

## Approved Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall. Board members present were Supervisor Dennis Bjorkquist, Clerk Dianne Taylor, Treasurer Connie Jankwietz and Trustee John Dontz. Trustee Guy Finout was absent. Also present were County Commissioner Jeff Dontz, Fire Chief Chuck Barron, Captain Sam Koscinski, Deputy Clerk Karen Clouse, Liquor Inspector Rick Clouse, Barry Lind with PEG, Kathi Lynn, Garth Lynn, Gary Schwaiger, Matt McShane, Lauri Sadler, John Maser, Robert Ryan, Joe Hendges and Jim Eble.

Supervisor Bjorkquist called the meeting to order. All attending stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes of the August 13, 2020 Manistee Township Board meeting were provided. Treasurer Jankwietz made the motion to approve the minutes as written, Trustee Dontz seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

The Treasurer's report for the month of August was provided. The receipts were \$10,902.02; expenditures were \$42,595.18, leaving a balance of \$95,638.95 in the General Fund as of August. The report was placed on file.

Manistee Township Planning Commission – Approved minutes from August 5, 2020 and the August 26 Planning Commission meetings were provided and placed on file.

Manistee Township Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet.

In public comment, Gary Schwaiger addressed the Board regarding short-term rentals within the township. Supervisor Bjorkquist stated the Planning Commission addressed this issue at their September 2, 2020 meeting and asked if Zoning Office Assistant Karen Clouse could update everyone on the meeting. ZOA Clouse stated the Planning Commission decided to send a letter, along with the Noise Ordinance and parking requirements, to all known property owners that are operating short-term rentals within the township. Several other residents spoke in support of Mr. Schwaiger's opposition to short-term rentals within the township. Supervisor Bjorkquist stated the Township Board will address these issues with the Planning Commission.

Jim Eble suggested zoning ordinance enforcement is selective within the township.

Lauri Sadler presented a letter to Supervisor Bjorkquist requesting four (4) easements along Lakeshore Road be preserved in their natural state for foot traffic only.

Matt McShane inquired on the status of an ORV Ordinance. Supervisor Bjorkquist stated a sample ordinance has been drafted by the Township Attorney for the Board to review.

County Commissioner Jeff Dontz reported on the activities in the County. The County Planning Department is expanding; they have added Onekama and Arcadia Townships for zoning administration and enforcement. Lisa Sagala has been named as the new County Controller. A Resolution has been passed for healthcare. Letters of support are being written by Representative Bergman and County Commissioner Dontz for Friends of Orchard Beach State Park. There will be a Demolition Derby at the Fairgrounds on September 26, 2020 allowing a

maximum of 500 spectators. Rumors of the fairgrounds being available for sale are just that - rumors. The County has adopted a budget in excess of \$11,700,000.00. Commissioner Dontz stated he has been the District 5 Commissioner for 15 years, is on the ballot again, and would be pleased to be the Commissioner for many more years.

Zoning Office Assistant K Clouse, in Zoning Administrator Finout's absence, reported on the activity in the Zoning Department for August. There were no new written complaints. The fire damaged home on Miller Road is now owned by the County and is up for tax sale; Township Attorney Richard Wilson will be writing a letter to the County requesting them to clean up the property. There were two (2) land use permits issued and twenty-four (24) requests for construction permits. Lane King of Memory Lane Detailing has requested a Special Land Use Permit and submitted a site plan for administrative review. A Public Hearing has been scheduled for October 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to review the site plan and the Special Land Use Permit Application. The site of an alleged vehicle repair shop on US31 appears to be making an attempt to clean up the property after Zoning Administrator Finout sent them a letter. Zoning Administrator Finout is still working with the McNitt Road property owner regarding the procedure for abandoning the right of way. Zoning Administrator Finout and Township Attorney Wilson are working on a Sewer Agreement Amendment between the LRBOI and the Township to expand the sewer service area which could provide sewer service to the Maple Ridge Manor Assisted Living facility; the Wastewater Systems (Part 41) Application has been submitted. The Planning Commission and County Planners Rob Carson and Mike Szokola met for a work session on August 26, 2020 to work on the Master Plan and are making good progress.

Fire Chief Chuck Barron reported on the activity at the Fire Department. There were five (5) calls for fire suppression, thirty (30) calls for medical assistance and seven (7) for meetings and other station events. The chassis is completed and in South Haven, The hydraulic cab on #133 has been fixed, however, there are some fuses that still need to be repaired. Pump testing will occur at the station on Monday night. Hose testing will be occurring soon. Some of the gear from the Revenue Sharing grants has arrived. Chief Barron is requesting the Board appoint Joe Cerka as a probationary member to the Fire Department. West Shore Community College may be offering an EMR course this year; Dave Pete is interested in taking the course. Chief Barron will gather the information and report back to the Board. Onkama Fire Department is interested in an Automatic Aid agreement when the M-55 Bridge is closed. Supervisor Bjorkquist expressed his thanks to the firefighters for their hard work.

Treasurer Jankwietz made the motion to appoint Joe Cerka as a probationary member of the Manistee Township Fire Department; seconded by Trustee J. Dontz. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Liquor Inspector Rick Clouse gave the report for August. One Manistee Township establishment has a violation. All other Manistee Township establishments were in compliance.

Supervisor Bjorkquist gave an update on the Township. The chassis is complete and in South Haven at Spencer Manufacturing. The roof on the Newland School is almost done. Milarch Road is completed; \$3,625.00 over budget. Lakeshore Road has been fog sealed. The ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Pickleball Courts on September 5, 2020 had a big turnout.

Supervisor Bjorkquist informed the Board a letter of support from the Township Board for the Friends of Orchard Beach State Park had been drafted. Treasurer Jankwietz made the motion to sign the letter; seconded by Trustee Dontz. All voted in favor; motion carried.

Clerk Taylor gave an update to the upcoming November Presidential Election. There will be social distancing again in the precinct in November as there was in August. The receipt of absentee ballot applications has topped 1,050. There has been quite a bit of concern in the media regarding absentee ballots and the postal service so Clerk Taylor explained how Manistee Township handles the processing of absentee applications and ballots. The Clerk reminded voters to vote the ballot, put it back into the secrecy sleeve, put the secrecy sleeve into the envelope, seal the envelope, then sign and date the outside of the envelope. The completed ballot may be delivered to the office staff at the hall, or put in the drop box outside of the front door 24/7, or mailed back to the Clerk. The ballot will be verified by signature and then secured in the vault for safekeeping until Election Day. Voters can go to [mi.gov/vote](https://mi.gov/vote) to check the status of their ballot.

The August bill summary was provided. Trustee Dontz made the motion to pay the bills for August as provided and the September bills as they are received; Treasurer Jankwietz seconded the motion.

**Manistee County MTA Meeting** is not scheduled as yet.

**Manistee Zoning Board of Appeals** will meet **Tuesday, October 6, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** at the **Manistee Township Hall, if there is an appeal.**

**Manistee Township Planning Commission** will meet **Wednesday, October 7, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Manistee Township Hall.**

**Next regular meeting of the Manistee Township Board** will be held on **Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.** at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

There being no further business or public comment to come before the board, it was moved by Clerk Taylor, seconded by Trustee Dontz to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Taylor  
Manistee Township Clerk