

# September 5, 2023 Oliver Township board meeting minutes.

Supervisor, Tom Ziel called the meeting to order at approximately 7 PM at the township hall with the Pledges of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the Jill and John Champagne. They were involved in an automobile accident. The local couple have been involved in many facets of the Elkton and Huron County community for decades. Jill passed away and John is suffering from many injuries.

Members and guests present; Gary Sweeney, Bob Ross, Tom Ziel, Kevin McKenzie, Jim Seley, Steve Vaughan, Lonnie Schulz and Adam Herford.

Motion to approve the agenda by Bob Ross and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Consent agenda adoption, August meeting minutes and checks written. Motion by Gary Sweeney to approve and seconded by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

Balance on hand is \$680,061.89.

Adam Herford made a motion to separate the checkbooks between the Fire Department and the rest of the Township functions. Second by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed. Upon conference with Township accountants, at Nietzke& Faupel. Adam Herford wanted to rescind his motion because all the accounts are separated in Quickbooks already. This will be done at the October meeting.

Fire Chief's report:

Fire Chief, James Seley reported that the department needs some hoses because they were burnt on a recent fire run. He will contact the Township insurance agent.

The Fire Chief reported that all Autumn Fest activities went very well. The department served 385 world famous chicken barbecue dinners, had fire trucks in the parade, assisted with water in the mud volleyball pits, helped with the entertainment tent and other events.

Fire runs:

August 1, lift assist.

August 4, one vehicle personal injury.

August 14, two vehicle personal injury.

August 18, two vehicle personal injury.

August 24, assisted Pigeon, but called off.

August 26, lift assist.

September 4, one vehicle personal injury.

Tom Ziel reported that there was an upcoming MREC meeting. The Maxwell Road and Richardson Road shoulders are done. There is a bill from the ,Huron County Road Commission with a credit.

Tom Ziel met with the road commission and it would cost approximately \$700,000 to build-up and pave Farver road between Haist and Stein road. After discussion with the township board, Tom will inquire about doing a quarter mile or 8th mile at a time.

Two gentlemen from Next Era Corporation were at the meeting. They spoke briefly about battery storage for solar panels. When asked how soon they would be building battery facilities, their answer was one to two years possibly in the area of Grassmere Rd.

Commissioner Steve Vaughan added that Commercial solar and the battery installations should have separate ordinances.

The township previously discussed a moratorium for commercial industrial solar/storage batteries, while the township ordinances are being developed. Public notices for the September 21 Planning Commission public comment meeting have been given in the paper. The township board will have to vote on the recommendation of the planning commission in the October meeting.

County commissioner Steve Vaughan spoke of several state and local issues. One of them was that the governor wants 100% renewable energy by 2035. If the public service commission gains control of commercial industrial solar, Huron County could lose 15,000 acres of farmland with solar panels.

Huron Pork, is hiring a solar company to do a solar panel right next to their hog barns. This falls within the township ordinance of smaller solar panels and Bob Ross will issue site permit for their panel.

Tom Ziel spoke of AVCI Fiber-optic service to the township hall for Internet. They have a deal proximately \$53 a month, same as the current Internet. Motion to install the new fiber-optic Internet by Adam Herford and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Planning Commission report was that the moratorium public hearing is on September 21 at 7 PM. We are waiting to see what the State does with the new bill to take over control of commercial industrial solar.

Motion to pay the bills, Kevin McKenzie, and seconded by Bob Ross. Motion passed. See list of checks written.

Motion to adjourn by Adam Herford seconded by Kevin McKenzie. Motion passed.