

Synopsis
Milton Township
Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2021

Members present: L. Bargy, S. Ball, L. Atkinson, and T. Cole.

Members absent: B. Pharo, excused.

Also present: Attorneys B. Derman, C. Weinzapfel, J. Ball, B. Hefferan, and 10 audience members

Bargy called the meeting to order at 7 pm and the Pledge was recited

Agenda Approval by consent

Approval of regular meeting minutes of April 12, 2021

Changes:

Under ZA Report: For future spell out Beckett & Raeder

Motion to approve by L. Atkinson/T. Cole. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Pat Skarnulis of SW Torch Lake Drive expressed his thoughts about the proposed traffic study. "I hope it includes a safety study." He discussed his concerns about the safety of the area.

Robin Fortina of Cherry Ave., said she's in favor of the traffic study. She states that people do not go the speed limit. It is very difficult just trying to get out of her driveway.

Joyce Grammar of Elk Tip Drive said if there are people who aren't obeying the traffic laws, call the sheriff's department.

Andy Blodgett, legal representative for the applicant of the Torch Lake RV Park. He said the traffic is bad there, but the project doesn't warrant the traffic study. The use by right includes seasonal RV Park. MDOT doesn't require a traffic study. Beckett and Raeder didn't mention a traffic study. Blodgett said if those funds are authorized, you folks want a traffic study required.

Jim Brewer of Torch River Road said they're partners in the RV Park. Beckett and Raeder did an independent study. They didn't interview the applicant. They used the wrong ordinance. Beckett and Raeder would have been on tape saying no further traffic study is warranted but that tape is lost. These games are enough, every time we kick the can down the road, it reduces the village income by half. We've been honest, and the permitting process here is worse than I've ever seen.

Brenda Haso of Torch River Road said there are 108 private owners on Torch River Road, and the only way out is to go on to Cherry Ave, and it's gotten worse over the years. A traffic study is needed because it's already dangerous. Something must be done.

Peggy Doty of Fairmont Drive said the fire chief wrote a letter about concerns of the parking and traffic in the area. Torch River Road is very difficult to get in and out of.

Letter from Tim Smith, property owner on Chippewa Trail, read by Mary Skarnulis of Torch Lake Dr. The letter asked for a hydrological study to be done to determine how the RV Park will impact the watershed.

Sheriff's Report

Provided in the packet
101 calls for service for April.

Fire Department Report: by Chief J. Ball

Nine calls for service in April. Staff physicals have been completed. We collected over \$1200 for MDA during clean-up day. Kidde has recalled some smoke alarms/carbon monoxide detectors over concerns they may fail to alert. You can contact the company for more information. Update on training. Discussion of possible additional training requirements in the legislature.

Zoning Report: by C. Weinzapfel

Application for land combination and lot line adjustment. Weinzapfel presented an application form and would like to charge \$25 application fee for the combination and lot line adjustments.

Motion to approve the application and a \$25 fee for land combinations and lot line adjustments by T. Cole/L. Atkinson. Motion carried.

Planning Report: by B. Hefferan

The RV Park Subcommittee will discuss their report. The people who submitted an application to revise the winery ordinance have removed their application for consideration at this time. We are looking at a special use permit for boat maintenance. Atkinson asked if the planning commission will form a subcommittee to look at steep slope ordinance. Hefferan said that will be addressed tomorrow.

Ambulance Report

There is a report in the packet

Attorney's Report: by B. Derman

Fireworks ordinance went into effect last month. Discussion of possible legislation on short term rentals. All townships were subpoenaed regarding the Antrim County election fraud case. All of those subpoenas were quashed by Judge Elsenheimer. Update on Birch Lake Rd., zoning violation.

Library Report: by L. Atkinson

The board meets this Thursday. A report will be posted on the website after the meeting.

Supervisor's Report: by L. Bargy

Bargy said he spoke with the DNR about the boat launch at the Torch River Bridge. They are working on getting a design consultant. It doesn't look like it will be completed this year.

Working to get the board together to discuss the sewer extension on Elk Tip Drive once Pharo returns.

Unfinished Business

a. Proposal: Beckett & Raeder, Inc. Traffic Analysis

Bargy stated that we aren't approving weather to do the study or not, just making the money available.

Bargy received a report today from Gourdie Fraser and a comment from an MDOT representative who said that the area wasn't conducive to doing a traffic analysis there. Atkinson said we should make the funds available to the Planning Commission to decide what they believe they need to do. Bargy said he doesn't feel it's necessary.

Cole said that area is very unique. The MDOT Representative is looking at a standard development. This is an extremely congested area. I don't feel qualified to make a decision of this nature. If they do the study and say there is no problem, then fine. However, we need someone with experience to make that determination.

S. Ball said she's surprised that Beckett and Raeder didn't mention the study, as mentioned earlier. I would like to make the funds available and then the Planning Commission can make the determination.

Motion to approve the funds for the traffic study near the proposed RV Park development by L. Atkinson/T. Cole. Motion carried 3-1. Bargy voted Nay. All others voted yea.

b. Tree Removal Bids

Both companies bid on the same scope of work. S. Ball confirmed and reviewed the bids. Motion to approve Top View Tree Service for \$3230 by L. Atkinson/S. Ball. Motion carried 4-0

c. Grancicus: Host Compliance renewal Agreement

Motion by L. Atkinson/S. Ball to renew the current service agreement for \$4686. Motion carried 4-0

d. JNJ Roofing: Old Town Hall Addition to Project

Motion to approve bid for \$42,000 that will include removing the old shingles and re-shingling the roof. Motion by S. Ball/L. Atkinson. Motion carried 4-0

e. Agreement: Renewal of tax and assessing service by Antrim County

Motion to approve the renewal of tax and assessing services by Antrim County by T. Cole/S. Ball. Motion carried 4-0

New Business

a. Resolution #2021-14 Resolution to Waive Penalties for Non Filing of Property Transfer Affidavits under MCL211.27B

Motion to approve Resolution #2021-14 by S. Ball/L. Atkinson

Roll Call: S. Ball –Yea; T. Cole-Yea; L. Atkinson-Yea; L. Bargy-Yea

Motion carried 4-0. Absent: B. Pharo

b. Resolution #2021-15: Resolution for Poverty Exemption

Motion to approve Resolution #2021-15 by L. Atkinson/T. Cole

Roll Call: L. Bargy-Yea; L. Atkinson-Yea; S. Ball-Yea; T. Cole-Yea

Motion carried 4-0. Absent: B. Pharo

Public Comment

Joyce Grammar of Elk Tip Drive asked where the board is on the sewer extension. Bargy said signatures were received for more than 50%. Grammer said that she would like to see a list of signatures. Bargy said that he would get the list to her. We need to review everything and decide whether we want to go forward. The board would send out a letter to the residents.

Mary Skarnulis of SW Torch Lake Drive said we hear a lot of people saying why didn't this or that happen in regards to the RV Park, but it's not the residents fault. We weren't involved and we shouldn't have to pay for that. State law in Michigan if you are a driver, you have to have three feet before you can go around a bike. We are asking for more trouble if we bring more people here and more traffic.

Jim Brewer said that people who park on Torch River Road are not their customers. The parking on the river side is a big safety hazard. People are walking down the middle of the road. It should be illegal to park on the side of the road. If you'd like to put in a sidewalk on Torch River Road on the side of the marina, we'd love to work with you on that.

Weinzapfel said the RV Park Subcommittee recommended a traffic study if necessary. The accusations that are being said regarding the meeting recording, aren't correct. For hosting meetings, we started with Reuben from Beckett and Raeder and he left. Michelle took over and then she turned it over to a new hire. I was notified that the recording didn't happen.

Approval of Bills

Motion to approve the bills by S. Ball/L. Atkinson. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 7:56 pm.

These minutes are subject to approval at the June 14th. meeting. A copy of these minutes are available at miltontownship.org

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Ball, Clerk