

Meyer Township  
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Regular Meeting Minutes  
December 19, 2018

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Bob Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Present at the meeting- Robert Smith, Mark Schoen, Sheryl Lauscher, Andrew Fazer and Beth Bertolini.
3. **A Motion to approve the agenda was made by Andrew Fazer, supported by Mark Schoen. Motion carried 5-0.**
4. Guest- John Anderson, Assessor- John said that the software upgrade that BS&A had recently completed might make property values change without proper reasons. To make sure that our tax rolls are being assessed properly after this update, they are going through each property that has a building or structure and comparing values from last year to look for reasons for any increase or decrease. They are trying to make sure that there will be no reason for property owners to have any incorrect assessments because of this software upgrade. Bob DesJarlais has all building permits, homesteads, transfers and deeds are up to date and have been entered into the system. John said that the MTA stated that all BOR members need to be reappointed in December. We will need to make this official at our next meeting and the BOR members will need to be given the oath of their office. The AMAR (audit of minimum assessing requirements) is due for our township in June or July of 2020. He said that many townships are getting this review done earlier and we should be prepared for that.
5. Public Comment- Bob, a member of the Rebels Motorcycle Club addressed the meeting. He started by saying that they will be doing some improvements to their building this spring. They are proud to be members of our community and would like their clubhouse to reflect that. They intend to continue to be a part of our community events like the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration and helping with the Fireworks Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner. At this time Joe Spinnato spoke on behalf of their club and furthering their community involvement by giving a \$500 donation to the Community Food Bank run by the Community Action Agency here at the Hermansville Senior Center.

Their group would like to make this a regular part of their involvement and they would be happy to donate in whatever way is most beneficial whether is in cash donations or if they'd prefer food donations. Our Board will present this check and these intentions to Pam Haluska, head of the Hermansville Senior Center and put them in touch with each other so they can do whatever is best for the Food Bank. They are considering asking for donations for the food bank from their members during one of their summer parties.

6. Public Comment- Levi Danielson inquired if our board had made any decision on Medical Marihuana facilities within our Township. At this time our board is still using the "Wait and See" attitude. We would like to find out how our residents feel about this and how these facilities are working out in other Townships. This is the same process we are using for the now legal use of Recreational Marihuana. Before making any decisions that will affect our township we would have at least one Public Forum Meeting and make decisions based on several factors. This Public meeting will be announced in our minutes and will be advertised in the Luft's Advertiser.
7. Consent Agenda- Bills, Minutes and Treasurers Reports- **A motion was made to approve the Bills, Minutes, and Treasurers reports by Beth Bertolini, supported by Andrew Fazer . Motion carried 5-0.**
8. Action Item- SAW Grant Completion- Guest, Robb Anderson of GEI- In 2013 our Township applied for a SAW grant. (Stormwater and Asset Management and Wastewater) The grant recipients were chosen through a lottery method. Meyer Township was granted \$192,000 for the purpose of assessing the condition of our entire sewer system and taking inventory. The work on inspecting our system was managed by GEI Consultants. It was their goal to set us up with complete information to give us a sewer asset management plan (AMP) The goal of an AMP is to analyze the system and use that information to determine the cost of maintenance, repair and replacements to maintain the desired level of service. By performing pre-emptive maintenance and timing repairs before they become emergencies, the township can make the most of their funds over the long term. GEI and other professionals took inventory, inspected manholes, pipes, lifts stations and lagoon cells. Televising, vibration testing, smoke testing, mapping from our old maps and GIS mapping were among the different means our system was evaluated. Some problems we already knew existed and through various testing others were discovered and repaired. At the end of the project our sewer system was evaluated to be in fair to good condition. There are some areas that require necessary repairs that are not causing serious trouble

at this time, but we will have to make those repairs this year to avoid any real problems that could cost us more later. The SAW Grant funds are used for inspection, testing, and inventory of a system. None of those funds are used for repairs or any other purpose. The findings of this report showed that our current sewer budget is not in line with what is needed to keep our system financially solvent. The recommendation from the AMP shows that we will need to raise our customer rates and continue to do so at a rate that keeps up with inflation. There has been no raise in sewer rates for around 8 years. This raise in rates can help us keep our system in it's current good condition for years to come. The work on this project took three years to complete. A copy of the SAW Grant AMP was provided to each Township Board Member. It will be available for viewing by the public.

9. Action Item- Land Division Application- Michael Denis. Michael Denis submitted a Land division application and is asking to have it approved at this meeting. Kandace Curran from the Board of Equalization has already given her recommendation to approve it. This does not require a motion or Board approval, but it requires a signature from the Township Supervisor. Bob Smith signed the approval and Beth will send copies to Kandace Curran, the State of Michigan and to the property owner.
10. Action Item- Gold Medal Tournament Concessions- Andrew said that he is going through the rotation of groups who usually take turns running the Gold Medal Concessions. The NCA Guarantee Scholarship Group has never been considered and he will check with them to see if they are interested.
11. Action Item- MCRC Roads Update- Mark Schoen had papers from Jim Moraska (Spalding Township Supervisor) asking that our board go on record on how we feel about the MCRC having a 3 member board or a 5 member board. Our board discussed the extra costs involved with having a 5 member board. We also discussed the benefits of having a wider group of people involved in making decisions which affect our roads. Mr. Moraska's letter stated that some of the costs of having 2 more members on the MCRC Board could be lowered by encouraging the board members ride share to meetings and look into their mileage, per diem, meals and registration fees. Mr. Moraska would like to have us vote on this matter and send our decision to the County Board or to Joe Linder. **A Motion was made by Andrew Fazer, supported by Mark Schoen that we ask that the MCRC Board become a 5 member board. Motion carried 4-1.** Beth will send a copy of these minutes to the Menominee County Board and to Joe Linder. The annual meeting between Meyer Township and the MCRC will be held on January 21 at 6:30 p.m. in Stephenson at the MCRC Office. We will need to

have a list of road priorities, problems with roads and have questions prepared for the meeting. It is only a half hour meeting so we don't have much time to state our concerns. All Township Board members are encouraged to attend.

12. Public Comment- Janet Ducat reminded the Board about getting more electrical outlets in the new pavilion before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.
13. Board Comment- Sheryl said that there is a resident still waiting for his fire number. Beth said she is still waiting for us to have enough of the same style of fire numbers to get the discount as was advertised when we began the process of offering new fire numbers to the public. She will contact this resident and explain the situation. Mark said another resident is still waiting to be issued a fire number for his camp.
14. Board Comment- Andrew said that there is a nice display of struss engineering in the Christmas spirit at Wendricks Truss. Wendricks won a MiTek Christmas Tree Design challenge to truss building companies in the US and Canada. The winning lighted display is located in front of Wendricks Truss Shop.
15. Board Comment- It was brought up that the people wanting to be on the Volunteer Fire Department should work together on carpooling and taking the test seriously. The Township paid out lots of mileage and many did not pass the test. It was asked if all vehicles are insured in or out of the township. Beth spoke with our insurance agent and he said anytime a vehicle is used by a Board approved firefighter it is insured anywhere it needs to go.
16. Board Comment- A big thank you from the Meyer Township Board goes out to Tim Stein and Superior Evergreens for the lovely wreath on the door of the Community Club. Also a big thanks to Hafeman Evergreen for the Christmas tree outside of our front door. These donations are much appreciated by our Township Board and our residents. Thanks again and happy holidays.
17. Adjournment- **There being no further business before the Board a Motion was made to adjourn at 7:45 pm by Beth Bertolini, supported by Sheryl Lauscher. Motion carried, 5-0.**