

**TOWNSHIP OF BLOOM
MONTHLY MEETING
January 14, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.
TOWN HALL @ 13775 COUNTY HWY H**

Present:

**Chairman Wayne Morse Jr
Supervisor Stuart Miller
Supervisor Jerry Crotsenberg
Treasurer Lora Hynek
Clerk Shelly Schweiger**

Delegations or Citizens

**Christian and Kim Cejpek,
Mr. and Mrs. Mike White
Chris White, Armand White
Zeke Spangker, Earl Wallace
Brad McCauley**

Before the meeting started Chairman Morse informed everyone present that this meeting may or may not be video/audio recorded

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Morse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. PROOF OF POSTING (VERIFICATION OF MEETING NOTICES with OPEN MEETINGS LAW)
 - a. Posted at the Town Hall and on the Township Web Site
 - b. Notice at other two locations to see Township Web Site with Web Address Posted
3. APPROVAL & ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 - a. Motion by Jerry
 - b. Seconded by Stuart
 - c. Motion carried
4. APPROVE MEETING MINTUES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – #6 gas in oil changed to diesel in oil, #8 correct the ordinance dated to 1-21-2014, #15 (d) Wayne would like “to discuss” an ordinance..., #15 (f) at the end add “Leave as is”
 - a. Motion Stuart
 - b. Second Jerry
 - c. Motion carried
5. TREASURER’S REPORT
 - a. Cash on Hand \$138.20
 - b. Savings Account \$48,169.42
 - c. Capital Reserve Fund \$118,245.92
 - d. Money Management-General \$150,011.36
 - e. CD’s \$75,617.05
 - f. Money Management-Tax \$305,819.90
 - i. Board states that they have heard and received the report from Treasurer Lora Hynek
6. COUNTY BOARD REPORT – Representative Mary Miller was not in attendance and no report was available according to Jerry and Wayne
7. PATROMAN’S REPORT – ¾ of the Sand pile has been used, Cherry Valley tree has been cut and moved that was hanging over the road, Drip on the Mack has not dripped since but the patrolmen will keep an eye on it
8. ROADS & BRIDGES REPORT
 - a. Cherry Valley Bridge Wing – Erosion on the side – Wayne had the County come out and had Doug Wood come out who had done work for Vernon County come

out and look at it. In Doug's opinion he thinks that rock and concrete might be a cheaper route but we might want to wait until we hear back from the County. Wayne suggests to table until we receive more information.

- i. Motion by Stuart to Table
- ii. Second by Jerry
- iii. Motion carried

- b. Over the Hill Bridge Repair – Wayne said that it is chipped and the re-rod is showing. County was out and not enough was there and so it did not stick. Chip loose off, brush off and epoxy spray. Stuart wanted to know how big of an area. Wayne stated that the area is about a 6' area right now and will need to be done when it is above 40 degrees or warmer.

9. DELEGATIONS & CITIZENS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS –

Nothing was brought up

10. SET DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – February 11, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- a. Reminder of Caucus January 18th at 1:00 p.m. with a backup date of January 21 at 7:00 p.m. if needed

11. EQUIPMENT

- a. Grader Repair and Trucking – Discussion with Possible Action – Wayne called Hillsboro Equipment and they quoted \$150.00 an hour, they have not worked on this type of machine, Brooks quoted \$160.00 an hour and they will come down, Titan figures it will take 4 days of work and they would truck the grader to Titans Shop and trucking cost would be \$800.00. If they do the work at the Town Shop, they estimate \$5,000.00 per side and we need both sides done. Titan could start working on it as soon as 1 week. Brooks could not work on it for at least 3 weeks.

- i. Motion by Stuart to have Titan truck it and do the work
- ii. Second by Jerry
- iii. Motion Carried

- b. Plow Truck – Wing Shoes – Wayne sent an email to Stuart and Jerry for 2 wing shoe (need 1 shoe per truck) from Universal Truck and the cost is \$168.75 each.

- i. Motion to table by Jerry
- ii. Seconded by Stuart
- iii. Motion Carried

12. RECYCLING & GARBAGE – Nothing New

13. FIRE DEPARTMENT & EMS

- a. Yuba – Jerry reported that they are upgrading the bylaws for the First Responders so that they are not running under the Fire Dept bylaws. Once the bylaws are completed the First Responders will have a new election.
- b. Richland Center – Wayne attended the fire meeting. The high-pressure equipment that was donated has been used approx. 103 times since May. The old equipment will be put up for sale on Surplus. 1/3 each by Schreiber's, Foremost and RC Fire Department for the Air Compressor, so the equipment will be ordered right away.
- c. La Farge – Nothing New
- d. Kickapoo Rescue Squad – Next Meeting is this Sunday Night

14. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Handbook – Discussion with Possible Action – Jerry read a note from Dave Nelson. “If the team patrolmen are to function as a team, they are going to have to follow directions and rules and put on their big boy pants and work with the board. If they were to be the director of what gets done, when and how – they should have run for a seat at the table in the front of the room!! Dave Nelson 12-12-2024”. Jerry then went on regarding communication that the handbook would present on both sides and would make a motion to approve it. Chris White wanted to have a voice and said that this was not something that was needed before and the more that you define things and the more you put parameters around it and the more you make it harder to find people instead of finding a way of working it out. If you adopt a handbook, you find a way of not working. You need to find a way of being flexible on both sides. You need to make things enjoyable on both sides. Stuart wants to go on record and say that he would not want to work for the township if he had to sign this handbook. He also said that the state has court cases where municipalities have not won. Our patrolmen are out in the heat, rain, floods, blizzards, the worst of conditions not knowing where the roads are, in the dark, with no visibility. The communication is the error. Kim stated that you Wayne need communication and not to be a micromanager and this handbook is a poor excuse. Kim is a member of this township and feels she needs to communicate her view on this subject being a taxpayer in the township. Lora wanted to know if Wayne or Jerry had spoken to the patrolmen regarding the handbook. Lora also stated that the last page can be used for toilet paper. Christian wanted to know if they did not sign the handbook what would happen then. Jerry stated that if they did not sign the handbook that a piece of paper would go into the file that they did not sign it and it would not be a disciplinary action but Kim said that it would or could be used as a disciplinary action. Jerry then said that he does not like Lora’s language. Lora apologized. Kim said that this should not be done. Wayne said he would review this with the patrolmen and that the handbook will be tabled. Handbook could be rewritten so that it covers vacations, time off, PTO ext. and Jerry can email it if people want it, they can contact Jerry. Jerry will give a copy to the Patrolmen tonight.
- i. Motion to table by Wayne
 - ii. Second Jerry
 - iii. Carried
- b. Vernon Graber – Right-of-Way – Discussion with Possible Action – Jerry and Wayne said that since we cannot find any information regarding this road that it automatically converts into a 4-rod road. Kim wanted a clarification on this subject. Shelly stated that she had found information (and had sent it to Wayne a few weeks prior) at the History room regarding a road in Section 36 Bloom Township from early 1900’s (1915-1919) where a road was only 9’ and the Town Chairman was PJ Shaffer at that time. Shelly will continue to look for information regarding Peckham Lane. After some discussion (cement removal, previous talks with land owner, changes to barn, etc)
- i. Motion – to table by Stuart
 - ii. Second - Jerry

iii. Carried

15. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Private Driveway – Plowing Liability – Discussion with Possible Action – Board Members need to talk with private driveway owners that patrolman currently have to drive on to turn around and/or plow. Also, with land owners regarding plowing for emergency vehicle access
 - i. Motion by Wayne to get a release of liability form and bring back at the February meeting
 - ii. Second by Stuart
 - iii. Carried
- b. Insulation of Recycling Building – Discussion with Possible Action – Wayne has different ideas getting 4x8 2” sheets Styrofoam (14 sheets), or Insulation Batting, People were questioning why we were wanting to insulate the building when the doors would be opened and the heat would go out. Lora stated that she had put up plastic and that the custodian did not like it and took it down.
 - i. Motion by Jerry to table
 - ii. Second by Stuart
 - iii. Carried
- c. Town Hall Door Replacement – Discussion with Possible Action Wayne said that the back door you could see through and the front door has lock issues. Hartje \$658.55 Aluminum Clad w/deadbolt and regular lock no maintenance, Amish at Burr Salem Ridge \$385.00 Fiberglass Composite no maintenance and Amish at Buckeye Ridge \$350.00 Fiberglass Composite could be painted, Menard’s \$299.00 for a wood frame door similar to what we currently have, Do It Best \$889.00. Inside door needs added to make it ADA also.
 - i. Motion by Wayne to table
 - ii. Second by Jerry
 - iii. Carried
- d. Mobile Home Ordinance Amendment Suggestion from previous meeting of value restriction to 3 comparable neighboring properties -Discussion with Possible – people on Johnson Hill are worried about property values regarding the value of mobile homes being brought in for issuing permits so that adjoining landowner’s values are not being decreased. Question was brought up that we might be discriminating on an opinion of someone that is poor on what they live in. Discussion with Possible Action
 - i. Motion by Stuart to refer to planning committee
 - ii. Second by Jerry
 - iii. Carried
- e. Board of Review Training – who is going, prepay by township or virtually or CD’s – Shelly showed the board the 2023 CD’s that we have on hand. Jerry said that he would like to go the no cost way for the township.
 - i. Motion by Jerry
 - ii. Second by Stuart
 - iii. Motion Carried
- f. Planning Committee topics and when to meet
 - i. Come up with some dates with Chairman

- ii. Wayne would like to go over Ag Enterprise Units and have County out to go over maps
- iii. Ordinances
- iv. Dave Nelson told Wayne that he would like to be on the committee and he would represent from a non ag side/view
- v. Brad McCauley would be interested and had been on the committee in the past

- 1. Motion by Jerry for Wayne to start organizing and getting dates set up for this.

- g. Discuss Seal Coating job by Fahrner on Township Roads from last year (2024) – Stuart viewed West Lima and it does not have the bare spots like Spangler Ridge Road does. Wayne will contact Fahrner and they will come out and inspect the road
- h. Discuss Agenda and Meeting Minutes Distribution by Board Members – Board Members are distributing and emailing clerks agendas/meeting minutes with incorrect information on them along with the clerk’s name without the clerk’s approval. Jerry said that he is doing this to about 50 people. Shelly asked that people be directed to the web site as all public information is located on the web site. Jerry said that he is not distributing them with the Clerks name.
- i. CD Maturing on January 13, 2025 at Farmers State Bank – Discussion with Possible Action - Wayne wanted to take the Farmers State Bank and all the Citizens First Bank MMDA except \$8245.92 and taking out a new CD with Farmers State Bank for \$135,000.00 at an interest rate of 4.05%
 - i. Motion by Wayne
 - ii. Second by Stuart
 - iii. Carried

16. Upcoming/Future Items

- a. County Clean-Up and Spring Clean-Up Dates
- b. LaFarge Fire Dept. Annual Banquet
- c. Nelson’s Sales Fair – List of Items Needed to Compare Prices
- d. Diesel Fuel Contract & LP Contract
- e. Town Hall Mowing

17. APPROVE AND PAY BILLS

- a. Year End Budget 2024 Adjustment(s) – Discussion and Possible Action – Lora does not have all the items in so this will be tabled until next meeting.
 - i. Motion by Jerry to approve and pay the bills
 - ii. Second by Stuart
 - iii. Carried

18. ADJOURNMENT at 10:50 p.m.

- a. Motion by Stuart
- b. Seconded by Jerry
- c. Motion Carried

Shelly Schweiger
Town of Bloom, Clerk