

Approved April 21, 2021

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
March 16, 2021  
1:00 PM  
[www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us)

The special meeting of the Watersmeet Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Rogers at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: Mike Rogers, Julie Mathiesen, Alan Piel, and Paul Kemppainen.  
Absent: None

Others Present: Russ Diethert, Dan Kline, Zoe Coleman (Meetings Moderator)  
Virtual Attendees: Yvonne Clark, David and Carol Sherrill, Dan Hance, Peggy Tuttle, Kirsten Boehm.

Agenda Changes/Approval: A motion to accept the agenda was made by Alan Piel, supported by Paul Kemppainen. Motion carried with all in favor.

Special Business to Consider:

- A. Trustee Appointment – Supervisor Rogers summarized the duties and responsibilities of a trustee. He thanked everyone that expressed interest in the position and read their names: Yvonne Clark, Dan Hance, Russ Diethert, Bill Neumann, Kirsten Boehm and Nick Christ. He noted Sandy Mansfield had expressed interest, but subsequently withdrew her name. He asked if the Board had a chance to review the resumes and letters/emails of interest.

Paul Kemppainen indicated he had reviewed all the applications and recommended the Board appoint Russell Diethert as Trustee, explaining his rationale for the recommendation: Russ has been a member of our community for a long time, a businessman. He also was one of the candidates for Trustee in the November election. Having made the effort to run for this specific position was big part of the consideration.

Mike Rogers commented “he took a number of broadsides” from Carol Sherrill at the January 2021 meeting re: limited review of applicant’s resumes and qualifications. Based on her rebuke, he felt the Board should review all of the resumes. Mr. Rogers also noted that although Russ Diethert ran for office, he did not receive the majority of votes.

There was some discussion about reviewing resumes. Julie Mathiesen noted per the MTA, the Board is not supposed to “rank” applicants, but rather nominate and vote on them until one is approved. Supervisor Rogers indicated the Board could discuss without ranking them. Paul Kemppainen indicated he was not opposed to additional discussion as part of a motion and a second. Julie stated if Paul’s recommendation was a formal motion, she would second it. She then noted she had also reviewed the resumes, but focused more on the level of involvement people have made in the community over years, summarizing Mr. Diethert’s participation in community events, on the Planning Commission and past committees for planning capital projects. As recently appointed president of Michigan Trails (MI-Trale), he’s part of a group that brings tourism into the Township.

Alan Piel stated he hadn't quite decided yet. Supervisor Rogers said if there was no further discussion, we had a motion by Paul to appoint Russell Diethert Trustee, seconded by Julie Mathiesen. Roll call vote: Paul, yes – Alan, yes, then no – Mike, no – Julie, yes. Motion failed.

Supervisor Rogers indicated he reviewed Kirsten Boehm's resume, which he thought was very impressive. Motion by Mike Rogers to appoint Kirsten Boehm as Trustee, seconded by Alan Piel. There was no discussion. Roll call vote: Paul, no – Alan, yes – Mike, yes – Julie, no. Motion failed.

Motion by Julie Mathiesen to appoint Yvonne Clark as Trustee, seconded by Paul Kemppainen. Julie explained the rationale for her motion: Yvonne has experience with and an understanding of Township matters from attending multiple meetings, she has a legal background that would be helpful on the Board, she's been involved not only with the Planning Commission, including drafting modification to the Zoning Ordinance, but also in community events and activities, such as the Art Uncorked group that was initiated in 2019.

Mike Rogers commented Yvonne would need to leave the Planning Commission if appointed Trustee and he would like to appoint Kirsten Boehm as a member of the Planning Commission to replace her. Julie Mathiesen commented the appointment of a new Planning Commission member was not on the agenda (and not the stated purpose of this Special Meeting). Mike stated the agenda could be modified, even after approval. As there was a motion on the table to appoint Yvonne Clark, it was decided to proceed with the vote. Roll call: Julie, yes – Alan, no – Mike, no – Paul, yes. Motion failed.

Discussion ensued regarding the appointment process. Paul Kemppainen stated he believed the protocol was to continue voting individually on the slate of candidates until one was selected. Mike Rogers then indicated he would support Yvonne Clark's appointment as trustee if Kirsten Boehm were appointed to the Planning Commission. Paul Kemppainen and Julie Mathiesen stated appointment of a trustee could not be made contingent upon the appointment of a specific individual to the Planning Commission (or any other committee); they were two separate actions. Mike Rogers then he would like to modify the agenda to add the appointment of a replacement planning commission member.

Alan Piel indicated he would make that motion. Additional discussion ensued following Clerk Mathiesen's request that he clarify and restate his motion.

Motion by Alan Piel to modify the agenda to discuss appointment of Kirsten Boehm to the Planning Commission should Yvonne Clark be appointed Trustee. Second by Mike Rogers. Concerns were again expressed regarding making the trustee appointment contingent upon another appointment. Paul Kemppainen felt separating the two into separate agenda items and having the trustee appointment addressed first would be acceptable protocol. Roll call: Paul, yes – Alan, yes – Mike, yes – Julie, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Rogers to appoint Yvonne Clark Trustee, seconded by Julie Mathiesen. Roll call: Paul, yes – Alan, yes – Mike, yes – Julie, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Mike Rogers to appoint Kirsten Boehm to the Planning Commission, seconded by Alan Piel. Brief discussion ensued. Paul Kemppainen questioned whether Kirsten had formerly expressed interested in being on the Planning Commission, since there were a number of others

that had. Mike Rogers indicated she had expressed interest him and to Dan Kline. Julie Mathiesen commented the Board should consider some of the other candidates that have applied for the Planning Commission, since they went out of their way to formally express interest. She stated her concern with appointing Kirsten is the lack of attendance at Township meetings, which are one of the better ways to understand upcoming needs and issues to be addressed by the Planning Commission. In response, Mike stated Kirsten has only been living in the area for a couple of years, but is well qualified based on her resume. There being no further discussion, Supervisor Rogers called for a vote. Roll call: Julie, no - Paul, yes– Alan, yes – Mike, yes. Motion carried. Following roll call, it was clarified that Kirsten would be completing Yvonne’s term on the Planning Commission, which ends in December 2021.

- B. 2021-2022 Budget Work Shop – Supervisor Rogers indicated he and Paul Kemppainen had completed the “Revenues” portion of the budget, summarizing what was expected for the upcoming year. He went through expected expenditures for the year, with input from the remainder of the Board re: adjusting proposed budgets for cost centers so they accurately reflect costs of maintaining specific departments (e.g. Building Inspection, Police, and Fire). There was also discussion regarding wages and the need to consider quarterly reimbursements from the Water and Wastewater Funds to the General Fund. Julie Mathiesen noted approximately \$28,000 has been reimbursed to the General Fund union payroll cost center, based on labor hours charged to water and sewer activities, so the budgeted amount for the General Fund payroll cost may be higher than necessary. It was suggested some of those monies be allocated to the Capital Outlay cost center, which then could be used to fund the proposed IT upgrades.

Discussion segued into a summary of the proposed IT upgrades based on draft quotes from The Computer Doctors. Paul Kemppainen and Julie Mathiesen explained the basis for the quotes, noting that Eric Ritter from The Computer Doctors has offered to meet with the Board to further explain the work and address any questions. The quotes would be revised based on that meeting. It was agreed to meeting with Eric at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Julie will contact Eric to verify his availability.

Finally, Julie Mathiesen presented the Wages and Stipends list for FY 2021-2022. The list incorporated pay raises for union employees. Other changes and/or discrepancies were highlighted. Slight increases are proposed for the Clerk and Treasurer offices. An additional stipend for the Treasurer for assisting with water/sewer billing is maintained from previous years but separated from the Treasurer’s base salary. Julie also noted a discrepancy in stipends awarded for cell phone use, indicating the Union Foreman and Police Chief receive monthly stipends covering a portion of their phone bills and nothing for internet, while the Building Inspector is reimbursed for both his phone and home internet. The Fire Chief does not receive any stipends for use of either personal phone or internet. There was some discussion regarding the Building Inspector’s use of and need for internet while in the field. Yvonne Clark volunteered to research group cell phone plans.

Other Business: Dan Kline provided the Board with an update on his research into reflective signs for fire numbers. This was in response to an earlier request from Fire Chief Pittsley, who had indicated it was difficult at times to find residences and/or properties when responding to calls at night. Dan indicated the signs used by Land O’ Lakes (which had been recommended by Chief Pittsley) could be orders from the same vendor we currently use. The signs are a little more expensive at \$33/each, but still reasonable.

Dan suggested the cost of fire number signs could be included with building permit fees, since possessing a sign with fire numbers is requisite for obtaining a building permit.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by Paul Kemppainen, seconded by Alan Piel. Motion carried with all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Mathiesen, Clerk