public comments.
- Committee Reports:
 - Jerry Cole: Nine open complaints left over from last year; right now, just zoom meetings, pretty hard to get enforcement. Plus, everyone knows no one is going to jail. So, I can continue on writing letters, having court dates. As we hope life will come back to normal someday, I have only been charging a nominal amount to do Zoom meetings; but what can we really do if we can't put anyone in jail or enforce violations.
 - Karen: Can you still do the tickets?

- Jerry: Yes, I can write a citation; I still have to do the investigative work (\$50) then the Zoom meeting (\$50). I took it upon myself to drop the fee from \$100 to \$50.
- Karen: How effective do you think it would be to write those?
- Jerry: 80-% of the time you can absolutely tell when you talk to people that they are going to get right on that and do something about it or not.
- Karen: It seemed to be quite often that the ticket would inspire them to do something at least—some sort of progress. I don't think we should just forget them and not send the letter.
- Jerry, okay, we can continue to do the letter. In 2019, pre-Covid, over 70% of the letters were effective, but that is not the case in 2020.
- Terry: What does the Board want to do with this type of situation? Years ago where I lived, a guy was ordered to put up a ten foot fence to "hide" the blight.
- Jerry: blight like that created rodents living there which negatively effects neighbors and the area.
- Karen: I think you have done a wonderful job, Jerry. I think we should continue to send the letters.
- Crystal: Can we document the number of letters, number of investigations, and number of court appearances to help us make the case when we go to court after Covid in person?
- Jerry: Yes, I keep good records of the letters, investigations, court appearances, jailings, etc. We can lobby the judge to exercise those bench warrants.
- Anedra: I would think if it is a safety hazard, then it should be put to the top of the list. If it isn't a safety hazard, maybe we don't pursue it right now.
- Jerry: Yes.
- Terry: If we can't enforce something that is a threat to the health and safety of our citizens, do we go to the County or to the State Department?
- Jerry: We go right to the State Department.
- Terry: I agree with Karen, and it sounds like the Board agrees too. But, moving forward, we have to recognize that enforcement mechanisms are strained.
- Karen: Agreed, but we should continue to write, especially new, letters.
- Terry: Maybe we can try to talk to folks in person and try to have it resolved without official documentation; then, if it can't be resolved we send a letter. Maybe if we can do this until the court dockets are cleared, we can be more efficient in the future.
- Terry: Process questions regarding notifying Jerry of our code enforcement violations.

- Jerry: I usually take the violations/complaints from the Supervisor. When I talk to people about a complaint, I don't share the name of the complainant.
- Roger Dufresne: Fire Department Report: 226 runs last year;
 - Terry: When you do get the ATV stuff and do the training, please work with Crystal so we can put out a PSA about the ways in which the ATV is helping the training our first responders.
 - Roger: One guy had a stroke; I don't know if he is going to be able to come back. And, I have another guy who is looking to move out of the Township, so I am losing two guys.
 - Jim: Do we have any more of those things we handed out?
 - Roger: They were Smoke Detectors and no we don't have any left.
- MaryBeth Seasholtz Parks & Rec Report: In addition to implementing parks we also have to consider the cost and time to maintain all parks. We are having a meeting on January 25 at 6:30. Harper Park; Gransden Park; Swanton Hall; have to update our five-year recreation plan. One of the things we discussed is a kayak launch. I personally think a better position for a kayak launch is at the "Y". Although that is technically under the purview of Midland County Parks and Rec, they won't invest any money in it. They would probably allow us to do it provided we have the money to do so, but it would remain owned by the County.
 - Terry: I have had discussions regarding the Heritage Trails Park, which ended up as, basically, don't even bring it up for at least two years. I argues that with all of the equipment, manpower, etc., now is the perfect time to engage in this work. There are different avenues to get this work done as long as we are willing to work with many other organizations to bring these efforts together to be successful.
 - Jerry: DNR Access Grants; Workshop coming up—sent that to Terry.
 - MaryBeth: Question about the website: Used to be a Parks & Rec email that went directly to my email; does that exist?
 - Terry: Anedra will look into that.
 - MaryBeth: Sanford Youth League is going to be using the Gransden Park; they will be around in April, games May/June. In the past, I would "sign out" Gransden Park on the days the youth league would use it. Sanford Youth League was supposed to maintain the infield and Edenville Township is supposed to maintain the outfield. But we don't have the tools to allow the Youth League to maintain the infield.
- Planning Commission-- Crystal: The Board has not met
- Zoning Board of Appeals—Jim: The Board has not met. The new bylaws are update and in the files.
- Water District #1—Terry: Our Governor has made it that we can't shut water off to people, so some people's bills are piling up. Also put in regulation tools to check flow rates, etc. This system controls the electronics of the flow rate. Water

District is doing great and is well on its way. I appreciate the Board appointing Craig to serve with me on this Board because I am still learning.

- Public Comment: If there is a significant increase in water demand, I mean we are at the end, so we get what's left over. Is there any anticipation to anticipating the use of water and maintaining pressure.
 - Terry: I am in favor of closing the loop, but I am not too happy about the cost and other aspects of doing it.
 - Karen: But we do have that water pump that is supposed to maintain the water pressure.
 - Public Comment: If there is a significant increase in use, it could effect the pressure and amount of water for those of us on the end.
 - Karen: It is my understanding that the pump is there to protect you from that sort of thing from happening.
 - Terry: Could start a new special assessment; only operating at about 60% or anticipated capacity to begin with.
 - Jim: Code Authority: We met on the 16th, and we did adopt a new policy to how they report and if they have a red tag on a piece of property, it never made it back to the board in time for a meeting. We have implemented a policy that if a red tag is issued, it has to be submitted to all board members within 24 hours. We often have folks who try to slide around the Code Authority; some of the permits are not visible for the Inspectors to see it (not inside/locked up). July 28th at 5pm at the County Building is our next meeting when we will discuss this. Permits issued to Edenville Township this past month:
 - Terry: There is an abandoned trailer between Fox Rd and Water Rd at 765 Baker Rd. The door is hanging off and some of the windows are open. But I am not sure how to go about investigating this without involving law enforcement.
 - Jim: if Karen can give me the occupants name, we can start the process.
 - Jerry: The occupant lives next door with her brother.
- Old Business:
 - Terry: Accelerated Forfeiture Act: If you are hit with this and you are behind in taxes, you have to pay all of the taxes all at once or you lose it.
 - Karen made the motion to renew this resolution 2021-01: Resolution for Certification of Abandoned Property for Accelerated Forfeiture. Anedra seconded. Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes; Terry: Yes. Terry declared this resolution adopted.
 - Terry: Resolution 2021-02: Edenville Township Resolution Regarding the Use of Township Credit Card. Anedra moved to approve this resolution; Jim seconded.
 - Discussion: (Jim) Please make sure when we are using the charge cards, our Township is tax exempt, and we should NOT pay taxes. In the last four years it equated to over \$400, that's \$100 per year that we lost of tax payers dollars. If vendors don't want to do business with us because we are tax exempt, then we take our business elsewhere. The board all

- agreed we will not pay taxes in the future to help save tax payer dollars.
Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes; Terry: Yes.
- Terry: Resolution 2021-03: Edenville Township Resolution to address the Collection of Payments or Refunds on Taxes Under/Over \$5.00. Karen moved approve this resolution; Crystal Seconded.
 - Terry: Explanmation for the public benefit: if the discrepancy is below \$1 or above \$5, the Treasurer will not request a check or send a refund check, respectively. Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes; Terry: Yes.
 - Terry: Declaration of Local State of Emergency: Authority to Employ Temporary Employees G-2-2-2020. We sent this to the legal to be reviewed, which cost us some money.
 - Karen: But we are dealing with FEMA and need every I dotted and T crossed, so I commend Terry for his efforts here.
 - Terry: It is exactly the same resolution that was in place before that allows the Township to hire emergency employees if the Township Supervisor declares a local state of emergency. We had to implement this because we didn't have a policy in place to pay folks for their work during the flood; this policy will protect us if something like that ever happens again. Jim moved to approve this policy; Anedra seconded. Discussion:
 - Jim: it was great what those guys did; FEMA told us to 1099 them, but that would have caused so much headaches for us, that we were finally able to create this policy with the help of FEMA for future use. It was a pain for over three weeks.
 - Terry: Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes; Terry: Yes.
 - Terry: Recognizing past folks for their time and effort—
 - Karen: I have the certificates
 - New Business
 - Terry: Policy G-1-2021 Edenville Township's Electronic and Telephonic Meetings Procedures. What I don't like about this policy is it puts us in the box for reasons Policy and Procedure G-1-2021: Edenville Township's Electronic and Telephone Meetings Procedure. The one thing that bothers me about this is the restrictive reasons to be absent from a Township meeting. I would like to keep the telephone option as something we continue to use beyond Covid.
 - Crystal moved to approve this policy; Jim seconded.
 - Roll Call Vote: Jim: Yes; Crystal: Yes; Karen: Yes; Anedra: Yes.
 - Internet Service at Swanton Hall, Township Hall, Gransden Park, Harper Park
 - Internet Options: Century Link; Parish
 - Terry: Discussed with Lapham regarding a bid for the Parks and Rec Five-Year plan. It is my understanding the Parks and Rec Committee will seek other engineering firms for an estimate.
 - MaryBeth: The Parks and Rec will bring forth two quotes with a recommendation of which the committee would like the Board to go with.

- Parking Lot: I would like to put in a parking lot in the green space near the Township Office, where there is little parking. The parking would be useful for Gransden Park, Harper Park, and the Township Office. For right around \$60k, we might be able to get a parking lot put in there. Is this something the Township is interested in doing?
 - Karen: we have talked about this in the past, and I think we could use it.
 - Jim: I don't mind looking into it; it depends on how it is structured. We don't want just a wide open flat, black asphalt. We should take into account future planning for Harper Park and Gransden Park when we further this discussion.
 - Anedra: Fact Finding costs nothing.
 - Crystal: Sounds good.
 - Roger: You have to know where your septic field is.
 - Karen: We know where it is, and it's not where we were hoping it to be.
- Gransden Park Improvements: Among the improvements proposed at Gransden Park, I would like to research and look into a small splash park.
- Public Comment:
 - Bill Carey: Service using for the connection of the phones—You (Terry) are the only person I can hear.
 - Anedra will investigate the cost of tabletop microphones
 - Terry: we received your correspondence, Bill, and it is on record.
 - Bill: okay, thank you.
 - Roger: I know we are still closed on the Swanton. I have people calling me left and right. What are we going to do?
 - Terry: They must receive a copy of the Governor's orders and sign a release form of sorts that they understand the risks and are proceeding anyway, and have a gathering that is illegal, the risk is on them.
 - Crystal: Does such a waiver exist? We will have to create that document.
 - Jim: I have no problem renting it out, but the cleaning will be significantly more and that cost will have to be added so that the Swanton Hall can be cleaned according to Covid regulations.
 - Karen: Do you think we should research our liability?
 - Crystal: Maybe we should ask the people who do the cleaning to see if they are willing to do it.
 - Roger: We should have to investigate a sprayer that sprays the whole building and walls and everything.
 - Public Comment: Research what other Townships are doing and not re-create the wheel.
- Terry entertained a motion to adjourn: Karen moved to Adjourn; Anedra Seconded. Time is 7:20pm by the Swanton Memorial Clock.