

**Sumpter Township
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 13, 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 6:04 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, Chief Januszzyk and 23 attendees.

3. Agenda: Motion by Oddy, supported by Rush to approve the agenda. 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 were received.

5. Minutes:

Motion by Oddy, supported by Morgan to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of March 23, 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 Rush, supported by Oddy to approve warrants totaling: \$ 1,689,399.27. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

7. Supervisor's Report - Bowman: No Report.

Motion by Rush, supported by Oddy to approve the Supervisor'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.

8. Attorney's Report - Young:

Twp Lawsuits & Adversarial Proceeding 33%, Insurance matters 0%, Employee matters 2%, Township Board meetings 7%, Meeting with Twp Officials 7%, Water & Sewer 12%, Police, Fire & Prosecutions 17%, Ordinance & Blight 3%, Labor Contract/LOU 6%, Republic 0%, Planning 2%, Library 1%, Parks & Recreation 1%, Storm Water Management & MDEQ 1%, Board Direction 5%, Audit/Finance 0% and Misc. 3%.

- After approximately 27 years, the litigation of Futernick vs. Sumpter Township has been settled.
- Attorney Young advised of MDHHS modifications on the public meeting directives that also removed the State attendance orders on indoor public meetings.

Motion by Rush, supported by Morgan to continue virtual Board Meetings through April, 2021 and reassess at the April 27th, 2021 Board Meeting for future meetings. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

- Attorney Young stated that the promotions for Police Officers Toth & Gannon are well deserved.
- Attorney Young addressed a letter to the editor that was published in the Belleville Independent allegedly by Treasurer (then Candidate) James Clark, its allegations, sources of information and inaccuracies.

Motion by Rush, supported by Oddy to approve the Attorney'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.

9. Police Report - Chief Luke:

Motion by Hurst, supported by Rush to receive and file the Police 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. Building/Ordinance Report - Bowman:

Motion by Oddy, supported by Rush to receive and file the Building/Ordinance 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. Fire Report - Chief Januszzyk:

- Chief Januszzyk thanked the Van Buren Township Fire Department for the assistance in fighting a barn fire.

Motion by LaPorte, supported by Oddy to approve the Fire 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 LaPorte inquired of Attorney Young the status of a Resolution to address final pay requiring Board approval. Attorney Young indicated that this could be presented to the Board at the April 27th Board Meeting.
- Trustee Rush reminded all of the Parks & Recreation April 24th, 2021 Earth Day event and cleanup at Banotai Park from 10am to approx. 4pm and that volunteers are needed. Also, SkyWarn Training that is scheduled for Thursday evening, April 15th, 2021.

13. New Business:

- A. Motion by Morgan, supported by Oddy to approve of promoting Police Sergeant John Toth to Lieutenant. 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 of promoting Police Lieutenant Patrick Gannon to Captain. 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:

- A. Clerk Hurst advised that the Sumpter Township Community & Senior's Center will be closed from May 5th to May 17th, 2021 due to staffing.

15. Open Floor: No Attendees spoke.

16. Closed Session: pursuant to MCL 15.268{e} and {h} to consider attorney-client privileged material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal law relative to employee confidentiality.

Attorney Rob Young introduced Mr. James Steffes, representative of MAFF and advised that, as the spokesperson for Ms. Colleen Armatis, Mr. Steffes requested the meeting stay in Open Session. Attorney Young further advised that, at any moment, this request could be withdrawn by Mr. Steffes. Mr. Steffes confirmed this request. Attorney Young also advised that as agreed there would be no time limitations on the discussion and all items should be addressed to Mr. Steffes.

Mr. Steffes, MAFF addressed the Board on the identified issues.

Chief Eric Luke gave a briefing of his investigation and his findings. In an earlier email, The Board was provided copies of the Sumpter Township Fire Department Payroll/Audit Investigation and Chief Luke's subsequent regrettable recommendation; Request to Terminate Employment of Firefighter Colleen Armatis, based on his findings.

Motion by Rush, supported by Bowman to terminate the employment of Firefighter Colleen Armatis. Roll call vote: Ayes; Trustees Oddy, Rush and LaPorte, Clerk E. Hurst, Supervisor T. Bowman. Nays: Treasurer J. Clark, Trustee Morgan. Motion carried.

17. Adjournment: Motion by Morgan, supported by Rush to adjourn at 8:50 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by,
Anthony Burdick, Deputy Clerk
Sumpter Township

Esther Hurst, Clerk Date

Timothy Bowman, Supervisor Date