

**Argentine Township Regular Board Meeting Minutes of June 29, 2020**  
**This meeting was held on Zoom.**

Call to Order @ 7:02 p.m.

Supervisor Saad led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Present: Hallman, Graves, Saad, Schmidt, Conner and Township Attorney D. Lattie.  
Absent: none.

The Seymour Rd. Drain Hearing was postponed until June 23, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion, Saad, second, Graves to approve the Regular Board Meeting minutes of May 18, 2020.  
Motion passed.

Budget Hearing:

A property tax millage rate of 0.6439 is proposed to be levied to support the 2020/2021 FY budget.

Saad reviewed each department of the proposed General Fund budget. Revenue is set at \$966,449. The expenditures are equal at \$966,449. The proposed budget is balanced. (The line item for the Building Inspector allows for a \$3,000. increase in pay).

The proposed Police budget has proposed revenue at \$746,475. And expenses at \$746,475. This budget is balanced.

The Fire budget has proposed revenue at \$291,762. and expenses at \$291,762. This budget is balanced.

Supervisor Saad thanked Treasurer Schmidt for his work on the budget.

Public comment: None.

Approval of Budget as presented:

Motion, Schmidt, second, Hallman to approve the 2020-2021 budgets as presented. Roll Call Vote: Saad, yes, Hallman, yes, Conner, yes, Schmidt, yes and Graves, yes. Motion passed.  
Moved by Saad, seconded by Hallman to close the budget hearing. Motion passed.

Motion, Saad, second, Hallman to close Budget Hearing. Roll Call: Graves, yes, Saad, yes, Schmidt, yes, Hallman, yes and Conner, yes. Motion passed.

Correspondence is available to view.

Motion, Saad, seconded by Graves, to approve payment of expenditures as presented in the board package with the addition of \$1,866.83. Roll Call Vote: Saad, yes, Schmidt, yes, Hallman, yes, Graves, yes, and Conner, yes. Motion passed.

Public comment: **David Miller, 14504 Cole Rd., Linden, Mi.**, spoke to an on-going problem on Cole Road at the bridge. He advised the Board of the cars, noise and garbage left by people using it as a meeting place and drop off point.

Board comments:

Treasurer Schmidt, Supervisor Saad and Police Chief Allen all spoke to the issue.

**Joann Braden, 12304 Silver Lake Rd., Byron, Mi.**, the same issue is occurring on Meier Rd. Kids are partying and jumping from the bridge into the river. I'm concerned about the safety of those participating. Saad thanked Mrs. Braden for her comments.

**Harold Nichols, 8070 Silver Lake Rd.**, asked the Board if there was an Ordinance to make those using either area to conform.

**Roger Kelley, 16299 Whitehead Dr., Linden, Mi.**, spoke as the ZBA Chairman about how difficult the Zoom meetings are during this time. Hopes we won't have to continue with them for long.

Saad commented that he shares in the frustration of the Chairman and thanked Mr. Kelley for his comments.

**Ken & Gloria Springer, 16425 Belfast Dr., Fenton, Mi.**, spoke to the issue of the condition of the road as well as the level of the lake.

Saad advised the Springers as well as Barb Santee that he would do some research and get back to them.

Reports:

Fire Department- A written report was submitted. Chief Lafferty is requesting a new increased pay structure for the 2020/2021 fiscal year to be included in their quarterly pay.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> Chief Lafferty, Assistant Chief Hatton and many members of our Fire Department attended a memorial service at which a person who tested positive for Covid-19 was in close contact for a prolonged period of time. This person was admitted to a hospital the next morning and is in ICU. We all hope for a full recovery. Due to the exposure, members who attended the memorial have been asked to self-isolate and get tested for Covid-19. Linden Fire Department will be toned out with our Fire Department until we are back at regular staffing. We will respond to calls if we have someone available.

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Chief Lafferty and Assistant Chief Hatton met with Supervisor Saad and at that time Chief Lafferty informed Saad of his intention to resign his position at the end of the year. Chief Lafferty came to this decision after careful consideration and believes that this is the right thing to do for him and his family. Chief Lafferty has offered his help in putting together a committee to select the next Fire Chief.

Board members agreed that discussion of these items would be tabled because of Revenue Sharing losses relating to the COVID 19 crisis in the state.

Police Department- A written report was submitted. Chief Allen said the department is open to the public with safeguards posted on the front door. All officers have received training on what Law Enforcement Officers need to know regarding Covid-19. The training was provided through the CDC and the State of Michigan.

Becky Nemecheck has received training on the new "My Pistol Program", which is the portal for firearm registrations. It is recommended that a Notary is on hand to notarize the registration.

Becky Nemecheck applied for and the department received a grant from Panasonic in the amount of \$7,293.

Chief Allen is requesting approval to purchase 12 boxes containing 48 doses of Narcan Nasal Spray at a cost of \$900. to be paid from the 2020/2021 budget. Moved by Saad, seconded by Schmidt to authorize the purchase of Narcan Nasal Spray at a cost of \$900.

Roll call: Graves, yes, Saad, yes, Schmidt, yes, Conner, yes, Hallman, yes. Motion passed. Discussion also ensued relative to the School Resource Officer and their pay. The return to work plan and Township Notaries. Treasurer Schmidt advised that the Township would require an invoice relative to the S.R.O. payment.

Building Department- Saad reported we had 25 building permits were issued in the amount of \$11,157.40.

The Planning Commission – Trustee Conner said the Planning Commission has not met since the last meeting.

Attorney Report: David Lattie had nothing to report. Graves asked about the COVID 19 plan. Attorney Lattie advised to post it in office and put it on the website.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Set Meeting Dates for 2020/2021 Fiscal Year:

Clerk Graves has given each member the schedule.

Moved by Saad, seconded by Conner to adopt 2020/2021 meeting schedule as printed. Roll Call: Saad, yes, Hallman, Yes, Conner, Yes, Graves, Yes and Schmidt, yes. Motion passed.

Policy & Procedure Remote Board Participation Policy:

This would allow telephone or video participation by members of the township board at regular or special meetings. Board members could vote on motions as well.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Graves to adopt the Argentine Township Remote Board Participation Policy. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Graves, yes, Saad, yes, Hallman, yes and Conner, yes. Motion passed.

Resolution 2020-3 Community Development Block Grant- Authorized Signature Card Update:

The Genesee County Community Development has requested that we update our authorized signature card to request reimbursements from the CDBG program. Moved by Hallman, seconded by Graves, to designate Saad and Schmidt as the authorized signers. Roll Call: Saad, yes, Schmidt, yes, Graves, yes, Conner, yes, Hallman, yes. Motion passed.

MEI Total Elevator Solutions:

Moved by Saad, seconded by Hallman to sign the MEI repair agreement for work on our elevator. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Graves, yes, Conner, yes, Hallman, yes, Saad, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Adopt 2020/2021 Special Assessment Budgets:

Moved by Saad, seconded by Graves to adopt the 2020/2021 Special Revenue Budget as printed. Roll Call: Graves, yes, Schmidt, yes, Conner, yes, Saad, yes and Hallman, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

GCRC Transfer of Construction Allocation to Flushing Township:

Moved by Saad, seconded by Hallman to authorize the transfer of construction funds to Flushing Township. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Conner, yes, Saad, yes, Hallman, yes and Graves, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Appointment to the Planning Commission:

Supervisor Saad recommended that Greg Smith be re-appointed to the Planning Commission for a 3-year term ending 7-25-2023. Motion by Saad, seconded by Hallman to re-appoint Greg Smith to the Planning Commission for terms ending on 7-25-2023. Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Graves, yes, Conner, yes, Hallman, yes, Saad, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Supervisor Saad recommended re-appointing Kim Schaaf to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 3-year term ending 7-25-2023. Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Saad to re-appoint Kim Schaaf to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending on 7-25-2023. Roll Call: Conner, yes, Schmidt, yes, Graves, yes, Hallman, yes, and Saad, yes. Motion passed 5-0.

Public comment: **Roger Kelley, 16299 Whitehead Dr., Linden, Mi.**, asked about the projects that still need to be fixed on Whitehead Dr. Saad advised that there is no definite date yet.

Business from Board Members:

Hallman questioned if the township is on schedule with the bike path.

Saad advised that we are ahead of schedule. Hallman also advised the Board that Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the fireworks around the lake.

Conner advised the Board that he was looking into a phone system with Wi-Fi and visual for the hall. Motion, Conner, seconded by Schmidt to have Conner and Schmidt work on a technology update. Motion passed.

Graves- First, I want to thank our staff for going above and beyond to keep the township operating smoothly and efficiently during these challenging times. We all appreciate their efforts. I submitted a request to the Bureau of Elections for a large ballot drop box to be provided to our township at no cost to us. The funding will come from CARES.

Schmidt- Proposed a bonus for our staff. Full-time employees, Jane, Leslie and Tom would each get a bonus of \$3,000. Part-time employee Becky Nemecheck would receive \$2,225. This would be paid from the current FY budget.

Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Graves to authorize full-time employees, Jane, Leslie and Tom to receive a bonus of \$3,000 and part-time employee Becky Nemecheck would receive \$2,225.

Roll Call: Schmidt, yes, Conner, yes, Saad, yes, Hallman, yes and Graves, yes.

Motion passed 5-0.

Saad: Spoke to the issue of repairing the dam and the costs. He said, after having met with the State that the dam is in great shape with exception of the door. The pressure is on for the township to pay for the repairs. Saad said this is the GCRC's responsibility.

Saad said the Pathway is ahead of schedule.

He also spoke about the Lahring Road project and making those Linden graduates who live in Argentine Township "Citizens of the Year".

Adjournment at 8:35 p.m.

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Denise Graves, Clerk

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Brian Saad, Supervisor