

**Meeting Minutes of Spring Arbor Township Board of Trustees, January 13, 2025**

Meeting called to order at 6 o'clock

Trachsel was appointed Secretary for the meeting.

1. **Roll Call. Present:** Archer, Buck, Ganton, Herlein, Trachsel and Walz. **Absent:** Bush.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Public Comment. None.**
4. **Reports**
  - A. **County Commissioner Poleski.** Bid for contract for medical costs at the jail came in greater than prior year (2024: \$730k, 2025: \$1.3M) – Bid accepted at \$1.059M. Full time attendant at the animal shelter hired. Landfill jointly owned by SOM and County to be purchased by County for \$1. Elected officials pay to increase by 3% (first since either 2022 or 2017 based on position). BEAD grant (broadband) update: successfully challenged Mercury Broadband regarding number of people who will benefit – up from 7.6k to 13k. 2025-2029 Parks plan approved.
  - B. **Police Department: Chief Deering.** Introduced new officer, Officer Emma Minghine whose first day is January 14, 2025. Reviewed the critical incidents as listed on the Public Safety Report.
  - C. **Fire Department: Chief McEldowney.** Reviewed Public Safety Report. Highlights include calls were up by 21 year over year. Plans to announce new firefighters at the next Board meeting (4 new people, bringing to total to 28). Training and class continue, including recent grain bin training.
  - D. **No Report by State Representative, Sarah Lightner.**
5. **Bills**
  - A. **Disbursements:** Buck motioned/Archer seconded. Roll call: six ayes, zero nays. Approved.
  - B. **Open and paid, journalized and unjournalized report:** Walz motioned/Buck seconded. Roll call: six ayes, zero nays. Approved.
6. **Minutes:** Ganton motioned/Archer seconded. Approved.
7. **Consent Agenda:** Walz motioned/Buck seconded. Approved.

**Prior to Supervisor's Report – agenda amended by Supervisor to include 9A: MTA Conference and 9B: Fire Department Cadet Program**

8. **Supervisor Report: Budget process starting – Katie will again assist, meeting with Department heads upcoming.** Building renovation continues on schedule and under budget, not (yet) using any contingency budget. HOA on Cambria requesting a special assessment – funded at first by Township – to be used to improve private street to JCDOT public standards. Estimated cost of \$350k for improvements. Asked Board what percentage of property owners within HOA signing a petition to request special assessment would be suitable. Discussion ensued, 75% decided as an appropriate amount. Informed Board of potential funding available through Western School District for the sewer upgrades within Dearing Road corridor. Cost estimates are \$1.3M, WSD would fund the entire amount and contribute \$650k to project, with the Township paying \$650k to WSD on terms yet to be negotiated. Supervisor asked Board if interested enough in this process to move forward. After discussion, Ganton motioned/Walz seconded. Roll call: six ayes,

zero nays. Approved. Supervisor will next ask for attorneys' opinions on this financing option. Environmental phase one study on potential new DPW building came back with no surprises, phase two review is now greenlighted.

**9. New Business**

- A. 2025 Regular Board Meeting dates. Trachsel motioned/Archer seconded. Approved.
- B. Proposed street lighting district on Dearing Road by new WSD Elementary. Cost \$700, to be paid to Consumers Energy. Archer motioned/Walz seconded. Roll call: six ayes, zero nays. Approved.
- C. Michigan Township Association annual conference. Registration now open. Up to three officials may attend. Walz motioned/Ganton seconded. Roll call: six ayes, zero nays. Approved.
- D. Firefighter Cadet Program proposed by Chief McEldowney. Program would be "slow-rolled" and follow similar successful programs in neighboring townships. Would come back to the Board before expanding beyond initial "children of" phase. Cost would start at minimum wage for two trainings a month (4 hours total per month per cadet). Walz motioned/Ganton seconded. Roll call: six ayes, zero nays. Approved.

**10. Old Business: None.**

- 11. Correspondence: Letter and contribution to Parks Department received from Mark and Lynda Little. Additionally, thank you notes for those who contributed to Christmas Lights fund will soon be outgoing.
- 12. Public/Board Member Comment. No public comment. Trachsel mentioned Summit Township Water System consolidation is going smoothly regarding influence on citizens (based on questions regarding and payments made in Spring Arbor office).
- 13. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Trachsel, Treasurer and Acting Secretary

Next Meeting Scheduled:

Board of Trustees: Tuesday, February 10, 2025 at 6 o'clock