

ASSYRIA TOWNSHIP Board
Minutes of the Regular Board meeting
March 4, 2024

Call to order: 1937

Pledge of Allegiance

Members present: Haralson, Miller, Ryder-Stephens, H. Wing, and T. Wing

Moved by T. Wing second by H. Wing, to approve the March 4, 2024 agenda, all ayes, motion carried.

Reports from Community Officials:

- Commissioner Bruce Campbell - report from February 13th Commissioner Solar installation Workshop, creation of Personnel Committee, COA facility progress.
- Fire Board Chief Jackson Mr. Black - gave update, 103 runs year to date, Kalamo Township has signed the new contract for services. No news from Village of Bellevue
- Cemetery Committee Sandy Schilz - committee met and is working on a plan for improvements and software recommendations for cemetery administration.
- Webmaster Parry Gignac things going well, special meeting notices posted.
- Parks and Recreation representative/Bluezones Director Commissioner Catherine Getty - Metcalf lake property update. Closing expected soon between Bailey family, City of Battle Creek and Barry County creating a recreation area in Assyria Township southern Barry County.
- Bluezones would to renew their partnerships for food pickups in Assyria and Johnstown townships for the 2024 summer on Second Tuesday of the month July through October.

Clerk Report:

Moved by T. Wing second by Ryder-Stephens to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on February 5, 2024 and the special meeting on February 12, 2024, all ayes, motion carried.

- ✓ The nine day early voting and Presidential primary election event went very well. No issues with Assyria Township's results. The election crew did a fantastic job.
- ✓ Notices posted by J-Ad notifying electors of the Annual meeting for March 30, 2024 at 1:00 pm and the Board of Review hours on March 5, 11, and 12th.
- ✓ Insurance Audit with the Michigan Township Participating Plan was on February 27. Staff recommended review of Cemetery ordinance, review of concealed carry weapon policy, review and update of employee handbook for all township employees, adoption of personnel social media policy, and implementation of a

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criminal background check during the application stage of the application process. Recommended policy changes were shared with the board.

- ✓ Payroll remediation for paychecks that were incorrect during 2023. Calculations by Laurie Tamez, CPA.
- ✓ Barry County Parks and Recreation grant cycle announced.
- ✓ Attended a FOIA workshop at Bauckham, Thall, Seeber, Kaufman & Koches, PC (Assyria Township attorney)

Moved by H. Wing, second by Ryder-Stephens to accept the FOIA policy as presented, all ayes, motion carried.

Moved by H. Wing, second by Ryder-Stephens to accept the FOIA Summary as presented, all ayes, motion carried.

Moved by H. Wing, second by Ryder-Stephens to adopt forms related to FOIA policies, all ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer report:

Moved by H. Wing, second by Ryder-Stephens to pay the monthly bills, all ayes, motion carried.

- ❖ Tax season has drawn to a close.
- ❖ There have been problems with tech support and the BS&A software.

Old Business:

Moved by H. Wing, support by Miller, to approve the extension of the ATT right of way contract and authorize the chair to sign the extension, all ayes, motion carried.

Moved by T. Wing, second by H. Wing, to approve the agreement with Bluezones with dates to be determined for the food distribution in 2024, all ayes, motion carried.

Moved by T. Wing, second by Haralson, to approve the cost of time and materials (TBD) for the Sexton to repair the driveway at Ellis Cemetery, all ayes, motion carried.

New Business:

Moved by T. Wing, second by Ryder-Stephens, to pay \$54,280 to the Bellevue Fire Control board to purchase one third of the equity share left due to the exit of the Village of Bellevue from the Bellevue Fire Control board, all ayes, motion carried.

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Mold testing conducted by ALS Property Associates LLC. Doug Smith discussed the test results and described the recommended remediation actions.

Moved by H. Wing, second by T. Wing, to pay the ALS Property Associates LLC invoice of \$490.00 for the Mold Testing, all ayes, motion carried.

Moved by T. Wing, second by Ryder-Stephens to pay up to \$2000 for mold remediation including removal of the carpet in the township meeting room, all ayes, motion carried.

Moved by T. Wing, second by H. Wing, to approve funding for new fire hall. Discussion followed with T. Wing vacating the motion, H. Wing supported, motion failed.

Moved by T. Wing, second by Haralson, to commit \$25,000 from the general fund for site selection and engineering fees to the Bellevue Fire Control Board with the suggestion of matching funds to be committed by the other townships, all ayes, motion carried.

Discussion for information technology support contracts delayed until the next meeting.

Moved by H. Wing to approve Resolution 20240304-1, a motion to approve a board member as a candidate for the Michigan Township Participating Plan board of directors. Motion died due to lack of support.

Trustee report:

Haralson will seek bids from eaves trough company to mediate water around the base of the basement/foundation.

Public comment:

Kaylin Rhoades, Johnstown township, presented a resolution supporting 2nd amendment rights. Wording of resolution has changed since first presented. She also presented a petition in support of Citizens for Local Choice.

Moved by Miller, second by Haralson to approve Assyria Township Resolution 20240304-2. a resolution in support of the United States Constitution Second Amendment Rights.

Roll Call vote: Haralson – yes

Miller – yes

Ryder-Stephens – yes

H. Wing – yes

T. Wing – yes

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned: 2115