

**WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING**  
**7:00 P.M. February 19, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:00 P.M.** with the Pledge of Allegiance being recited by all present.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Tom VanSyckle x Amy Snyder x Mary Karcher x Ethan McNeal x Lee Carte Ab**

**SUPERVISOR REPORT:** Supervisor VanSyckle reported that the Township has been fairly quiet and it's been a mild winter up to this point.

**MINUTES:** A motion was made by Amy Snyder to accept the minutes as written for the Jan. 15, 2024 Board Meeting, Ethan McNeal supported the motion, all in favor, motion carried.  
**BOARD MINUTES- Jan. 15, 2024**

**TREASURER REPORT:** A motion was made to accept the Treasurer Report and payments as presented for January 2024 by Mary Karcher, Amy Snyder supported the motion, all in favor, motion carried.

**TREASURER REPORT - Jan. 2024**

**LEPRINO REPORT:** Adam Philipps was not present. Supervisor VanSyckle reported that once the weather breaks from winter into spring we need to get a contractor at the WWTP with forestry mowers to clean up the area and to haul away brush. There is also a need to repair/replace a fence around the building.

**FIRE REPORT:** Fire Chief Jason Stadtfeld reported that there have been 31 runs to date and the station is running well. The air compressor that was gifted to the fire dept. may be going to the WWTP to be placed as they have the power that is required to operate the compressor. This would benefit fire dept. as well as Leprinos.

**LIBRARY REPORT:** Treasurer Jeanette Aldrich was not able to attend, however reported through an email that the Library is hosting the AARP Tax Service, FREE to the public, every Wednesday through April 15, 2024. Anyone interested needs to call Big Rapids to schedule an appointment at 231-796-4848.

**DDA REPORT:** Denise Reichert was present and asked the board if the pickle ball fence would be finished this year? The board is waiting to see if the County Commissioners will be granting out any of the marijuana money like they did last year. This information will be known after the

month of March. The next question was would the Township maintenance person/people be available to help put in the Disc Golf Course (helping to set and cement in the post) with others from the DDA? The board said it depended on when the course will be getting put in if our help would be available. Denise also reported that she is still working with MDOT to get the speed limit signs to stand out. What they are looking at now is LED Solar Lights being put on the outside of the 35 mph signs coming into town (4 different directions). The board was in agreement with this idea and she will report back to us when she learns more. The next topic of discussion was the kitchen in the pavilion. Denise, Jeff Storey and Tom VanSyckle met in early Jan. 2024 and discussed finishing the walls and adding a wall between the bar/kitchen area and closet. After a discussion Supervisor VanSyckle stated that no wall was needed. The agreement was to finish the walls with OSB and white steel. Denise also asked about replacing the bar area windows with roll top/concession stand doors. The board was in full agreement with this and thankful that these windows will be replaced. Denise mentioned that they have a steam table, a 3 basin sink, a hand sink and a couple stainless tables on wheels. The township will be replacing the tables and chairs in the hall and will be taking 4-6 tables to the pavilion to be used to serve food during events. The DDA's next meeting is Friday, March 8, 2024 at 8:00 a.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Dave Randall was present and asked the board if there was a stove at the pavilion and what the cost of rent was.

Linda Howard, County Commissioner, was present and reported that the Hover Craft arrived and it has decals. They have stated having classes for training for interested parties. She also reported that the County Road Commission has Open bids for a New Building with a cost \$800,000-\$1,500,000. Gotion has started cutting and removing trees but no earth has been moved at this time. Licensing for this project is still in Lansing. We had a discussion about the Presidential Primary and the Early voting and Mary Karcher reported that our new Ballot Box arrived and was installed last week. Linda mentioned that the Nicol's house across from the Township is still in court until the middle of May 2024.

(3 MIN NOT ON AGENDA 5 MIN ON AGENDA)

#### **CORRESPONDENCE: N/A**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Consumer's Power Waste Water Treatment Plant Update:** Mary Karcher reported the savings for Dec. 2022-2023 was \$3392.49 and savings from Jan. 2023-2024 was \$3514.22 with a total of \$6906.71 for the 2 months. Mary will have a total of savings from the full last year at the March meeting.

**2. Leprinos:** Supervisor VanSyckle met with the Plant Manager of Leprino, Dan Ramlo, who is now in Colorado at the Corporate Office. Chris Herndon is now acting Plant Manager. Supervisor VanSyckle has set up a once a month meeting with Chris to keep the lines of communication open between the Township and Leprinos.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Elected Official's Salary:** A discussion was held to start thinking about an increase in salaries for the elected officials with further discussion at the next meeting. The last increase in salary was 2012.

**2. Township Employee's Wages:** A discussion was had about increasing the 2 township employee's wage. Mary will look into when the last increase was in their wages.

**3. Scattered Garden Memorial Wall (Putting names on the wall discussion):** A discussion about the two different options being offered for the Memorial Wall/Wambold Cemetery.  
Option 1: 7"x2" Bronze Plate with concealed mounts at a cost of \$572 from Patten Monument Group. (The Township will be adding cost to this to cover the cost of the wall)  
Option 2: 36"x48 "Absolute Black Granite Plaque to have name birth and death dates engraved on the wall at a cost of \$3000 plus \$400 to install and (\$275 for the first 8 letters and \$10 per letter after that).

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** (3 MIN NOT ON AGENDA 5 MIN ON AGENDA)

**ADJOURN:** Motion was made by Mary Karcher to adjourn the meeting, Supported by Amy Snyder, all in favor, meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Mary Karcher, Clerk  
Wheatland Township