Watts Township
06/03/26

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman Darren Miller, Supervisor Joel Deaven, Secretary/Treasurer Carol White, Engineer/Zoning Officer Jerry Spease and approximately 30 visitors.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Darren Miller and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was an addition made to the Agenda as Final plans for warehouses had been submitted to the township from MRPI. Deaven made a motion to amend the agenda to add this business. Miller 2nd, the motion carried

Miller and Deaven had reviewed the meeting minutes from 05/06/26. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes. Deaven 2nd, the motion carried. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from the Data Center Ordinance review on 05/26/26. Deaven 2nd, the motion carried.

Miller noted that they received the financial report from the New Buffalo Fire Company showing January 1st, 2026 to June 30th, 2026.

There was no public comment given on agenda items.

The Secretary shared that they had received a renewal quote for the townships workmans comp policy that is renewing on July 3rd with the current company. The new servicing agent had requested quotes from 2 other companies. One declined to give a quote and the other was a good bit more than what the current policy would renew at. He did have one other company that he could request if the board wanted. The current policy renews at a cost of $5,183 annually. After discussion the board decided to wait and hear what that other quote would be at the meeting in July.
Solicitor: He was not in attendance. Miller did talk with him before the meeting and he didn't have anything to review.
EPREMA Report: At their May 25th meeting, they voted to approve getting a frequency from the FCC. They are still looking to get Locks and solar Lights for the staging containers that are currently in place.
Zoning Officer: There were 2 zoning permits issued.
Engineer/Act 537: There were 17 Delinquent pumper letters sent out and 9 of them have said they will get them pumped soon.

New Business: They would like to have HRG recommend sound consultants to help review future changes to the Zoning Ordinance. There are only 2 to 3 companies that do this kind of service. Deaven made a motion to have HRG reach out to the companies and get a fee schedule to review at a future meeting. Miller 2nd, the motion carried. There was an application for an alternate for the Zoning Hearing Board. Miller read the letter of interest from Pam Kelly. Miller made a motion to appoint Pam Kelly as the Alternate to the Zoning Hearing Board. Deaven 2nd, the motion carried. Deaven read a letter of interest from Ethan Reichert to be an alternate for the Planning Commission. Deaven made a motion to appoint Ethan Reichert to the position of Alternate on the Planning Commission. Miller 2nd, the motion carried.
June 25th there will be a Public Hearing on the Draft Data Center Ordinance. Deaven shared about wanting to hear from the public but also about how they need to get what they have in place and then hope to make some possible changes at a later date. The hearing will be first and then the Board will have a Special Meeting directly after to consider approving the ordinance. It will be published in the newspaper as well as be added to the calendar on the township website. The Zoning Hearing Board will have a hearing on June 30th at 6pm. Miller was going to try and reach out to the Wesleyan Church to see if we could use their building for those meetings. He recommended people watch the website in case the location for either of those meetings would change.

Old Business: They will table the Plow truck until the next meeting as Karl is not at the meeting and didn't get all the quotes to the secretary. Miller heard back from the Hazerdus waste company and they were too busy to help us so he is

looking for another possible company to work with. Miller was not able to attend the last Perry EMS meeting as our meetings have conflicted with theirs. Their next meeting is June 25th and since we also have a meeting that day, he will not be able to attend.

Road Master: They are fixing a ditch/ sink hole and will do some additional pipe work in that area. Deaven shared that they received a letter from Scott Spearing about a sign that needed to be moved off of his property. He is also having a poll moved. They will also need to have about 6 inches of blacktop removed from his property so they will work on getting that done and filling in with some gravel.

Miller shared that MRPI had submitted Final Plans for the warehouses. They are not removing their data center plans so they are not sure what is going on with this. He shared that they are able to resubmit their plans as they had preliminary approval. He asked that people bear with them as they work through all these things. Miller made a motion to send the final warehouse plans to the Planning Commission and Perry county planning commission for review. He then opened up the floor to public comment on this item since it was added to the agenda tonight. Deaven 2nd, Motion Carried.
Alice Carnathan - had questions about the sound studies that were talked about tonight.
Steven Conklin Jr - Would like to see a sound study for all future zoning applications of any kind. Shared how some days he can hear 322 and others he can't.
Lesli Keener - wanted to know the times of the meetings that were mentioned.
Carol Z. - Had questions about the timeframe for the warehouse plans.

Planning Commission: There is a meeting next week Wednesday the 13th, at 7pm at the community center.

Public Comment: Dr Daniel Welliver - Thanked the Supervisors for all the work they have been doing and adding strength to the draft ordinance. He shared his feelings about Matt Klimer.
Carol Z. - Feels they should only raise standards for any changes in the future. Shared that she was contacted by people looking for land to use for battery storage facilities. Shared that she knows of several people that have been contacted. She had more questions about time tables for development submissions and how the current zoning would work for a data center application as it stands now.
Steve Rhoads - Shared he didn't see anything about violations and how they would be handled. He shared concerns about a data center running generators fulltime if the power company is not ready for them.
Steven Conklin Jr - Asks the township to challenge a substation coming in.
Brook Langel - She is trying to take in a lot of info coming in late. She had questions about the existing wording and actions for any violations. Feels time of day and seasons should be considered for sound testing. She shared her concerns about data center water use.
Guest - Asked how people can share their concerns about wording on violations. She asked for info about the current supervisors. Miller and Deaven introduced themselves.
Jim - Had building Hight questions about current data center plans that were submitted.
Guest - Shared about Senate bill 1359 - 3 year Moratorium on Data Center Development. Recommended people call their Senators about this bill to get it moving out of committee.

Miller reminded everyone about Clean up day this saturday. He also shared that he reached out and requested the county commissioners to come to the meeting tonight but they didn't show up.

Deaven made a motion to pay current and all bills that come due before the next meeting. Miller 2nd, Motion carried.

Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Deaven 2nd, the motion carried. 7pm