

**Royalton Township Board of Trustees  
Regular Board Meeting April 10, 2023  
Royalton Township Hall**

The regular April 10, 2023 meeting of the Royalton Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Supervisor Robert Basselman.

*Members Present:* Robert Basselman, Supervisor; Rachel Bernard, Clerk; Michael Eisenhart, Treasurer; Julie Marsh, Trustee; Jason Ackerman, Trustee

*Members Absent:* None

*Others Present:* Steve Tilly, Township Manager

**Motion by Ackerman to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Eisenhart.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

**Motion by Marsh to approve the March 13, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting minutes, Regular Board minutes and the March 27, 2023 Budget Hearing minutes. Seconded by Bernard.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

Eisenhart presented the Treasurer's Report for UFCU and Sturgis and Horizon's CD reports for March 2023 showing a fund balance of \$3,390,077.10. **Motion by Bernard to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Seconded by Marsh.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

**Motion by Marsh to approve the payment of bills for March 2023 totaling \$72,438.14, and payroll totaling \$35,536.36. Seconded by Eisenhart.**

**Ayes:** Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain:** (Motion carried 5-0)

Planning Commission Report: Ackerman discussed the future land use review that the Planning Commission began at their April meeting. The Planning Commission worked on the Future Land Use map updates and expects around 4 – 5 months more to work on it before done with the review. No action was taken.

Library Report: Presented at the meeting. No action was taken.

Sheriff's report for February 2023 was submitted prior to meeting. No action was taken.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Tilly discussed the Berrien County Emergency Operations Liaison Resolution. In the past Tilly has been the primary contact with the Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief as backups.

**Motion by Bernard to approve the Berrien County Emergency Operations Liaison Resolution. Seconded by Eisenhart. Roll call was taken.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve Manager Steve Tilly as the primary Berrien County Emergency Operations Liaison and the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief as backups. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Mary Nykamp with Wightman presented the Tanglewood Trail Water Main Extension Project details and discussed the estimated costs associated with the project. Arsenic has been found in the residents' wells and they are interested in municipal water. There are nine homes not connected to municipal water at this time in the Ponds subdivision. The estimates from Nykamp are high and she explained more work would need to be done to get a better idea of what will be required and once that is done the costs would more than likely come down. Basselman requested her look into HDPE pipe instead of ductile iron and Eisenhart stated that he would also inquire about that at the next JOBS meeting. The residents were also encouraged to share their well water findings with the Berrien County Health Department.

Next, the River Trace Estates Sanitary Sewer Project details and estimated costs were presented by Nykamp, and again the estimates are high and would need more work to get a more accurate cost estimate. Basselman asked Nykamp to look at a low-pressure system as another option for the project. Residents stated that the roads need to be redone in the subdivision and a lot of the septic systems are 25 years old so it would be a good time to do a sewer project. The resident stated that the neighborhood has interest, they just want numbers so they can make a more informed decision.

Nykamp had three other water and sewer project estimates to discuss but the board would like to see the numbers that the more in-depth review of the two projects with the most interest are before reviewing those more.

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve Mary Nykamp and Wightman to do a more in-depth review of the River Trace Estates Sanitary Sewer Project and the Tanglewood Trail Water Main Extension projects. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Tilly discussed the bids from Rieth-Riley and L.E. Barber for the removal of the existing asphalt and repaving of the Tryon School parking lot.

**Motion by Eisenhart to approve hiring L.E. Barber for \$49,850.00 to repave the Tryon School parking lot. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Business from Audience: Flooding and storm water backup in the Ponds from last week's rain was brought up by an audience member. Tilly stated that he is going to have the maintenance department camera the lines to see if there is a blockage in the line as Courtney St. also has a lot of drainage issues. The pipe may also be too small. The findings will be sent to the Berrien County Drain Commissioner.

Julie Wuerfel stated that the County will be holding a planning session on solar power.

Items not on Agenda:

Tilly stated that he had found a couple pick-up trucks that had previously been approved for purchase but were a little over the approved price.

**Motion to adjourn by Eisenhart to approve the purchase of a previously approved pick-up truck up to \$56,000. Seconded by Ackerman.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Committee Reports:

Basselmann (Fire Board) stated that the Fire Department was \$28,000.00 under budget last year.

Building report (Riegel) submitted prior to meeting.

**Motion to adjourn by Eisenhart at 7:55 PM. Seconded by Marsh.**

**Ayes: Basselman, Bernard, Eisenhart, Ackerman and Marsh**

**Nays:**

**Absent:**

**Abstain: (Motion carried 5-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Bernard, Clerk