

Saugatuck Township Special Board Meeting
Wednesday April 23, 2019, 3pm
Saugatuck Township Hall, 3461 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453
Approved Minutes

Clerk Bigford called the meeting to order at 3pm

All board members present with the exception of Supervisor Roerig.

Bigford – Due to Supervisor Roerig’s absence, we need to appoint a trustee to chair the meeting. *Helmrich moved that the Clerk, Abby Bigford chair the meeting. Marcy supported. No discussion. Approved 4-0.*

Public Comments

Bill Rowe –On the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. His terms were supposed to be concurrent and run 3 years. For some reason, he was reappointed to the ZBA through June of last year. Technically his term on ZBA is expired. He is the vice chair and the upcoming meeting will be a very technical one. Is asking the board to reappoint him to the ZBA for what his term should have been – June 30, 2019. Both his appointments would then expire 6.30.19. There are 3 issues to be considered at the next ZBA meeting. There is no zoning administrator. Is requesting that the township’s legal counsel is present at that meeting.

Patrick Stewart – is an alternate on the ZBA. It was determined that all of the alternates should be provided with all of the meeting materials and attend all meetings to stay abreast of the issues. Is wondering who he should talk to get materials for next week’s meeting. Helmrich – although this is not a “question/answer session” he will address this. Jon emailed the members of the ZBA (not the alternates) because he was given the materials and the packet. Bill Rowe was the only one who responded. The materials are here, someone needs to put a packet together and distribute. Patrick – a decision needs to be made about alternates having the packet materials.

Albi – you gave me a permit to build barns. Al stopped it. You mess with me every day. I don’t cheat. Wants to know how to get on the planning commission. Wants clarity on his permit issue.

Manager Dean Resignation

Bigford – I have an official notice of resignation from Natalie Dean dated April 18, 2019. In her correspondence she offers to stay on in her current position until May 3, 2019 and assist the Supervisor with the budget. Marcy – in her opinion, she is gone, she has resigned. Does not believe that we need to keep her on until May 3. She will be paid obviously. It is my experience in the work world, that when you resign, you are gone. Aldrich – she packed up her things. She does hope that we could still talk to her and discuss upcoming issues. Bigford – having her in the office would come with benefits and costs. It’s a tumultuous time right now. Her resigning adds to that stress. Not sure that having her in the office would be good for her, for us or for anyone. If she is in agreement to answer questions and be open to communication between now and May 3....that is something I would support. Helmrich – had an hour conversation with her yesterday. She and the board have been advised that she should not be in the office and she should not be dealing with the public. Does support contacting her on specific issues. She has been responding by phone so far. Thinks he is hearing that she be available by phone/text for questions. Bigford – she is not an elected official. We do not need to vote on accepting her resignation. She is an employee. Her resignation stands. Helmrich – we will communicate our wishes for phone/text support to Ms. Dean.

Supervisor Roerig Resignation

Bigford - I received a signed letter from Supervisor Roerig on 4.22.19. This letter did not include a date for the resignation to take effect. I did receive a signed resignation letter from Supervisor Roerig on 4.23.19 that did include a date for the resignation to take effect – 5.3.19. We do need to vote on resignations from elected officials. *Marcy moved to accept Roerig's letter of resignation effective 5.3.19 as written. Supported by Aldrich. Discussion: Bigford – supervisor Roerig indicated in his letter that he would assist the manager with the budget. It is within his statutory duties to do so. He will officially be the supervisor through 5.3.19. That is up to him. We do not manage that. That is part of his statutory duties. We can't control that. It's up to him. Helmrich – he would need to let us know if that was his desire. Roll call vote. All vote yes. Approved 4-0.*

Public Comment

Roy McIlwaine – After listening to the meeting and seeing what has happened he believes that the township board owes the township residents an explanation on how this situation came about with a manager resigning after 2+ months and a supervisor resigning simultaneously. This is not what should be happening in the township.

Tad Degraff – is a licensed real estate agent. Has a couple of deals put together with Albi. Needs to know who he can speak with about pending approvals. The township has had it for 2 months. Needs to know who he can speak with to get some action on this. Helmrich – we have a building inspector who helps us with zoning. There will be someone available to deal with zoning issues very shortly. We will announce this in a meeting soon. We have options. It can not be a member of the board. We do not want to do anything to slow things down.

Bill Rowe – is there a board meeting before the ZBA meeting on 5.2.19? Bigford – yes we have a board meeting on 5.1.19. Rowe – so I will not know until a day before?

Patrick Stewart – suggested postponing the ZBA meeting.

Charlotte Stewart – believes with the lack of understanding and with all that is going on we should consider a special meeting sooner.

Marcy moved to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Helmrich. No discussion. Approved 4-0

Bigford adjourned the meeting at 3:21p

Recording Secretary: Abby Bigford
Saugatuck Township Clerk
April 28, 2019