

**MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING (7:00 pm)
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
APRIL 14, 2021**

Regular Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman and Trustee Glynn

Public comments summary:

Residents oppose the STR ordinance being discussed by planning commission & it's negative effect on local businesses; Support for a noise ordinance, Questions about zoning administrator duties, pay and any conflict of interest.

New Silver Creek Township police officers: Assistant Chief Mike Grice introduced two new officers, Scott Borah and Todd McMichael. Mike stated he hopes Todd will become Assistant Chief so he can retire.

County Commissioner Mike Grice stated Cass County is offering a Tire & Hazardous Waste Drop off at the Cass County Fairgrounds on May 15, 2021 from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Approval of Agenda

Supervisor Saunders asked to add Mowing, Trimming and Landscaping to New Business on the agenda. Clerk Behnke asked to add discussion of the SADs.

<p>Motion to approve agenda with additions. Roll call vote: Yes (5) Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke No (0) Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Kuriata Braman</i></p>
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Consent Agenda (Monthly reports and bills/claims)

- 1-Approval of the Minutes from prior meetings.
- 2-Communications
- 3-Health and Safety Services Reports – attached
 - a-Police Report 16 complaints; 15 warnings; 5 tickets, 1 accident; 2 arrests; 4 liquor inspections;
 - b-Indian Lake VFD 5 calls
 - c-Sister Lakes VFD 11 calls
 - d-Ambulance 20 calls
- 4- Permits: 6 Mechanical – 7 Plumbing – 15 Electrical – 14 Building – 0 Demo – 8 ZC
- 5-Treasurer's Report- trial balances
- 6-Approval of monthly Bills and Claims

Motion to approve consent agenda.	<i>Glynn Kuriata</i>
Roll call vote: Yes (5) Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke No (0)	
Motion passed	

Operational Reports

Parks & Recreation Committee – Trustee Glynn – they have not met due to covid
 Planning Commission Report – Trustee Braman – STR are still being discussed – no meeting in April while they seek experts for input - next meeting is May 26, 2021.
 Public Safety Committee – Asst. Chief Grice – no recent meeting of this committee
 Sewer - Indian Lake - Treasurer Kuriata – nothing to update
 Sewer – Sister Lakes - Treasurer Kuriata – SAW grant will be finished May; next meeting is 4/15/21 at 1:30 pm.
 Zoning Appeals Board Report – Trustee Glynn- next meeting is 4/21/21 at 7:00 pm.

CONTINUED BUSINESS - none

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion:

Russom Park – Private events

Glynn

Motion to deny rental of Russom Park for private events.	<i>Saunders Glynn</i>
Roll call vote: Yes (5) Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders No (0)	
Motion passed	

Trash Days

Saunders

Supervisor Saunders is still trying to reach the person who runs our Clean up Days. We may not be able to afford 2 clean up days per year given the rising costs of the dumpsters. Then with covid on the rise that may also become an issue again. Supervisor Saunders will continue to work on this issue as we usually have Clean up Days on Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Zoning Administrator - Pay

Behnke

When we did our budget in March, we intended to have a Zoning Administrator hired by April. Since we do not, it is the boards understanding that Mr. Herter will continue with his pay as set in the March budget, this does not include the salary listed in the general fund for the zoning administrator position. Hopefully, we will hire a zoning administrator soon.

Blight

Saunders

Asst. Chief Grice stated Officer Ryan Shields is an excellent candidate and interested in working blight for the township. He already has experience in another township and works here as a police officer.

Bids for demolition of garage – 33102 Hunt Dr. Dowagiac

Saunders

We received 2 bids for a garage demo. One of the offers includes all permits and cleanup.

<p>Motion to accept the bid from Cross Excavating to demo the garage at 33102 Hunt Drive, Dowagiac. (this bid includes all permit and cleanup)</p> <p>Roll call vote: Yes (5) Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders. No (0)</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Saunders Kuriata</i></p>
<p>Motion to approve MTL quote & contract for mowing. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman No (0)</p> <p>Motion passed Supervisor Saunders will contact MTL for a bid to upkeep landscaping.</p>	<p><i>Saunders Braman</i></p>
<p>Discussion SAD petitions– we approved a resolution last year to require petitions for SAD; and it is now time to send out letters to the SAD’s reminding them to do so.</p>	
<p>Motion to approve PA 116 application from Hassle Farms. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn No (0)</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Saunders Behnke</i></p>
<p>Motion to end life insurance benefit, effective May 1st, 2021. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata. No (0)</p> <p>Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Behnke Kuriata</i></p>
<p>Motion to reclassify 14-130-004-050-13 (31115 Curran Beach Rd) to Waterfront District (Cass County Planning Commission approved with no recommendations on March 24, 2021).</p> <p>Discussion – Motion amended to:</p>	<p><i>Kuriata Saunders</i></p> <p><i>Glynn</i></p>

<p>Motion to return the rezoning application to the Silver Creek Township Planning Commission for reconsideration. Roll call vote: Yes (4): Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke. No (1): Supervisor Saunders Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Kuriata</i></p>
<p>Motion to increase Zoning Board of Appeals fees to \$1000 per appeal and Planning Commission fees to \$1,100 per public hearing to cover costs of running these hearings, effective May 1, 2021. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Trustee Braman, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders No (0) Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Glynn Behnke</i></p>
<p>Motion to purchase new bill box/ballot box and approve up to \$800 for this purchase if the Supervisor is satisfied with the security of the box. Supervisor Saunders contacted a locksmith to search for a heavy duty drop box for tax and sewer payments. This would also need to be large enough and secure for election ballots. He has found a box and wants to purchase if it meets his standards for security. Roll call vote: Yes (5): Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Braman No (0) Motion passed</p>	<p><i>Braman Glynn</i></p>

Public Comment summary –

Resident questioned the combining/splitting of the building inspector and zoning administrator positions and pay history.

Motion to Adjourn - Braman/Kuriata – meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.

Typed: 4/15/21

To be approved: 5/12/21