Selma Township Minutes-Regular

December 12, 2023 4101 South 35 Rd., Cadillac, MI 49601

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Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Approval of Agenda

Assessor's Report Citizens Comments

Supervisor Boyd called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Members Present: Boyd - Supervisor; Perrin - Clerk; Hettich - Treasurer; Keith - Trustee;

Wetherell – Trustee

Hettich: New Business, #1, Michigan Class will be during Treasurer's Rpt. Motion to approve

agenda as corrected - Boyd/Keith - all yes

None

<u>Jackie Erway:</u> Last month's meeting re: Board comments section, 1 of the former members of the Sewer Authority, Kerry Keith, said he was disappointed in not having any representation here from the Sewer Authority. Every month I come to Selma Twp's meeting, and there is a comment on the agenda for the sewer dept, which Boyd gives every month. For Keith, at last month's meeting, to request removal of the Selma appointee to the LMSA, I think is unprecedented. The appointee is totally prepared at meetings, has all documents in front of him, he asks excellent financial questions. There was a recent special meeting for 1 of the contracts. Of the 5 members on the sewer board, only 1 person brought the contract with him. That was Dave Kuyers. No one comes prepared to the meetings like Dave Kuyers does. To have someone during Board Comments (which isn't even in the rules of order) suggest a vote to replace him is not right. We finally have someone on the sewer board that represents people on the sewer loop, and I would like to keep it that way.

Carolyn Richards: Sent email to Selma Twp Board members. After attending the last sewer meeting, it was brought to my attention that there was an attempt for a non-agenda vote for the removal of a key board member (Dave Kuyers). Dave represents 1 of the only lake owners on the board. He brings a great resource to aid the team with a former profession, as well. Dave brings a broad operations & financial background. My concern is why this member would not only be welcomed, but given gratitude for the diversity and support he aids to the team. What this attempt is about makes no sense to me. As board members, you are here working for the people. During this entire process with the sewer, it seems the twps have been against the people; forcefully imposing fees that are not of the people, a monopolistic market, and bullying and abusive behavior at the meetings, as well as hand-picking residents to carry the burdens that the twps accepted from the county. You have continued to threaten and mismanage the funding by not accepting competitive bids, no action plans, no actions, no target dates, no attempts to put this back on the county, yet there have been increased fees with no improved services. At Selma's last meeting, a board member was trying to remove 1 of the assets of the sewer board. Where is the focus? This is the county's responsibility, not only the debt due to the mismanagement of the budget by the county, but also taking out the necessary resources to oversee the Public Works service. The lakes & the environment are county issues. Not certain why any person who is representing the people in a positive way on the board that is best for the people would be recommended to be removed. The question is are you working for the people? Dave brings a lot to the table. If the vote takes place, please vote no.

Michelle George: Financial concerns - How this is being managed and how we have no dates for any actions moving forward. Dave Kuyers has a financial background & could assist us in financial concerns we have as citizens. He lives on the sewer loop. He has concerns as well. He is going to be working for the people. Would like to know why anyone on this board would vote no? Do any of you have reasoning you could share with the public about this? The boards work for citizens. If there is a motion, which I don't understand how a motion can come up during comments; if a motion is made to remove someone from the board, I would think it should be discussed in the meeting in detail. If any of you have concerns about representation for us as citizens and people on this sewer loop, can you share it with us? I would ask that as a citizen & a sewer user, that if that vote comes up, that you don't vote to replace Kuyers. Maybe he can benefit us as a community. Only so many homes are going to share the burden of this cost. I don't know if people that don't live on the sewer loop, that are working toward solutions, are recognizing that this is a burden that limited amounts of homes are taking on. We need to give Kuyers an opportunity with his financial background. Could any of you share that with us?

Mike Fewless (Cherry Grove Twp): Want to share the same concern. From what I have heard, there was a random comment and now someone is potentially being dismissed. Maybe we could get more information. Has heard a lot of comments, but not any facts about Dave Kuyers.

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Approval of Minutes
Payment of Bills

Motion to approve Minutes of November 14, 2023, as presented – Perrin/Hettich – all yes Check #19787-19806, AP=\$1,952.60, Payroll=\$11,380.83, Auto Pay (Fire Truck/Hall Pymts) =\$3,602.95, Total=\$16,936.38 Motion to approve payment of bills as presented – Boyd/Hettich – B,H,K,W,P – all yes

Treasurer's Report

<u>Jeff Anderson from Michigan Class Local Government Investment Pool</u> gave an overview of the benefits of investing in Michigan Class and answered questions. Board discussed investing & amount to start with (\$250,000 from the general fund). Boyd read aloud **Resolution #08-2023**, **Resolution to Approve the Addition of Michigan Cooperative Liquid Assets Securities System as an Approved Investment Option. Motion to approve Resolution #08-2023**, with the agreed amount of \$250,000 to start the investment – Boyd/Hettich – B,H,K,W,P – all yes.

Treasurer's Report was received. Accounts are balanced, & last 2 months signed off by Smythe. Got tax bills out early so that Santa visit information was timely. Got mortgage company stuff out. Credit card machine: Received payment finally for July, Aug & Sept credit card payments. There was a problem with them not having our tax exempt information. **Motion to carry on accepting credit card payments and see how it goes with winter taxes – Perrin/Boyd – all yes.** Payroll will be done early due to the holidays.

Maintenance

Plowing as needed.

Fire Dept Report Fire Runs to Date

3 runs to date: Assist Greenwood/Colfax fire dept with wild land fire, down powerline 16 Rd & 23 Rd; down powerline E Lake Mitchell & Hiawatha; investigation for smell of electrical fire at 5981 E 28 Rd

Trucks

Trucks are in good order.

Station

Had Santa visit. Got a big truckload of food for St. Ann's Church for families. Will be purchasing uniform coats. Dinner/training for firefighters end of January. Discussion on electric car fires.

Cemetery/Parks

No burials. Will close gates as snow gets high.

Sewer Report

Boyd: Last meeting was business as usual. Bob Hilty put in resignation effective Dec 31. Board voted to accept. Asked Operations Director to put something on website asking for applications to replace Bob Hilty. Received 4 applicants. Special meeting on 14th, will interview.

Zoning

Wetherell: At last zoning meeting – Looking to figure enforcement of ordinances into budget. Will look into fee structure so that maybe the permit amount may be lowered and have an escrow with it to take out of escrow as needed. Boyd: Still considering joining Cherry Grove unless something comes up that changes our minds.

Road Advisory Rpt

Wetherwell: According to Karl Hansen (WCRC), asphalt prices are being published, so we should be able to get estimates for the boat launch & White Sands by next meeting.

New Business

1. Michigan Class: Already discussed during Treasurer's Report.

2. BOR: Boyd - Smythe attended Board of Review Training and asked if deputy clerks should serve on Board of Review. Instructor stated no. Boyd spoke with MTA, who informed him there is no Michigan Statute against it, but it may not look good to citizens for a deputy to be serving on the BOR. Smythe will step down. We need a replacement for Smythe's position on the BOR & an alternate. If anyone is interested, please send a letter of interest to Clerk Perrin or let Twp Board members know.

Unfinished Business Citizens Comments None

Sheryl Blanchard: Questions regarding Short Term Rentals. Around lake is zoned single family residential. This protects the neighborhood to keep businesses out, making it a nice place for families to live. Disappointed in the survey regarding STR's, whether permits should be on a sliding fee scale, with rentals from 1-4, 5-8, and 9 or more. House next door is a rental, allows up to 12 people. State of Michigan says if have more than 8 people, it is considered a commercial business, need a special permit & a special tax. House next door is an LLC. LLC is a business. When dealing with STR's, why are you putting businesses in single family residential zonings? This is going against your own zoning laws. Cadillac has decided STR's are a business & they are allowing them in business & resort zones. Request: Why not make things simple, keep the zoning we currently have for our twp & adopt what we need to make it police enforceable.

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Boyd: With the STR's survey on our website, we are getting people that live around the lake not wanting STR's around that lake, but they are ok with them if they are rural. We will need to have a STR ordinance. Number of people that are allowed in STR's will be determined by the State Fire Code. Boyd would like to encourage that non-conforming bedrooms would not count as bedrooms, need enough parking, etc. Zoning does not enforce the ordinance they have now. As far as not allowing STR's, this may open us up to lawsuits.

<u>Jack Prebay:</u> December 20 at 6pm at the Wexford Co Rd Commission, there will be a meeting regarding STR's. Everyone is welcome to attend. Jack is on the zoning board of appeals for Selma Twp. Jack is the only 1 on the board of appeals that lives on Lake Mitchell, who should have a say. Jack disagrees with Boyd about STR's. Discussion on who is supposed to be enforcing STR's.

<u>Brad Doornboss:</u> Has 3 homes on the sewer system. Brad supports Dave Kuyers. Please keep him on the sewer board.

<u>Jackie Erway:</u> Believe there are 3 rules for having STR's in Wexford Co. They, however, are not being enforced. If you have a rental business before 2020, if you live on the property where you are renting, or if you have a special use permit – these are allowed. Boyd: The Joint Planning Commission is who concerns should be addressed to. Erway said the new Selma Twp website is looking good; hoping calendar will start showing information; when you click on LMPO it is going to the sewer site. Perrin will address these issues.

<u>Citizen:</u> Asked how the twp is now investing money. Hettich: Right now, it is invested through Horizon Bank, and we have \$250,000 in WCCU. CD rates were not worth it, but Hettich thought the Michigan Class would be a good investment.

Correspondence None Board Comments None

Adjournment Motion to adjourn – Boyd/Perrin – all yes. Adjourned 8:08 pm.

Carol Perrin, Clerk December 12, 2023