

Synopsis
Milton Township
Meeting Minutes
September 13, 2021

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

Also present: Attorneys B. Derman, J. Ball, B. Hefferan, and more than 25 audience members

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

Agenda Approval by consent

Approval of regular meeting minutes of August 9, 2021
Motion to approve by L. Atkinson/S. Ball. Motion carried.

Approval of special meeting minutes of August 30, 2021
Correction: correct spelling of "accept"
Motion to approve as corrected by L. Atkinson/T. Cole. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak regarding items on the agenda.

Sheriff's Report

As presented
309 total runs for August

Fire Department Report: by Chief J. Ball

20 responses for August. We are at 75 for the year. Fill the Boot for MS raised \$965 during Clean-up Day. Update on training and maintenance.

Planning Report: by B. Hefferan

Hefferan discussed the subcommittee meetings that will be on the agenda for tomorrow night. Cole discussed the idea of having video meetings. Derman discussed a recent article. Hefferan explained the idea further.

Ambulance Report

There is a report in the packet
6 calls for August

Zoning Report: by Derman

A. Land Division Request

There was a request to split a platted lot #12 within Lindsdale Acres. Its 9450 sq. feet. The application says they want to split it three ways to create three drain fields for three

undersized lots. I would recommend to not proceed with this because there is an obvious solution. You can do easements to get to the parcels rather than splits. We have per our ordinance, the board can approve splits of platted lots up to four divisions. However, they shall not be less than the size permitted. Derman talked to Weinzapfel about this a few months ago and they have been working with the owners to do the easement. However, it appears they don't want to do the easements anymore. Derman doesn't recommend the splits for many reasons.

Damien Henning spoke on behalf of the trust.

Motion by T. Cole/B. Pharo to reject this lot split request by Stapleton Living Trust.
Motion carried.

Letters of Concern

Two letters were received regarding the need for a light and noise ordinance. Discussion of the letters. L. Bargy said he's talked to Sheriff Bean about this. This has been referred to the prosecuting attorney.

Another citizen spoke about the need for a noise ordinance. The police won't do anything. Derman said you can take the individual to court. The township has to have a decibel level. They have to be there to check the noise level to prove the case.

Clearwater Township has an ordinance and they don't use any equipment. Bargy said he will discuss this with Clearwater Township to see what they have.

Attorney's Report: by B. Derman

Nothing new on the Tower. Update on legislative issues at the state. Update on violation on Birch Lake Road.

Supervisor's Report: by L. Bargy

Karen Bargy, County Commissioner gave her report. Update on board of health and on budget discussions. Advised on Bailey vs. Antrim County. Explanation on Strategic Planning and on the Housing Summit.

Jerry Mensing asked about how much COVID money the county has received. K. Bargy was unsure of the actual amount.

Another citizen asked about how the money was spent and if it could be spent on personnel wages. K. Bargy explained how the Covid relief money can be used.

Another citizen said things feel like they are breaking apart at the county level. K. Bargy said it's a split board for sure. There is an ultra-conservative faction and we don't all agree.

Bid for tree removal. Only one bid was received although multiple were requested.

Motion by B. Pharo/L. Atkinson to accept the bid from Top View Tree Service for \$1695 to remove trees at Indian and N. West Torch. Motion carried. 5-0

State of Michigan Audit on Assessor and our Poverty Exemption regulations. One correction was needed and was made.

Motion to approve Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test dated 9/1/21 by L. Atkinson/S. Ball. Motion carried. 5-0

Library Report

Tom Stephenson, library board president spoke and gave his update.

Nannette Miller, library director discussed how the pandemic had affected the library and how the library has fared. We have introduced some new programs and updates. Both have been very successful.

Atkinson thanked Miller and Stephenson for their time and work with the library.

Unfinished Business:

Fencing: Waterfront Park

Bargy will request bids for fencing for the side of the park with Floran Cottages. They would like split rail with wire fencing attached. Atkinson said their complaint was that people were trespassing so Parks and Rec determined to do a chain link fence so it can be run down to the beach and keep people off their property. Bargy will get a bid for both.

Landscaping: Old Town Hall

Atkinson said one bid was received although multiple were requested. The bid was from Pillywiggins Gardens. Bid range, \$7,039 - \$7,239. We will use the funds donated by Friends of Milton.

Motion by B. Pharo/T. Cole to approve the bid from Pillywiggins Garden. Bid range, \$7,039 – 7,239. Motion carried. 5-0

Cole said it would be a shame to have plants die for lack of water so we need to make sure irrigation is installed.

Bargy said the new roof has been started at the Old Town Hall.

New Business

None

Public Comment

Pat Skarnulis of SW Torch Lake Drive said regarding safety of speeds on the roads have been very fast. People are walking Crystal Beach Road. We need help in controlling traffic. Bargy said as far as police, we have no control over that. They are running nine deputies short right now.

A citizen asked about the RV Park. Bargy said we do not have an application.

Mary Skarnulis of SW Torch Lake Drive objects to how things were done in the past. In 2015, Parks and Rec had a meeting and they said the Torch River Bridge area was a mess and if we put a ramp at the Kewadin Park, we would bring more congestion here. She pointed out some competing interests in the township. She spoke against the RV Park. If you approve a park, it will not meet with what you say in your own records.

Amy Pahl of Antrim County spoke against the RV Park and the manner on which it transpired. She also provided comments from Mac Woodhouse requesting a temporary moratorium on SUPs in the township.

Sarah Toth of Stallman spoke requesting permission to use the park for her club's archery practice. Safety is a concern. She provided insurance tables that show archery is 10 times safer than sports you already allow. I feel that archery being excluded when you allow other sports seems unfair. I have more ways to explain the data, but I would like to present it more thoroughly. It will be discussed at the Parks and Rec meeting.

Sheryl Day of Torch River Road. The August 10th storm opened her eyes. There was a stream of silt that ran past my house for two days. We need to increase the scope of our environmental ordinances.

Clara Morrison of Torch River Road spoke against the RV Park.

Sharon Hill of Torch River Road spoke against the RV Park.

Terry Roote of Cherry Ave has had five different floods coming from that RV Park property. He spoke against the RV Park.

Mark Styles said he supports Sarah Toth using the park for archery.

Approval of Bills

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

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 8:17 pm.

These minutes are subject to approval at the October 11, 2021 meeting. A copy of these minutes are available at miltontownship.org

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Ball, Clerk