

## Monterey Township Board Meeting

September 2, 2014

Meeting called to order by Supervisor Nevin Cooper-Keel at 8:00pm at the Community Building. Board members present: Nevin Cooper-Keel, Jennifer Frank, Lois Commons, Earl Collier, and Faye Black  
There were 17 citizens present and Melissa Skeindziel and Max Theil

Frank moved supported by Commons to amend Agenda. Clerks items added, Public comment segments reduced to one session of public comment with a 3 minute per person time limit. 4 yays 1 nay (CK) motion carried.

Black moved supported by Commons to approve the amended Agenda. 5 yays motion carried.

Collier moved supported by Black to approve the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. 5 yays motion carried.

Melissa Skiendziel from Berends, Hendricks and Stuits Insurance agency presented on our current coverage, services they offered and upcoming Grant opportunities. They are offering a Grant opportunity where townships can get up to \$5000 every 6<sup>th</sup> months. The purpose of the grant is for safety and to minimize exposure to lawsuits. Submission date opens October 1<sup>st</sup> through Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> 2014. There will be another opportunity in the spring. Mrs. Skiendziel states Berends, Hendricks and Stuits participates with a dividend program the first dividends will be announced in January. She is excited to be working with us and can help with items such as policies to minimize risk control.

Max Thiele reported from the County that the Jail has partial occupancy and law enforcement began moving in last week.

Mark Evens has requested use of the Hall for a business use, using it one weekday a month for four months (2-3 hours). He requested a special pricing for the hall use as it is not on a weekend or for full days.

Commons moved Supported by Frank to approve Mark Evens a fee of \$40 per use for the 4 weekday evenings requested providing they do not overlap township business. Motion Carried 4 yays, 1 nay.

Collier moved supported by Frank to approved 2 cemetery deeds, one for Vicki Brower and one for Beulah Baker. Motion carried. 5 yays

Frank moved supported by Commons to approve Election Commission Meeting date of October 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:45pm. Motion Carried. 5 yays

Commons moved supported by Collier to pay bills. Motion Carried. 5 yays

Frank moved supported by Commons to send Faye Black and Lois Commons to an upcoming MTA training on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>. Motion Carried. 5 yays

Cooper-Keel motioned supported by Commons to approve the August financials. Motion Carried. 5 yays.

Public Comment:

Pat Roys had questions about financials

Carl Avery asked if putting a large metal sculpture was within the cemetery rules.

Katie Burch expressed concern over Supervisor Cooper-Keel's personal facebook page. Felt it was deceiving as if it was the township facebook page and was unhappy with the unprofessional content on Supervisor Cooper-Keel's facebook page. Supervisor Cooper-Keel offered it was solely his personal page and he had rights to post content there.

Lenard Reinart Presented a sample social media policy to the board that he thought would be a benefit to our township.

Mike Moore voiced his concern with Nevin Cooper-Keel maintaining a personal facebook page that he thought was the townships. Voiced concern that Supervisor Cooper-Keel's personal page is the only place he seen lawn care bids posted.

Steve Marvin expressed concern about the proposed switching of ambulance services in Monterey Township. He feels switching to Life Ambulance would limit Medical First Responders (MFR) in our area. His son was recently in an auto accident and he feels the MFR's that responded within a minute were a great asset. Mr. Marvin also conveyed his feelings that Supervisor Cooper-Keel's actions on Face Book were a bad representation of a Township Supervisor.

Supervisor Cooper-Keel defended his belief that Allegan Ambulance would be a quicker response to many situations in the township. Supervisor Cooper-Keel also stated social media is a tool we should be using and feels he represented his community well on Facebook.

Melissa Skiendziel recommended we keep a timer during public comment and consistently hold persons to a three minute time frame. Recommended adding a clerks report, treasurer's report to the agenda and keeping things consistent within the meeting.

Fred Patric felt Monterey Township deserves to have quality healthcare practices. He supports keeping MFR's in our township with our Ambulance service.

Lois Commons stated in talking with Salem Township they believe that if we change any part of our township to Allegan Life Ambulance we will lose MFR service to the whole township as it is supported only by Wayland EMS.

Steve Marvin reiterated how important it was to have Tyler Frank on scene at his son's accident. Frank qualified that Tyler Frank is her Son and he serves as a Hopkins Volunteer firefighter. She corrected the negative statements Supervisor Cooper-Keel made on his facebook page falsely indicating Tyler Frank was a MFR for Wayland EMS. Supervisor Cooper-Keel denied he has posted that on Facebook, he stated he posted "He had heard Tyler Frank was a MFR". Frank stated she felt that was still rumor generating and unprofessional.

Pat Roys stated he felt that Supervisor Cooper-Keel started looking into changing Ambulance services to Life ambulance as a result of a complaint from the Dumont Lake area.

Gary Shimmel stated he recently met with his personal insurance agent and they stated he should be careful of content placed on social media to avoid a personal lawsuit. He suggested the activity on social media could lead to lawsuits against the township.

Kaitlyn Arndt stated she had read Supervisor Cooper-Keel's facebook page and could not understand why he was being so mean. She indicated he has said very mean things about her grandmother Mary Arndt. She

stated she understands social media is a way of communicating and that Supervisor Cooper-Keel has his opinions but encourages him to seek nicer options.

Henry Reinart states being a public official does not grant you immunity, he is worried Supervisor Cooper-Keels social media activity could lead to lawsuits.

Commons moved supported by Frank to adjourn. 5 yays.

Meeting adjourned

Jennifer Frank  
Township Clerk