

**Sumpter Township
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
23480 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111
Minutes**

NOTICE:

To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, protect the public health, and provide essential protections to Sumpter Township residents; this Board of Trustees' meeting was conducted virtually in compliance with State of Michigan Governor's Executive Order(s) and MDHHS directive(s) regarding remote public meetings.

Meeting called to order by Supervisor T. Bowman at 6:53 pm. Roll call: Supervisor T. Bowman (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI), Clerk E. Hurst (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI), Treasurer J. Clark (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI), Trustees: Oddy (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI), Rush (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI), LaPorte (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI) and Morgan (Wayne Cty, Sumpter Twp, MI). Also showing present: Deputy Clerk Burdick, Deputy Supervisor O'Connell, Deputy Treasurer Clark, Safety Director/ Chief of Police Luke, HR Bellingham and 14 attendees.

- 3. Agenda:** Motion by LaPorte supported by Morgan to approve the Agenda with the following amendments;
14. New Business, Item A; add "not to exceed \$1,600.00."
14. New Business, Item F; remove last sentence "Requesting DPW to assist with providing a partition with the cost not to exceed \$500.00."

Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

- 4. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:** No Comments.

5. Minutes:

Motion by Rush supported by LaPorte to approve the following Regular Board Meeting Minutes and accept the following Parks & Recreation Meeting Minutes;

- A. Approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2021.
- B. Accept Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2020.
- C. Accept Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 15th, 2020.
- D. Accept Parks & Recreation Executive Board Meeting Minutes of February 19th, 2020.
- E. Accept Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of August 19th, 2020.
- F. Accept Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of January 20th, 2021.

Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

6. Warrants:

- Motion by LaPorte, supported by Oddy to approve the warrants total of \$3,108,489.32. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.
- Motion by Oddy, supported by Rush to accept Revenue & Expenditures Report for period ending 01/31/2021. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

7. Parks & Recreation/Chambers Report - Rush:

- Trustee Rush reported that no recent news on Parks & Recreation activities and that he is following up with Don Swinson and the local Chamber of Commerce(s) to collect information on their activities, as well. Motion by Oddy, supported by Morgan to accept the Parks & Recreation/Chambers Report. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

8. Water & Sewer Report - Clark:

- Trustee Oddy inquired and Treasurer Clark discussed the current status of water shutoff activities due to the COVID restrictions and its impact on outstanding water bill collections. Motion by LaPorte, supported by Morgan to approve the Water & Sewer Report. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

9. Planning & Zoning Report - Oddy:

- Trustee Oddy advised of the 2/11/2021 Planning Commission and the review, legal compliance of the Signs Ordinance activities with a follow up to this business scheduled for 3/11/2021. He asked that Attorney Young address the current member(s) assigned to the commission and the requested increase from (7) to (9) members.
- Attorney Young advised that the member(s) will increase to (9) total as adjusted in a new bylaw to the Ordinance and stated that this be no more than a 15-day publish period (due to it not being a Zoning Ordinance), if approved and adopted by the Board with this reports' motion and roll call vote. Motion by LaPorte, supported by Hurst to approve the Planning & Zoning Report. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

10. Senior Report:

- Meals on Wheels is distributed on Mondays to 48 Homebound clients
- TEFAP (Commodities) Program distribution is on the third Thursday, (March 18th) from 9:00am to 11:00am we distribute drive thru style at the rear hallway entrance, if you have any questions please call Maryann 734-461-9373.
- Call the Senior Center office 734-461-9373 for assistance going online to register/schedule covid-19 vaccine at Meijer or RiteAid.
- Our Senior Center is a MICAFE site offering assistance applying for the Bridge card or other benefits one may qualify for call Maryann for more information
- Free Masks (provided by Wayne County) for Sumpter Residents are available on the front porch of the community center and Township Hall.

Motion by LaPorte, supported by Morgan to approve the Senior Report. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

11. Treasurer's Report - Clark:

Motion by Clark, supported by Morgan to receive and file the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

12. Board Response:

- Trustee Rush noted a recent negative letter published by the Belleville Independent on the Sumpter Township warming center and the Fire Department / Police Department first responders. The same reporting was used to disparage the community's cooling center. He further indicated the inaccuracies and false statements in the letter. Trustee Oddy agreed and noted that Sumpter Township still has a continued need to defend itself from false statements and inaccurate information being shared with our residents. Many who only have the Belleville Independent to rely on for community information. Chief Luke advised of the actual activities and notifications in support of the community with its warming and cooling center.
- Attorney Young noted to the Board the dynamics of the local media and reporting by the Belleville Independent with little expectation that this will change.
- Chief Luke addressed current COVID vaccines, its availability and his assurance that any updates or news on this issue would be communicated immediately with the Community via Nixle alert, social media pages of the Fire & Police departments, the Township website and Channel 12 notifications.

13. Unfinished Business:

- A. Motion by Morgan, supported by LaPorte to appoint Eric Partridge to the Planning Commission with an effective term date of (3) years from Ordinance approval and date of oath. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: Oddy and Rush. Motion carried.
- * Motion by Oddy, supported by Hurst to approve the reappointment of Bart Patterson with a term date of 01/11/2024. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

13. New Business:

- A. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to direct the Sumpter Township CWA Planner/Engineer to define connection points with surrounding communities for Sumpter's access to the Michigan pedestrian bike trails program not to exceed \$1,600.00. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.
- B. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve Elle Cole O'Connell as Deputy Supervisor yearly salary as part time, less than 20 hours per week to perform the statutory duties of the Supervisor in his absence at a yearly salary of \$8,406.00. No additional benefits in addition to her duties as our financial director, effective February 12th, 2021. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush and LaPorte. Nay: Morgan. Motion carried.
- C. Motion by LaPorte, supported by Oddy to accept the Sumpter Parks & Recreation Commission recommendations to cancel the Easter Egg Hunt, Sumpter Festival, Family Day and any other events till August, 2021. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.
- D. Motion by Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve to, in recognition of the current freeze on all capital expenditures placed by the Board of Trustees on December 15th, 2020, paint and purchase office furnishings for the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor offices, total cost for both offices not to exceed \$5,000. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.
- E. Motion by Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve of Treasurer James Clark and Deputy Treasurer Toni Clark to attend the Michigan Municipal Treasurers Association 2021 Basic Institute-Full Conference \$450.00 each. Dates 4/26 thru 4/29/2021. The Conference is now by Zoom, full day trainings. Municipal Member ship fee \$150 must be paid in advance. Total cost \$1,050.00. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.
- * F. Motion by Oddy, supported by Rush to approve opening the Township Hall to residents for the last two days taxes can be paid on 2/26 and 3/1/2021. Also requesting consideration that the front area past the treasurer's office be blocked off to the public. The front door will only be the point of entry for residents to pay bills. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.
- G. Motion by Morgan, supported by Hurst to approve of Resolution # 2021-06 regarding Parks Millage Funding Allocations for fiscal year 2020-2021 in the amount of \$11,478. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

14. Announcements:

- ** Trustee Morgan advises that the office of Wayne County Executive, Warren Evans has offered to team up with Sumpter Township for a project with Habitat for Humanity and Forgotten Harvest. Trustee further advises that she will pursue additional information and coordinate with the Sumpter Township Community & Senior Center.
- Trustee Morgan stated that she would like to discuss at the next workshop the possibility of a Grant Writer to assist Sumpter Township in taking advantage of available funding support for projects and initiatives.

15. Open Floor: Two (2) attendees spoke.

- Eric Partridge, newly appointed member to the Sumpter Township Planning Commission, advised that he wished to resign from this appointment. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to accept the resignation of Eric Partridge from the Sumpter Township Planning Commission effective immediately. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

- 16. Adjournment:** Motion by Rush, supported by Morgan to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Rush, and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:
Anthony Burdick, Deputy Clerk
Sumpter Township

Esther Hurst, Clerk Date

Timothy Bowman, Supervisor Date

*Amended during Regular Board Meeting
**Added with consideration during 3/9/2021 Regular Board Meeting