

Cherry Grove Township
4830 E. M-55
Cadillac, MI 49601
Board Meeting
February 14, 2024 5:30 P.M

Members Present: **Nixon, Pearson, Pullen Hanus, Coffey**

Absent: None

1. Call to Order: Pearson 5:30

2. Pledge

3. Set Amend Agenda: Coffey made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of the date change. **Pullen** supported. **All in Favor Unanimously.**

4. Approve Minutes January 10, 2024: Coffey made a motion to approve the minutes as presented **Pullen** supported. **All in Favor Unanimously**

5. Public Comment: Eric Molitor presented a resolution (Holton Resolution) for the board to look over.

6. Cash Summary Report:

7. Approval of Bills: Coffey made a motion to pay the bills. **Hanus** supported, **Upon Roll Call Vote**, motion carried unanimously.

8. Fire/Medical Report: Chief Knauf provided an overview of the department's activities, noting a total of 80 calls within the past 30 days. He highlighted the successful approval of the Benzonia grant and outlined ongoing efforts in preparing a new grant proposal for consideration. Additionally, Chief Knauf informed the board about an upcoming DNR debrief scheduled for March 12th. Chief Knauf also brought attention to the need for region 7 to be included in preparations for potential mass casualty incidents in Wexford County and emphasized the importance of establishing a Wexford County strike team force to address inflight emergencies, involving collaboration with neighboring counties. Furthermore, Chief Knauf provided an update on the development of check sheets for short-term rentals, indicating that they are nearing completion and are anticipated to be ready for implementation next month. Lastly, Chief Knauf introduced the Community Connect website initiative, which aims to gather and provide essential information about citizens to aid the fire department in emergency response situations, particularly during fires.

9. Board Member Comments: Nixon provided an update regarding absentee ballot requests, noting that although 10% of the township's registered voters had requested absentee ballots, only 6% have been returned thus far. Additionally, **Nixon** shared information regarding early nine-day voting opportunities.

Unfinished Business

1. Hiring-paramedic: Arron, the EMS Director, presented his recommendations for hiring a paramedic, providing information on various county statistics, data analysis, and strategies to enhance resident services. He emphasized the critical need for additional assistance within the department. The proposal underwent thorough discussion among the board members, focusing on scheduling logistics and the financial implications regarding millage support for the new hire. **Pullen** motioned to hire a full-time paramedic, a proposal seconded by **Nixon**. **Upon roll call vote**, the motion carried unanimously.

2. **LMSA Update: Pearson** provided an update on the LMSA, highlighting recent developments in the election of officers. Dave Kiser was elected as the Chair, **Pearson** as the Vice Chair, and Kilter as the Secretary. **Pearson** also announced that construction and related processes are scheduled to commence on March 4th. Furthermore, **Pearson** informed the board about another grant opportunity that is currently open for bidding, with the deadline set for the end of the month. Additionally, **Pearson** discussed investment information, including interest rates. As well as **Coffey** having an interest in taking on more committee work and proposed the development of new committees within the LMSA.

New Business

1. **STR Draft Ordinance:** The board discussed the draft ordinance aimed at outlining restrictions and guidelines for short-term rentals (STRs). **Coffey** provided insights into the drafting process and rationale behind implementing such regulations. **Pearson** emphasized the necessity of establishing guidelines, particularly in areas where short-term rentals already exist. **Hanus** contributed to the discussion by focusing on strategies to ensure that STRs positively contribute to neighborhood dynamics and minimize potential issues. The board engaged in extensive deliberation on the draft ordinance, reviewing its contents, and discussing potential adjustments. **Coffey** offered potential refinements to the ordinance to address concerns and optimize its effectiveness. Zoning enforcement was a topic of discussion during the board meeting, with members reviewing the current regulations and enforcement mechanisms in place. The board also considered how zoning regulations intersect with the short-term rental discussion, recognizing the importance of aligning STR guidelines with existing zoning ordinances to ensure consistency and effectiveness in enforcement efforts. The Board discussed the further on adding things to the ordinance and will discuss and make adjustments as needed.
2. **Website/email: Pearson** provided an overview of various website providers, presenting different quotes and detailing the range of services offered by each. The board discussed the options presented, considering factors such as cost, functionality, and customization capabilities to make an informed decision on selecting the most suitable provider for their website and email needs.
3. **Road Petition- Birchwood: Pearson** updated the board on road construction plans, specifically addressing the petition for Birchwood Lane in the Northwood on the Green area. He provided details regarding the proposed road construction and mentioned the upcoming public hearing if the petition gets 51% of the votes. This served as a notice to the board members regarding the potential outcome of a public hearing.
4. **Cleanup days May 11 and May 18: Pearson** announced the cleanup dates and that Brigalow will be providing 30 yard dumpster that will be placed in the Township parking lot. First come first serve.
5. **Public comments:**
Jackie Erwin; Gave a suggestion on family vacation and minimum and ordinance and monitoring the VRBO website.
Jay: Commented on the how the county somehow give various problems to the townships. And wants to know how this happens like the sewer system and zoning.
Kathy Adams: made a comment on Frankfort's Short term rentals ordinances, and Board member behavior. And how the state makes communities allow short term rentals. And

wanted to inform the Board on the upcoming chance to get on the ballot to get rid of property taxes.

Resident: Made a comment on the short term rentals and other short term rental problems.

Adjourn: Pullen made a motion to adjourn the meeting **Hanus** supported. All in Favor Unanimously 7:02P.M.