

## **Waterloo Township Board Meeting Minutes**

**24 October 2023 7:00 P.M.**

**9773 Mt. Hope Road**

**Munith, MI 49259**

Call to Order and Pledge: 7:00 p.m.

Present: Lance, Walz, Kitley, McAlister, Beck. Also present: 7 residents, Margie Walz (Jackson Planning Commission) Deputy Desnoyer.

Supervisor Lance discussed additions to the agenda under new business:

1. Zoning change request recommendation from the planning commission
2. Discussion of an outdoor gathering ordinance
3. Discussion of our solar ordinance and some actions that Grass Lake has taken recently regarding solar farms.

Public Comment: Cathy Upton announced that Green Road is open. B. Richardson said he is now on the Region 2 WellWise Area Agency on Aging board, and has information to share in brochures. There will be some pamphlets to share in the entry way to the offices. Commissioner Walz talked of working with the Sheriff's Office on expansion plans, early election days, gave some updates on recent board appointments and reported that the fairgrounds is expanding services regarding barn space. November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. is the next Jackson County Planning Commission meeting.

Consent Agenda: Kitley motioned with support from Walz to accept the consent agenda as presented. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried. Kitley motioned with support from Walz to pay the Post Audit checks is the amount of \$800.00. Roll call vote: Yes/Lance, Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley. No/none. Motion carried.

Police Report: Deputy Desnoyer's report for September 2023 was as follows: Deputies put in 184 hours, drove 1970 miles, answered 41 calls for service, made 20 traffic stops and issued 3 citations. Sheriff's office responded to 26 calls and Michigan State Police took 12 calls for service.

Correspondence: Discussion on Representative Conlin's response to the Waterloo resolution to keep control of Waterloo Township land use.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Parks & Recreation: Walz spoke of the Munith Halloween Parade plans. They are working on the Munith Park getting quotes on what needs to be replaced/removed from grounds. The park has been inspected and evaluated by Rohn Tripp as to what needs to be done. Grants will be submitted for funds to help with repairs and replacements. Henrietta Township will help with grants and financing. Motion by Lance to approve the demolition of the chimney at Munith Park at a cost not to exceed \$5500, supported by Beck. Roll call vote: Yes/Lance, Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley. No/none. Motion carried.

Planning Commission: There is currently some discussion in the planning commission about making updates to the zoning change request process, based upon some learnings from recent MTA training and also their own observations. Need to look at the Hamlin Farms rezoning tonight.

Purchasing Policy: Brief discussion on the purchase policy update as presented. Changes are minimal from the last update. Discussed conflict of interest section. Need to discuss things openly in every case. Motion by Lance to adopt the amended Waterloo Twp purchasing policy as presented (resolution #23-10-24-01). Support by Walz. Roll call vote: Yes/Lance, Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley. No/none. Motion carried.

Snow Plowing bids: Only bid received was from Green Shades Lawn Mowing, who is the current service provider. Some discussion of new pad area in front of the fire barn. The quote does not include this space. Motion by Lance, support by McAlister to accept the Green Shades Lawn Mowing quote as presented. Roll call vote: Yes/Lance, Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley. No/none. Motion carried.

Employee Handbook: Discussed a proposed employee handbook. Was shared with the board for the first time tonight. Will discuss further at next month's meeting after there has been time for review.

New Auditing Firm Quotes: Only 2 quotes received. Need action tonight since the current provider resigned suddenly. Beck spoke on behalf of PHP. He has worked with them and they are very responsive. Also, Stockbridge township uses them as well. Markowski is the firm that works with Henrietta and they seem happy as well with that firm. Motion by Beck, support by Kitley to accept the bid from PHP as presented, which is for \$13,500, which includes next year and the completion of this year. Roll call vote: Yes/Lance, Beck, McAlister, Walz, Kitley. No/none. Motion carried.

Election Workers for November 7, 2023 election: Motion by Lance, support by McAlister to approve the election worker list. Motion approved unanimously.

Zoning change request: Request to change a 120 acre parcel at 12230 Mt. Hope Road from Agg 1 to Agg 2 zoning. Recommendation from the Planning Commission was to approve the change request. Motion by Lance, support by McAlister to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the zoning change request of parcel #000-05-05-400-001-00 located at 12230 Mt. Hope Road, Stockbridge, MI from Agg 1 to Agg 2, having satisfied all of the zoning ordinance requirements of 7.04.D.1.

Discussion of an outdoor gathering ordinance: An example ordinance was provided from Gibson Township. Lance mentioned some shortcomings of the ordinance, but is passing it on the planning commission as an example that could be used. Waterloo is considering such an ordinance, mainly to be aware of when gatherings occur (such as EPIC races), so that the residents can be informed of such events. Planning Commission can do with the ordinance what they think is right.

Discussion of Waterloo's existing solar ordinance: Waterloo's attorney reviewed the ordinance and offered some suggested edits. Planning Commission is asked to review it as time permits and consider any necessary updates. Also, regarding solar ordinances, Grass Lake has recently adopted a moratorium ordinance on any new solar requests. Lance is suggesting that Waterloo takes the same approach, using very similar language, and take no action on any new solar applications, so that Waterloo has had time to review its own ordinance to ensure that it aligns with the current state of affairs. Waterloo has no current applications for solar operations. After some discussion about language, Lance made a motion to adopt resolution #23-10-24-02, "Solar Energy System Emergency Moratorium Ordinance", supported by Walz. Roll call vote: Yes/Walz, Kitley, Lance, Beck, McAlister. No/none. Motion carried.

Any Other Business That Comes to the Board: None

Public Comment: T. Patrick inquired about the state of the Waterloo store. The deputy is keeping an eye on it and our Zoning Enforcement Officer is working with the owners to try to get it cleaned up.

Adjournment: Walz motioned with support from McAlister to adjourn at 8:06 p.m. Aye/all; no/none. Motion carried.

The next Planning Commission meeting will be Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. The next regular board meeting will be on November 28, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Minutes will be published in the Stockbridge Community News at the end of each month, on our website [waterlootwpmi.gov](http://waterlootwpmi.gov), on our Facebook page at: [waterlootownshipmichigan](http://waterlootownshipmichigan), and The Grass Lake Exponent.

Submitted by: Janice Kitley, Clerk