

Argentine Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2020

Call to Order @ 7:00 p.m.

Supervisor Saad led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Hallman, present, Conner, present, Schmidt, Graves present, and Saad, present,
Absent: None.

Motion, Saad, seconded by Graves to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020.
Regular Board Meeting. Motion passed.

Correspondence is available to view.

Moved by Hallman, seconded by Saad to approve the budget amendments as printed in the
Board Package. Motion passed.

Motion, Schmidt, seconded by Graves to approve payment of expenditures as presented in the
board package. Motion passed.

Public comment: None.

Reports:

Fire Department- A written report was submitted. Chief Lafferty reported on the statistics of the
Covid 19 cases in Michigan.

Chief Lafferty said he issued a burn ban on March 26th and extended it until the stay at Home
order is lifted to avoid the possibility of grass fire calls so the firefighters would be available to
respond during the pandemic and not put the responders at risk when answering a non-essential
calls.

Repairs to engine 13 are complete.

The department is using Zoom meetings to keep up with trainings and department meetings.

I have a quote from Fenton Lock and Key to have the department re- keyed. The quote is in the
amount of \$1724.42.

Moved by Saad, seconded by Hallman to authorize Chief Lafferty to have Fenton Lock and Key
replace the locks and keys at the Fire hall at a cost of \$1,724.42. Motion passed.

Police Department- A written report was submitted. Chief Allen gave an oral report.

Department is in good shape for PPE equipment. A resident, Diane Banghart has personally
made over 850 masks for our department and the Detroit Police. Chief Allen said this is
commendable. The department is appreciative. Chief Allen is requesting approval to have the
HVAC ducts cleaned out. He has included 2 proposals. Saad moved to accept Chief Allen's
recommendation and authorize The Duct Doctor to clean the HVAC ducts for the amount of
\$1,100. The motion was seconded by Graves. Motion passed.

Serve Pro has disinfected and sanitized all police vehicles at no charge. This is in appreciation
for first responders.

Russ Ciesielski, Superintendent of Linden Community Schools gave our police department \$300.in appreciation and to help cover the costs of overtime for officers who worked the Gus Macker tournament.

Building Department- Saad reported that 6 permits were issued that total \$3,380.50.

The Planning Commission – Trustee Conner said the Planning Commission did not meet.

Attorney: David Lattie said he presented a much abbreviated ordinance for consideration later on the agenda.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Emterra Contract Extension

Schmidt said this would be a 5-year extension.

Our current cost is \$11.82 per stop. Emterra proposes a cost of \$12.05 + 2% year. The pricing in years 2-7 may be adjusted based on excessive fuel price increases. Schmidt said there will be enough money with the assessment to cover most of the years and the fund balance should take care of the remainder with no increase in assessment needed.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Saad to send a letter expressing our acceptance of the terms and extend the Emterra contract. Motion passed.

CDBG Agreement 2021-2023

The Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission Community Development Program (CDBG) was executed in 1994. There is a continuation clause in the original agreement. A community must indicate every 3 years if they choose to continue to participate. We must respond with a letter by May 8th stating if we wish to continue participation.

Moved by Hallman, seconded by Graves to respond that Argentine Township does wish to remain in the CDBG Program. Motion passed.

Bridge and Navigability Ordinance # 80

The Lake Association was given the opportunity to review this ordinance.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Hallman to adopt the final draft sent on 4-13-2020 of the Argentine Township Bridge and Navigability Ordinance #80. Roll Call: Hallman, Yes, Schmidt, yes, Saad, yes, Graves, yes and Conner, yes. Motion passed.

Public Comment: Jim Wells- Mr. Wells suggested the Board look into purchasing a proximity sensor or swipe sensor as a less expensive and more secure method of controlling access to our buildings.

Bob Allen- asked about a fallen tree. (This will be discussed later in the meeting).

Business from Board Members:

Conner- None

Hallman- Asked Mr. Lattie about suspended Planning Commission and ZBA meetings. Lattie answered and said we should do only necessary business. Mr. Lattie advised on how this could be handled if an applicant comes to us.

Hallman asked about the dam inspection and the east door of the dam. Saad has not had any updates from the GCRC about Whitehead Dr. or on the dam.

Graves- Due to the pandemic, some of our employees have accumulated paid time off to use. Vacation must be used by June 30th each year. My concern is that there are not many weeks for them to use their time without causing a disruption of business in the office. Fire and Building permits will be increasing and the August election will cause extra work. I think that we should offer our staff in the Building Department and Township office to be paid for up to 1 week vacation instead of taking the days off. This would be voluntary.

Moved by Graves to offer Code Enforcement Officer and Office Administrative staff the alternative of receiving up to 1 week paid time off in lieu of actually taking the time off.

Seconded by Schmidt. Motion passed.

Schmidt- There is a tree that has fallen and is blocking the navigation of the channel on Lobdell Lake. I have quotes to remove the tree. There is another tree that will probably be a problem soon.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Hallman to accept Ronald's Tree Service quote to remove 2 trees. Motion passed.

Saad- The Pathway project is on track for June construction.

The Linden graduating class had had to deal with the pandemic ending their school year and disrupting their senior year. Saad proposed honoring the students with a certificate and naming the entire class as citizens of the year. Saad moved to allow him to spend the funds to have a certificate made to present to each student. Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

I respect and admire Chief Lafferty. We have a discrepancy here regarding the total burn ban. I and other board members have had dozens of calls from people regarding the ban. Saad shared statistics. There were 2 grass fires per year for the last 2 years. The level of risk for a fire is low for an attended fire in a contained unit or a pit. Our residents want some semblance of normalcy. Saad moved to marry the DNR burn ban to allow attended camp fires and fires in a contained ring pit. The police can enforce violations. Hallman seconded the motion. Chief Lafferty disagreed and asked for the record to reflect his opposition to easing restrictions of the burn ban. The motion passed unanimously.

Attorney Lattie will draft and send us an emergency ordinance in the morning.

Saad said he hopes to appoint a parks and recreation committee at an upcoming meeting.

Saad said overall our response has been excellent. He thanked both Chiefs and our employees.

Adjournment at 8:08 p.m.

Denise Graves, Clerk

Brian Saad, Supervisor