

Sumpter Township Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 27, 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 6:29 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 14 attendees.

3. Agenda: Motion by LaPorte, supported by Morgan to approve the Agenda with the following edits;

REMOVE: 14. New Business, Item B
REMOVE: 14. New Business, Item C

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 Oddy, supported by Rush to approve the Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 13, 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 Morgan, supported by LaPorte to approve the warrants total of \$144,899.52. 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 the Parks & Recreation April 24th Earth Day & Cleanup event went very well. He was very pleased with the Volunteer turnout and the results. The Volunteers brought their own tools and contributed a full day's effort! Trustee Morgan added a big thank you to all who assisted in cleaning our Parks.
- Trustee Rush wanted to thank the 1st Responders who attended the recently held SkyWarn Training. This was the first training held in 2 years due to COVID safety concerns and one of only a few sessions held in all of SouthEast Michigan this storm season.

Motion by LaPorte, supported by Oddy 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:

Motion by Clark, supported by Morgan to receive and file 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 that the Zoning Board of Appeals met on April 1, 2021 and approved, with stipulations, 3 Pole Barn variance applications.
- Trustee Oddy noted that the Planning Commission is currently working on the existing Sign Ordinance. The main focus of the Commission is to meet compliance with current Federal regulations, with results submitted to the Board over the next few months.

Motion by Rush, supported, by Morgan 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 - Hurst:

- The building will be closed from May 5th to May 19th, 2021 Maryann will be out of town.
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise class is on Monday's and Thursday's at 10:30 approximately 8 participants.
- Bible Study meets on Tuesday's 10:15.
- Cardio drumming is outside with fresh air under the pavilion at 6:30pm on Tuesdays and Thursday's. This is an inter-generational event with Grandma's, Moms, daughters, granddaughters, and Fathers! Equipment is available and membership fee required.
- Meals on Wheels is distributed on Mondays and Thursdays to 48 Homebound clients.
- TEFAP (Commodities) Program distribution is on the third Thursday, May 20, 2021 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.
- Our Senior Center is a MICAFAE site offering assistance applying for the Bridge card or other benefits one may qualify for call Maryann for more information.

Motion by Morgan, supported by Rush 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 Morgan, supported by Hurst 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 Morgan stated that she wanted to respond to questions from the residents about a couple of issues. The first being about Forgotten Harvest. Unfortunately, Forgotten Harvest decided not to conduct activities in Sumpter Township due to a Sumpter Township employee's behavior with the visiting Wayne County and Forgotten Harvest representatives.
- Trustee Morgan remarked to the issue of two ex-employees receiving exorbitant final payouts and, in one case, 3 months' benefits continuation and mistakes being covered up and not addressed. Trustee Oddy granted the floor by Point of Order and asked Supervisor Bowman to shut Trustee Morgan's Board Response down due to the inappropriate public allegations regarding Sumpter Township employees. Supervisor Bowman granted the Point of Order request.

13. Unfinished Business: None.

Trustee Oddy stated that the Board Response should not be used to publicly berate employees.

14. New Business:

A. Motion by Rush, supported by LaPorte to approve to purchase a 2021 Ford Police Interceptor Utility for the police department from Atchinson Ford for \$39,564.14. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Rush, and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

D. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve of Amended Resolution 2021-06 regarding Park Millage Funding Allocations for fiscal year 2020-2021 in the amount of 17,662.00. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Rush, and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

E. Motion by Oddy, supported by LaPorte to approve of Resolution 2021-07 regarding Park Millage Funding Allocations for fiscal year 2018-2019 in the amount of 15,880.00. This resolution will amend resolution 2019-10 approved by the Board of Trustees on June 25, 2019. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Rush, and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

F. Motion by Morgan, supported by Rush to approve of the attached for infrastructure project plan for capital improvements and grant applications. Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst, Treasurer J. Clark; Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte, Rush, and Morgan. Nay: None. Motion carried.

15. Announcements: None.

16. Open Floor: None spoke.

17. Closed Session;

- A. (at the request of Joe Januszzyk only) if not than an open meeting, pursuant to MCL 15.268 (a) to consider disciplinary action including dismissal, suspension, or other disciplinary action, as to the Township Fire Chief Joe Januszzyk and to review confidential information provided by the Township Attorney and Public Safety Director which is exempt from public disclosure by statute or federal law.

Attorney Young advised that the contract employee, Chief Joseph Januszzyk, has the option to conduct this session in Open Meeting or Closed Session. The Attorney indicated that he spoke with Chief Januszzyk and his wish was to conduct this session in Open Meeting. Chief Januszzyk concurred. Attorney Young advised that this session will be held in Open Meeting. Supervisor Bowman restated the Session consideration.

Chief Januszzyk advised that he had no problem with the Whistle-Blower involved in the recent events and wanted to insure all knew his position on the investigation prior to Board action. He stated he was advised of an employee that made statements and he made a mistake by assuming it was 14 months prior based on the investigation activities, although Chief Luke corrected Chief Januszzyk stating that it had been approximately 2-3 months prior.

Supervisor Bowman indicated that the Whistle-Blower was only an additional indication of what Chief Luke's investigation revealed. That Chief Januszzyk had not been properly doing his job for 14 months. Based on this, he felt he had to take Chief Luke's recommendation of action. Chief Luke clarified his report and investigation in that it did not recommend the termination of the Chief's contract and that this needed to be a Board action. He wanted to ensure his opinions were not part of the Board's decision and that the Fire Chief's comments at the prior meeting were the current reason for review and decision.

Trustee Morgan inquired as to what the Fire Chief said at the past Board Meeting that now compelled cancellation of his contract. Supervisor Bowman stated that the facts of the investigation spoke for themselves and that there's been plenty of time for Board Member review to take action. Supervisor Bowman further stated that the Fire Chief's actions at the past meeting, by calling out the Whistle-Blower were inappropriate

Chief Januszzyk indicated that during the last meeting he'd had a long day in response as well as fatigue and a medical condition that influenced his statements and attitude. He stated he never mentioned the Whistle-Blower, only a Township employee.

Trustee LaPorte advised that the Fire Chief stated that the person who came forward on the issues was just as guilty as she (C. Armatis) was. That was the Fire Chief's statement regarding the Whistle-Blower. For 14 months, the Fire Chief had no oversight on payroll and he signed his name for each of the 14 months at the bottom of the payroll and attested they were correct. There is evidence of payroll fraud. Those are the facts. Oversight was the Fire Chief's responsibility, no one else. The Fire Chief indicated he never denied responsibility.

Motion by LaPorte, supported by Rush to approve of, with respect and without cause, the termination of the employment contract for Chief Joseph Januszzyk effective immediately; appointing Mr. Richard Brown as interim Fire Chief of Sumpter Township Fire Department with the same as previous Chief.
The motion was explained to Chief Januszzyk by Trustee LaPorte.

Roll call vote: Yes: Supervisor T. Bowman, Clerk E. Hurst; Trustees: Oddy, LaPorte and Rush. Nays: Treasurer J. Clark and Trustee Morgan. Motion carried.

- B. Pursuant to MCL 15.268 (c) to review and discuss updates and strategy regarding the pending negotiations with COAM regarding wages.

At 7:12 pm, Motion by Rush, supported by Oddy to move into Closed Session. Roll call vote: Ayes; Trustees Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan, Treasurer J. Clark, Clerk E. Hurst, Supervisor T. Bowman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 7:34 pm, Motion by LaPorte, supported by Rush to open the Regular Board Meeting. Roll call vote: Ayes; Trustees Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan, Treasurer J. Clark, Clerk E. Hurst, Supervisor T. Bowman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

At 7:35 pm, Motion by LaPorte, supported by Oddy to accept the Attorney's recommendations and actions as advised during the Closed Session. Roll call vote: Ayes; Trustees Oddy, Rush, LaPorte and Morgan, Treasurer J. Clark, Clerk E. Hurst, Supervisor T. Bowman. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by LaPorte, supported by Rush to virtually conduct the scheduled Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 11, 2021. Roll call vote: Ayes; Trustees Oddy, Rush and LaPorte, Clerk E. Hurst Supervisor T. Bowman. Nays: Treasurer J. Clark and Trustee Morgan. Motion carried.

18. Adjournment; Motion by Rush, supported by Oddy to adjourn at 7:38 pm. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:
Anthony Burdick, Deputy Clerk
Sumpter Township

Esther Hurst, Clerk

Date

Timothy Bowman, Supervisor

Date