

**BINGHAM TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2021**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Supervisor Midge Werner called the Bingham Township Board Meeting to order on March 15, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bingham Township Hall, 7171 Center Hwy., Traverse City, MI, via zoom meeting.

**2. ROLL CALL- QUORUM PRESENT**

Present: Midge Werner, Kathy Morio, Sandra Grant, Todd Stone, Jeff Layman

Absent and excused: None

Staff Present: Recording Secretary, Marge Johnson; Steve Patmore, Zon. Admin

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone present.

**4. AGENDA APPROVAL**

*Sandra Grant/moved, Jeff Layman/supported, to approve the Agenda as submitted  
PASSED.*

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None stated.

**6. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 15, 2021 MINUTES**

*Sandra Grant/moved, Kathy Morio/supported, to approve the February 15, 2021  
Minutes, PASSED.*

**7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

**8. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Lee Point Drainage District-Steve Christianson, Drain Commissioner,  
and Brendon Mullane, Leelanau County Road Commission Manager

Steve Christianson, Drain Commissioner, and Brendon Mullane, Leelanau County  
Road Commission Manager, discussed a proposal to establish and construct a

new county drainage district to address the undersized culvert road crossing and flooding associated with several drainage ways out letting to West Grand Traverse Bay (Lake Michigan) along the southerly and easterly side of S. Lee Point Rd. These crossings and multiple branch drain outlets are generally located between M-22 to the west and S. Bay Ridge Ln to the east in Bingham Township.

Discussion - Drain Commissioner & Road Commission Manager  
Lee Point Drainage District

- A Lee Point Drainage District would be appropriate to solve the drainage problems on Lee Point Rd.
- In a district it looks at an area that generates the water and then concentrates on the people who are getting flooded and a solution for the flooding.
- Individuals may initiate an application to obtain signatures which would be turned in.
- Next step is circulating a Petition for Locating, Establishing and Constructing A Drain or Any Portion Thereof for A Municipality which allows the Drain Commissioner to move forward with the district.
- Drain Commissioner holds board of determination meeting to see if there is a need for the district (3 people with an alternate) with evidence shown to them. If they decide there is a need for the district, it becomes a project.
- Move forward with engineering, garnering easements and have a scope meeting to let everyone know what is going on and determine a path.
- Final engineer design and going out for bids.
- Once the contractor is chosen, the project is installed.
- A tally is done, the money coming to the district for the project is at large entities and the people in the district. (At large entities can pick 20-30% of the project - Road Commission, MDOT and the Township). (Township pays 15 to 25-30%). Everyone in the district gets an assessment for paying.
- Money is borrowed against the district and the project is funded.
- The assessments are done at the end of the project.
- Bingham Township has the capability of adopting a Resolution to choose a person from the township, the authority, to go ahead and do an application and a petition for a district.

Answers to questions from the Board

- Project would be done next year, need to get easements which are outside the road right of way for construction of the drain and future maintenance.
- Project would be financed over a number of yrs. depending on the size of the project, and costs per year.
- Drain Commissioner has the power to condemn property, could find a new route and work with those property owners.
- Cost estimates - \$250,000 - \$350,000 for the project - amount that would get financing for.
- Work with a bank to get financing on these projects.
- Bill goes on December 1 property tax bill for the residents in the district every year.

- District is the area in a watershed that contributes water to the problem spot.
- Problem spot, the culvert, is where the work is done.
- Each of the outlets have to be maintained by the Road Commission

Public comment

- Neil Englehart, 3780 S. Lee Point Rd. said his property is right by the culvert on S. Lee Point Rd. that has flooded over the years. Encourage the Board to not petition for a drain district at this point without getting more input from the affected residents. Flooding is caused by excessive rain. It would be better if the property owners in the affected area submit the petition. Feels a larger culvert could fix the problem.

Board Comments -

- Midge Werner - this meeting is to give the township information about a drainage district. A public information meeting will be held in the future.

**10. COMMITTEE, STAFF AND OFFICER REPORTS**

a. Parks and Recreation Committee.

Todd Stone said the Committee addressed the existing ordinance; Committee agreed that the park would be open from dawn to dusk and would come to the Board to amend that section of the ordinance. Will look at making an exception for Bingham Park during the winter months. Committee moving forward with design for Groesser Park.

Dan Rose, lives adjacent to Boughey Park, commented on the hours being proposed for Boughey Park to be open and the problems at the park.

Midge Werner suggests putting a light at Boughey Park.

b. Building & Grounds -

Peggy Core prepared for Clerk, Kathy Morio, Board members and staff, Potential Addition - Floor Plan Notes/Explanation. The floor plan is just a first draft for review in order to continue dialog regarding needed space and placement, and to encourage further thought about layout options, visitor traffic flow, etc. The population of Bingham Township is continually growing, resulting in the potential future need for more staff and services.

The Board reviewed the potential addition plans submitted by Peggy Core. Kathy Morio said this proposal comes from the need to sequester election workers who count absentee ballots. Discussion followed about the proposed project. Addition size of 17 x 25 feet = 425 square feet. Midge Werner said we need to get someone to take a look at the proposed project, suggests Andy Rink and Jon Walter.

c. Cemetery Committee - Midge Werner said a bid was received for repair of

the entry gate area at Maple Grove Cemetery. Someone else is submitting a bid with some ideas. Kathy Morio - would like to renew membership of \$40.00 to Michigan Association of Cemeteries.

d. Zoning Administrator - Steve Patmore said number of permits is increasing, lots of questions on what can be done. Short term rentals - 49 permits done, 2 pending permits, for total of 51 permits. Working with Host Compliance.

e. Planning Commission - Held public hearing and approved three zoning ordinance amendments (housekeeping). Formed master plan committee. April meeting cancelled. Next meeting - May 6, 2021.

f. Fire Authority - Documents e-mailed to township board. Fire Board approved the 2021-2022 Budget. Special meeting - March 24th.

g. Assessor - No report.

h. Treasurer - Settled with the county.

i. Trustee - No report.

j. Clerk - Vendor Balance and Payroll

Clerk Morio submitted Vendor Balance of \$6,191.57 which includes \$40 membership to Michigan Association of Cemeteries. Payroll - \$11,226.05.

***Sandra Grant/moved, Todd Stone/supported, to approve Vendor Balance of \$6,191.57 and Payroll of \$11,226.05, PASSED.***

Kathy Morio said the township hall is currently not being rented. Consensus not to rent the township hall due to COVID.

Dorothy Jean Coulter submitted the Library's Audit Report.

k. Supervisor - Township now allowed to have in person meetings at the township hall, can have 24 people with social distancing. Zoom meetings should be continued. Next meeting – discussion by Lake Association to establish lake board.

11. **Public Comment** - None.

12. **Adjournment**

Midge Werner adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

**MINUTES BY MARGE JOHNSON, RECORDING SECRETARY  
KATHY MORIO, CLERK**