

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP

ESTABLISHED 1849

ALLEGAN COUNTY

FILLMORE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

October 10, 2023, 7PM

1. Call to Order.

Supervisor Ken DeWeerdts called the meeting to order, Chuck Schaap opened with prayer and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call.

Members Present: Ken DeWeerdts, Elaine Mokma, Bob Yonker, Leah Folkert and Chuck Schaap.

Members Absent: None

3. Late Agenda Items.

a. DeWitt Land Lease for Township Wells.

4. Graafschap Fire Department.

Fire Chief Doug DenBleyker submitted the following report;

a. A total of 48 calls for September 2023. There were 8 medical/rescue calls and 3 fire calls for Fillmore Township. 1 medical/rescue call and 5 fire calls to other agencies, in addition to 1 assist from other agencies.

5. Fillmore/Overisel Deputy.

Officer Dillon Schmitt submitted the following report;

There were 115 calls for September 2023, 82 calls for Fillmore Township and 33 for Overisel Township.

6. Allegan County Commissioner.

Commissioner Jim Storey was absent with notice, but submitted the following report;

- a. For a number of years Allegan County with Wishbone Pet Rescue to operate the County Animal Shelter. This contract is currently under negotiation with the non-profit as the contract expires December 31, 2023. The organization has requested a 192% increase in the annual fee the County pays it to operate the shelter, from \$84,000 to \$240,000. Wishbone is a no kill shelter operator based in Douglas. Since it took over the operation of the shelter, it has improved the adoption rate of strays but has also allowed a major increase in the housing of cats. The 1919 State Dog Law only mandates that the County provide a mechanism for collecting stray or menacing dogs. A decision will be made soon.
- b. October 12, 2023 at 7PM the Board of Commissioners will hold a Public Hearing and likely vote on the 2024 budget for Allegan County. The hearing and meeting will be held at the Dumont Lake Campus.
- c. Contractors responding to the request for proposals of the reconstructing of a portion of the Allegan County Courthouse toured both facilities last week. It is hoped a contract can be awarded by the end of the month for the projects needed to provide space for a new Circuit Court Judge while moving non-court functions (Clerk, Register of Deeds, Treasurer and Drain Commission) to the Dumont Lake Campus. The new Judge, a third Circuit Court position will be elected in 2024.
- d. The Broadband Action Workgroup heard from a Virginia Co., Tillson Corporation, proposing to construct cell towers on Allegan County land at no cost to improve cell coverage in the County. It was part of an expanded effort of the workgroup to fill the "dark" areas of Allegan County Allegan County's unserved and underserved areas.
- e. The Michigan Public Service Commission staff has agreed to come to Allegan County on November 27, 2023 to meet with County, Township and City officials regarding Consumers Energy proposal to end its ownership of the Calkins Street hydroelectric dam. Discussions are started with sister counties in which the company's other 12 hydrodams to develop a coalition to make the argument to keep the dams.

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7. **Public Participation**

- a. Fillmore Township resident Monica Boeve was present. She continues to work on the Hamilton School and Zeeland School boundary lines where it pertains to her property on 146th.

8. **Fillmore Township Board of Trustees Minutes – September 12, 2023.**

Upon review of the September 12, 2023 minutes;

A Motion was received from Chuck Schaap and 2nd by Bob Yonker to approve these minutes as presented.

PASSED 5-0.

9. **Fillmore Township Planning Commission Minutes – October 2, 2023**

- a. The Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on October 2, 2023 at the request of PHF Holdings the Russcher Family for Parcel # 0306-011-019-02 to rezone this parcel from A-1 to A-2.

No one spoke in opposition, and the Land Use Plan for that parcel is A-2, the Planning Commission has recommended this rezoning requested by granted.

A Motion was brought by Chuc Schaap and 2nd by Bob Yonker to approve the rezoning request as recommended by the Planning Commission.

PASSED 5-0.

- b. The Planning Commission was presented a Site Plan for Glass Enterprises for a new facility at 4274 Blue Star Hwy. The Planning Commission is recommending approval of this Site Plan with the following contingencies;

- 1. Landscape plan needs to comply with the recently adopted standards per Fillmore Township Zoning Ordinance.
- 2. Sign must meet Fillmore Township Zoning Ordinance standards.
- 3. Access drive to be completed by July 1, 2024.

A Motion was brought by Chuck Schaap and 2nd by Leah Folkert to approve the Site Plan for Glass Enterprises as recommended by Planning Commission.

PASSED 5-0.

10. **Supervisor Updates.**

- a. Replacement tables are requested for the meeting room. These tables are old and quite heavy. Supervisor DeWeerdts has looked at plastic style tables to replace these older tables. The Board agrees new tables are needed. The old tables will be donated. Chief DenBleyker requested these old tables to be donated to Graafschap Fire Department. Picking up of the tables will be done by the Department.

- b. A Snow Removal Quote has been received from Haverdink Enterprises, Inc for the 2023-2024 winter season. This covers the Township Offices, Water Tower and Pump House.

A Motion was brought by Ken DeWeerdts and 2nd by Leah Folkert to accept these quotes, sign the contract as presented.

PASSED 5-0.

- c. Supervisor DeWeerdts is waiting on information from the Allegan County Health Department Solid Waste Reduction Program regarding a monetary balance in the Township’s account and if the Township can levy a lesser amount than \$25. This discussion was tabled until this information is received from Allegan County.

11. **Treasurer’s Report.**

General Fund

Balance on Hand September 1, 2023	\$139,922.26
Receipts	\$411,267.24
Disbursements	\$430,308.36
Balance on Hand September 30, 2023	\$120,881.14

CD’s

General Fund	\$865,192.13
Total General Fund	\$986,073.27

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Utility Fund

Balance on September 1, 2023	\$ 46,606.44
Receipts	\$ 12,313.11
Disbursements	\$ 11,822.74
Balance on Hand August 31, 2023	\$ 47,096.81

CD's

Utility Fund	\$101,245.21
Grand Total August 31, 2023	\$148,342.02

12. Monthly Bills

Upon review of the bills as presented;

A Motion was received from Bob Yonker and 2nd by Leah Folkert to approve the bills as presented, those bills being Payroll, General Fund, Utility Fund.

PASSED 5-0.

13. Late Agenda.

- a. Fillmore Township Wells are located on property in the estate of late Dale and Norma DeWitt. Supervisor DeWeerdts has been in contact with the DeWitt family to purchase the easement that contains the Township wells. Fillmore Township Attorney Ron Bultje will prepare a buy/sell agreement. Currently the Township is in a 2nd 10yr. Land Lease which will expire September 2024.

14. Meeting Adjourned.

There being no other business presented to the Board;

A Motion was brought by Ken DeWeerdts and 2nd by Chuck Schaap to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 pm.

PASSED 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,
Elaine Mokma, Clerk
Fillmore Township