Fairgrove Township

Regular Board Meeting

Fairgrove Township Hall

February 21, 2022 7:33 PM

Roll Call: Supervisor Keith Aeder, Clerk Katie Gebhardt, Treasurer Sarah Donovan, Trustee Justin Edwards. Excused absence: Trustee Dennis Hadeway

Visitors Present: Pat Donovan-Gray – Deputy Treasurer, Doug Foster – Sexton, Colleen Russell – Deputy Clerk, Brian Pike – Fairgrove Planning Commission, Dennis LaPratt – LaPratt Builders

Call to order/Pledge

Donovan moved Gebhardt supported to approve January Meeting minutes with corrections. Passed

Aeder moved Edwards supported to approve February agenda. Passed

Visitor Comments

* Brian Pike – Planning Commission – Update on ordinances
  + Gebhardt moved Aeder supported to adopt zoning ordinances, January 25th edition, approved by Fairgrove Planning Commission at a public hearing held January 25th, 2022. Passed.
* Dennis LaPratt – Board approval for old bank building materials.
  + Aeder moved Gebhardt supported to approve recommended corbels for use on the old bank building with an estimated cost of less around $9,000.
  + Aeder moved Edwards supported to authorize the Clerk and Treasurer to issue a check or do a bank transfer direct to corbel supplier if needed, not to exceed $9,000. Passed

Visitor Comments Closed

Other Reports

Sexton Report

* Cleaned up pine trees.
* Fence line cut, will clean up soon.
* Discussion on usage of ARPA funds for hardship/emergency situations with burials. Will discuss at future date if the need arises.
* Gebhardt moved Donovan supported to authorize Sexton to charge resident rate for south block grave #351, due to hardship. Passed.
* There is a small waterline leak on south side of Slack Rd by the benches. Will be investigating further once weather improves.

Supervisors Report

* Discussion on increase of salaries and wages for the Township. Board to use an average of all inflation rates. Averaged out to 5.66%, rounded to 5.7%
  + 2022 Michigan STC: 3.3%
  + 2021 CPI: 7%
  + Current CPI: 7.5%
  + 2021 Core Rate: 4.6%
  + Cost of Living 2022: 5.9%
  + Average: 5.66%
  + Aeder moved Edwards supported to increase salaries & wages by 5.7% with salaries being rounded to the nearest dollar. Passed
* Discussion on upcoming budget. Budget hearing will be March 21 at 7:00 PM
* Road Commission – Jason Root is the new Supervisor/Operations Manager for the Tuscola County Road Commission.
* Aeder moved Donovan supported to pay Fairgrove Township Board members for attending remote/virtual meetings that pertain to Fairgrove Township business, the same as in person meetings. Passed.
* Discussion on how to notate remote attendance for Fairgrove Township Board members as non-voting members in meeting minutes.

Unfinished Business

* Aeder moved Donovan supported to authorize the Township Clerk to sign Insurance Statement of Values with a combined value of $496,448. Passed.
* Update on AV system for the Township Hall – Should be ready to use at all meetings going forward. Have some testing to do to see if a separate speakers or microphone are needed to improve sound. Looks like it will work well for our needs.

New Business

* Fire Contract
  + Aeder moved Edwards supported to contract with Fairgrove Fire for contract year beginning April 1, 2022 through March 31, 2023 at a cost of $28,500. Passed.
* Technology upgrade –
  + Aeder moved Edwards supported to authorize the Clerk to replace the Clerk and Treasurer laptops at a cost not to exceed $1,000 for the Clerk and $1,500 for the Treasurer. Passed.
* Village of Fairgrove is starting an adopt a flowerbed program to assist with the landscaping in the Village. Anyone interested can contact the Village office.

Financial Report

* ARPA Fiscal Recovery Fund check for $170.37
* Township has received $288,929.07 from the Townships share of tax collection so far.
* ARPA Information
  + Funds need to be spent by December 2026
  + There is a list of potential areas money can be spent.
* Discussion on Township accounts that are in banks no longer in our area. These accounts, non-general fund accounts, can be moved to local banks at Treasures discretion.
* Aeder moved Edwards supported to accept financial report as presented. Passed

Bills

* There was a mix-up with the DTE bill, that has been corrected.
* Edwards moved Donovan supported to pay bills as presented. Passed.

Visitor Comments - None

Edwards moved Donovan supported to adjourn meeting. Passed

Meeting adjourned 10:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Katie Gebhardt

Fairgrove Township Clerk

