

Thetford Township  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
July 25, 2016  
4014 E Vienna Road  
Clio, MI 48420  
6:30 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board of Trustees.  
There was a moment of silence in observance of all military past and present.  
The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Eileen Kerr at 6:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Supervisor Eileen Kerr, Clerk Leanne Pennington,  
Treasurer Ayotte, Trustee Cousineau, Trustee Congdon, Trustee Stevens,  
Trustee Gunnels

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief Robert Kenny, Attorney Robert Swartwood,

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to approve June 27, 2016,  
Regular Board of Trustee minutes as presented. Vote 7-0 Motion Carried.

### **Additions to the Agenda**

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Cousineau to add under  
presentation 1) Award to Thetford Township Police Department from Safe Wise, 2) Mott  
Community College. Vote 7-0 Motion Carried

### **Brief Public Comments:**

Public comments began at 6:35 p.m Ended at 6:45 p.m. Four comments were received.

- Who covers if a board member is unable to attend the Drainage Commission meeting? Do we have an alternate?

Supervisor Ker ~ yes I usually get someone to go, I didn't make it last meeting so I had called other township supervisors to get the information

- Public Safety Committee when are they going to meet again?
  - The Public Safety Committee had met at a regular posted meeting. Their recommendation are being implemented, namely:
    - Give the special assessment and the other monetary changes that were made an opportunity to take effect.
    - Wait until after Plante Moran completes this year's audit.
    - Develop an independent committee to analyze this year's completed audit. Analyze our public safety needs. Be given

access to police and fire information. Make a recommendation to the board on what is necessary to maintain a police and fire force.

The 3 person committee will be: Kevin Lawrence, Alan Levijoki and Denny Bloss.

- Would like to thank the board for efforts on helping clean up North Morris Estate, Thanking the township for safely getting the huge brush pile taken care of that was very close to some trailers, building codes have been broken and I will be getting with the township's building inspector. We have filed complaints with HUD for monthly inspections without notices, scrapping tags off of homes and then moving people in them, defacing properties. Thank you Chief Kenny for driving through there and checking things out.
- Was hoping we were getting somewhere with the Lewis Road situation. Handed the board a copy of the Genesee County Road Commission truck routes and nowhere on this paper does Lewis Road highlighted and would like to have us follow Vienna Township Truck Ordinance.
  - It should be noted that Thetford Township does not have any truck routes. The paper, which was handed to us, was the truck routes established by the Genesee County Road Commission when the **frost laws** are in effect during the spring.
- Earl Alexander from Metro Sanitation ~ since the last meeting we have made the following changes in effort to rectify the situation;
  - Purchased a plant on Hill Road, so that trucks can pick up and drop off loads there that way it stops afternoon traffic.
  - Have made half of the trucks go south and half go north which has cut about 80% of the traffic on Lewis Road.
  - Start at 6:00 am. And end between 5:30-7:00 p.m.
  - Drivers are told if they are close to Birch Run Road that they are to take that road and not Lewis Road.
  - Have made it that all trucks are to drive 45 mph.

### **Presentation**

- Supervisor Kerr presented a certificate to Chief Kenny and Thetford Police Department from the Safe Wise on being #4 safety area in the State of Michigan.
- Mott Community College Public Affairs Representative Thomas talked about the growth of MCC. Explained where there funding comes from through tuition and the millage that is expires and is up for renewal on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> election ballot. Distributed information explaining the millage.

**Correspondence:** None

## Supervisor Report:

Reminded everyone:

- Since 2002, State Revenues have **increased by 29%**, while revenue sharing, the money we receive from the state sales tax, has **decreased by 56%**.
  - Lansing is **requiring the townships to do more with less**, while Lansing **is doing less with more**.
  - Wayne County Executive, Warren C. Evans, "Investing in Michigan Communities: Finding Fair Funding for Strong Successful Communities."
  
- Committee to analyze our new audit results and funding for Public Safety. The Committee will begin working after the publicly presented audit is completed and presented.

The committee includes: Kevin Lawrence, Alan Levijoki and Denny Bloss
  
- ***Be careful of people presenting simple solutions to complex issues.***
  
- Received Public Notice from the GCRC. The GCRC has applied to the DEQ for a permit to begin working on the Center Road closed road bridge.
  - Thetford Twp share is \$62,000, which is in this year's budget. Total cost \$225,000.
  
- ***All township budgets must be balanced by April 1<sup>st</sup> if the township's fiscal year ends March 31<sup>st</sup>. If your budget is not balanced the state will not allow you to open the doors.***
  
- I'd like to remind everyone that Thetford Township has a 7 member board and one person cannot accomplish anything. I have heard of one potential trustee who has promised people on his first day he will escort certain employees to the door...that statement is pure nonsense with a zero touch of reality.
  
- The **supervisor writes the agenda** and the **clerk prepares and prints the agenda**. Approved agenda items are due by noon on the preceding Wednesday prior to Monday's meeting.
  
- The contributions to the **Alan M Kerr Memorial Fund have totaled \$2,553.24** to date.

## Treasurer Report:

- End of June 2016, book balance is \$354,508.76

### **Clerk Report:**

- Fund balance as of July 21, 2016 is \$405,806.37
- Received the reimbursement of \$1,130.77 for May's Mt Morris Election.
- Deputy Clerk had emergency back surgery on July 11, 2016. Hired a part time election helper to work 8:00 a.m to noon Monday thru Thursday.

### **Bills for Approval:**

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Trustee Congdon to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call. 6-1 Nay ~ Trustee Stevens, Motion Carried

### **Building Inspector's Report:**

Accepted.

### **Committee Report:**

- Police ~ was given by Chief Kenny
  - ATF was unable to help due to the fact of the time lapse
  - House break-ins are on the rise in the last week and a half
  - If you need a report taken please call 911, we are not always in the office
  - I have asked Davison City Police Department if we could borrow their speed trailer radar, it will be placed in various places within the township. This is not a speed trap it is only for educational use to get people to slow down in the areas that we have the most complaints.
  - Ordinance enforcement is continuing
  - I have found out that if you want to file a complaint and the complaint makes it to court then you cannot stay anonymous. If you remain anonymous, we do not have a case.
- Business Fee ~Chair Eric Gunnels, Martin Cousineau and Gary Stevens have not met together yet. Trustee Gunnels however did go and talk to Juanita from June's Floral about transient businesses. Gunnels believes that we may have something in our present ordinances that may be able to help this situation. Asked Chief Kenny or Attorney Swartwood for assistance.

Supervisor Kerr called Theo Gantos up to the microphone.

Theo Gantos ~ is on the Zoning Board of Appeals, I have been reading the ordinance 78 and there is an open air use that I have left a message to talk to Building Inspector Worthing about, which I would like to go over with him to see if it would apply. It has to do with approved structures.

- Roads ~ The GCRC has asked the townships not to approve more towers because of the overhead lines, all permits need to be brought to Genesee County Road Commission attention and not the individual townships.

**General Business:**

A. Unfinished Business

1. Lewis Road

- Analysis of Lewis Road Petition – The residents of Lewis Road in a petition have basically asked for their road to be closed to a private company. This is what I am suggesting:
  - The location of this company’s base is Tuscola Road North of Willard.
    - The company’s main route is taking Tuscola Road southwest to Dixie Highway and this is approximately 1 ½ miles. Tuscola Road is a better road than Lewis and in good condition.
    - Vienna Twp through board action in the form of an ordinance has closed off Tuscola to truck traffic.
    - If we close Lewis Road to truck traffic, the truck traffic would move to Bray Road...basically, this would be showing very little leadership by simply “passing the buck,” but not solving the problem.
    - After much discussion, it was decided to have Supervisor Kerr talk to Supervisor Joe Rizk and to communicate the unintended consequences to their neighbor, Thetford Township, of their action many years ago by closing Tuscola Road to truck traffic.

Motion by Trustee Gunnels, supported by Trustee Cousineau to have Supervisor Kerr communicate to Vienna Township Supervisor Risk on the Lewis Road issue. All in Favor. Motion Carried

2. Open sealed bid for Senior Center Parking lot (CDBG)

Motion by Trustee Gunnels, supported by Trustee Congdon to accept the bid from Better Enterprises for the Senior Center Parking lot. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

**B. New Business**

1. Delinquent Sewer Charge back to Genesee Township

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Cousineau to pay Genesee Township \$1,673.04 for delinquent sewer charge back. Roll Call Motion Carried

2. Thetford Township Park and Rec ~ using money to fix the front of the Historical Building in the amount of \$687.91

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Trustee Congdon to close the Thetford Township Park & Rec Fund and move the \$687.91 to the General Fund. Roll Call 6-1, Nay ~ Trustee Stevens Motion Carried

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Clerk Pennington to put the \$687.91 in the revenue side 101-000.000-610.000. Roll Call 6-1, Nay ~ Trustee Stevens Motion Carried

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Trustee Congdon to amend the Old Township Repair and Maintenance fund 101-266.000-930.000, Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

### 3. Police Donations ~ police body cams and dash board cams

Chief Kenny just informed the board which ones he is looking at. Doesn't need board approval the money he is going to use is from the Alan Kerr Memorial and Brady Memorial. For information use only.

### **Brief Public Comments**

Stared at 8:08 p.m, Ended at 8:25 p.m. There were eight comments received from the public.

- To Chief Kenny, this is regarding the resent break-ins.

Chief Kenny ~ they are breaking in anytime of a day, keep an eye out on your neighbors. Hitting mostly in the Farrand/Lake/Belsay areas

- County has been getting a lot of the complaints on the Lewis Road issue, glad to see a little compromising.
- Has Bray Road become commercial? Rural Thetford doesn't need a noise ordinance, Chief Kenny have you looked into the civilian dash cams? Look at them, they are a little cheaper and seem to have good video, Chief Kenny the speed trailer that you are going to be getting can you please take it to Bray and Tobias Road at the bottom of the hill? A lot of wild life run around there that are getting hit
- Lewis Road, why doesn't Metro follow truck route.
  - Thetford Township has no truck routes. The truck routes mentioned in the GCRC handout from the resident are in reference to truck routes used when the "frost laws" are in effect in the spring.
- Gentleman lives at the end of Brynes Drive he can hear the Metro Sanitation trucks from his house.

- Earl Alexander from Metro Sanitation likes the idea of going to Vienna Township and thanks the board of trustees for their cooperation and ability to seek a solution.
- Swamp on Bray Road between Wilson and Vienna, swamp is growing. In her opinion, the ditch needs to be opened up, Public Safety ~ when are they meeting again? Was supposed to meet before September?
  - This issue was addressed in the Supervisor's Report, which is previously listed in these minutes.
- Lewis Road, what are you going to do with Lewis Road? Still have no answers
  - No definite answers but many suggestions and possible solutions were addressed.

**Board Member Comments were received**

**Announcement:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m

Leanne Pennington, Clerk  
Thetford Township