

**DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP**  
**MARCH 3, 2021**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**VIA ZOOM**

**Present:** Terry Anderson, Amy Laper, Tom Jeppesen & Ronda Snyder

**Guests:** Norm Stephens, Christy Baldwin, Josh Nolan, Matt Moorman, Scott Carr, Todd Wells, Kylie Wells, Sheila Crooks, Ann Lavery, Brandy Bunting, Melissa Bannen, Evi Petersen, Robert Nelson, and more.

7:13 The meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. Amy made a motion to accept the Agenda, Ronda supported the motion. Motion passed.
2. Amy made a motion to accept the minutes from the February meeting which was held in 2 parts (Feb 3, 2021 & Feb 10, 2021) because of Internet issues. The motion was supported by Tom. Motion passed.
3. Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report which was supported by Ronda. Motion passed.
4. Amy made a motion to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$27,665.26 and any others that come in during the month so that they are paid before the end of our fiscal year. Tom supported the motion. Motion passed.

**Public Comments:** Terry explained that the Board understands the community wants a more restrictive Wind Energy Ordinance and he asked that people keep their comments to 2 minutes and about something other than wind energy.

Agenda states that while we can't tell you what to take about we understand a lot of Township residents do not want WES or would like a strong WES Ordinance so we request that we use this time to address other items. Thank You.

1. Ronda wanted to let everyone know that she is planning a community wide yard sale for the spring and has scheduled one for May 13th - the 15th. In the event of inclement weather we will move it to May 20th - the 22nd. She will place the ad in the Daily News.
2. Norm Stephens of Elmer Township in Carol MI. Talked about "Lies & Truths". Some key items were that the Wind Company for the towers by them said "We won't build near a lake" & "We won't build south of M-81" yet they did. He said they said they don't know the location of the proposed build sites yet the very next day the sites were listed on the FAA web page. In their April Planning Commission meeting they said \$50,000 was all you would need to decommission a wind turbine and then in November when the wind company realized they were losing public support, they said it would cost \$675,000. "Nothing they (Wind Companies) say means anything unless it is in the Ordinance".

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3. Christy Baldwin of N Sheridan Rd. Wanted to let everyone know about an article in the Gratiot County Herald. It is an article about an energy company suing the township over the taxes on a Wind Turbine.
4. Josh Nolan said we (the Township) needs a comprehensive Ordinance to address everything and not to allow wind companies to say we can address it at the application stage.
5. Matt Moorman of N Hillman Rd. Told us he went to the meeting that Apex set up because they told him they would address the lake setbacks, however they didn't address it. He said he knows of some proposed wind tower sites that would be in direct line with their float planes landing and taking off.
6. Scott Carr of Veterans Ave. Scott said he was driving through Gratiot County at 5:00 a.m. the other day and he couldn't believe all of the lights he was seeing from the wind turbine towers. He encouraged everyone to drive through there at night so they could see for themselves what it is like.

Terry wanted to let everyone know that we are working on replacing Doug Poulsen and that by the next meeting they will have someone new.

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

1. Set dates for Budget Meeting and Budget Hearing. After some discussion the board settled on March 18 for the Budget Meeting and March 25th for the Budget Hearing.
2. Amend current budget. Ronda spoke about some of the overages like election salaries. The state strongly suggested we have more workers than usual and she knew that one would be over. She also mentioned Planning Commission Printing and Attorney fees as being over. The total overages is \$12,716.60, however we also had \$43,500.38 in budgeted expenses that came in under budget so it is just a matter of taking some of the money from the under budget items and adding it to the items that came in over budget. Amy made a motion to amend the budget. Tom supported the motion. Motion passed.
3. Clean up day: Terry asked that we have 3-4 trucks. Ronda will email them.
  - A. The date is set for April 24th, 2021.
  - B. We asked for at least 6 volunteers and some of the residents volunteers their time.

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C. If you bring "shovel Off" items then please bring help to shovel it off. Board members who are working will no longer do shovel offs.

4. Amy let everyone know that she is done taking taxes and as of March 1st. residents have to go to the County to pay them.

With nothing further to discuss Amy made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom supported the motion. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.