

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD JANUARY 9, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Jim Pitsch at 7:00pm

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Members Present: Don Sebright, Trustee, Jim Pitsch, Supervisor, Dan Strieggle, Trustee, Renee Busscher, Clerk, Ashley Brower, Treasurer

Also preset: Judge Bakker, Allegan 48th Circuit Court, Jim Storey, County Commissioner, Dan Kipen, Fire Chief, Lisa Vandebunte, Library Director

Absent: n/a

Reading of Minutes and Bills: Board Meeting (if needed), if no additions or corrections minutes and Bills will be approved and paid by consent.

Allegan County Circuit Court: Judge Bakker presented:

Court is growing; there are more cases than what they can handle. There will be elections held for more judges to expand the court. Also, Judges age out at 70, so there is a position currently that will need to be filled.

County Commissioner: Jim Storey presented:

Discussed construction starting to expand courthouse. Advised there has been a group formed to challenge the new energy siting law.

Comments from Commissions & Departments of:

- **Zoning:** n/a
- **Planning:** rethinking accessory building specifications
- **Fire:** see attached report, also discussed the program in place to inspect in home fire detectors
- **Ambulance:** new ambulance on order – estimated to be received 2025
- **Library:** discussed circulation, 40 kids in reading program, spirit week, 1/13 – Lego Club
- **Parks Planning:** was not awarded grant for park, meeting with state to discuss how to make grant application more appealing and different grant programs to enter
- **ARPA Funding:** n/a
- **Roads:** received more bill from Road Commission for work completed

Public Comment:

Questions concerning cremations and burial plots (to be researched after elections)

Old Business:

1. Ordinance Addressing Floodplain Management Provisions of the State Construction Code:
TABLED Nothing to motion
2. Hire a Design Specialist for determining how to best use Township Site (Tower Pinkster):
TABLED Meeting with Tower Pinkster Jan. 18 to discuss further before making decision

New Business:

1. Discussion Regarding DNR Grant for Salem Township Park:
TABLED Nothing to motion, meeting with State to hear what they have to say
2. Amendment to the Salem Township Cemetery Ordinance – change lot costs to updated rate on ordinance:
Moved by Dan Strieggle, seconded by Ashley Brower
Discussion: n/a
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
3. SWB Dust Control for Roads:
Moved by Don Sebright, seconded by Dan Strieggle
Discussion: county pays SWB and we pay county back
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Computer for Planning Commission, to be funded from Planning Commission budget, not to exceed \$1000:

Moved by Dan Striegle, seconded by Don Sebright

Discussion: n/a

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment:

142nd and 28th St, question about road lines to paint since to indicate intersection

Adjournment:

Moved by Ashley Brower, seconded by Renee Busscher to adjourn meeting at 8:12pm

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**Allegan County Libraries Circulation
December 2023**

	<u>Circulation</u>	<u>Population Served</u>	<u>Hours Open Weekly</u>
Salem Township Library	5,242	8,289	45
Dorr Township Library	2,352	7,922	31
Fennville District Library	3,418	14,496	53
Hopkins District Library	907	4,851	37
Leighton Public Library (Moline)	5,822	7,001	40
Saugatuck District Library	5,761	5,686	47
Henika District Library (Wayland)	3,329	7,978	53

Hot Spot Check Outs = 8



Salem Township Fire Department
Monthly Report
December 2023

Projects	
Fire Academy	Started January 8 th , sending 2
Probationary Firefighters	Assigned to report to an officer bi-monthly to assist with proceeding in the process and getting them ready to test off probation
EMS CEs	WAEMS will have some CEs according to our training schedule
Medical tones	Dispatch will be conducting a trial of having medical tones on a department's duty officer tone.
New Radios	Tele-Rad has received the new radios- waiting on the state for programing
Adopt a Family	Department adopted a family of 4 from Project Hope. Personnel donated money to buy the family some Christmas gifts. Family received a station and fire truck tour.
Gear washing machine	Have Garrets Appliance working to fix the gear washer

Incidents			
Fire Incidents	Total -5	YTD-135	Incidents in Sandy Pines- 0
Type	Number of Incidents	District	Notes
Vehicle Fire	1	1-Salem	Teenagers lighting off fireworks in car
Gas Smell	1	1-Salem	Normal gas and oil well smell
EMS Assist	2	1- Salem 1- LUCAS assist	1-Lift assist 1- Dorr
Disregarded while Enroute	1	1- Salem	Fire Alarm at PDS plastics dur to welding in building
Year to date Incidents in Sandy Pines- 8			

EMS			
Total -14	YTD-168	Incidents in Sandy Pines-1	Incidents in Rehoboth- 0
District	Number of Incidents		
Salem-	12		
Monterey-	2		
Year to date Incidents in Sandy Pines- 25		Year to Date in Rehoboth- 1	
Total Fire and EMS Year To Date- 303			

Salem Township Fire Department has a dedicate group of personnel that respond from home and work to help keep the residents of Salem Township and the surrounding communities safe.

Ballot group formed to challenge energy siting law



A ballot committee [announced its plan this week](#) to bring a voter initiative on a new law to revamp legislation that grants the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) the ability to override local governments in the permitting of renewable energy facilities.

[Citizens for Local Choice](#) is behind the proposal and aims to gather 550,000 signatures before May to get the initiative on the ballot for the November 2024 election. The group hopes to raise \$7 million to \$10 million to fund their work. (Under Michigan's "indirect" initiative process, the measure would first go to the Legislature, which could choose to adopt it. If the Legislature rejected the initiative, the question would then move to the voters.)

The intent of the initiative is to nullify part of [Public Act 233 of 2023](#), which allows solar and wind developers to apply for a permit directly to the MPSC if the local unit has not adopted a Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance. If the local unit has such an ordinance, the developer may eventually appeal adverse decisions to the MPSC. Ultimately, the ballot initiative is an attempt to retain full local zoning authority.

According to [Ballotpedia](#), the 2024 signature requirement for an initiated law is 356,958.

MAC was opposed to the act's provisions that stripped decision-making from local governments, but that is not an indication of our position on clean energy goals. MAC is not a member of Citizens for Local Choice and has not been involved in the group's work.



**Salem Township Fire Department
Monthly Report
December 2023**

Trainings/Meetings	
Topic	Number of Personnel
Fire Attack hose deployment	22
Officers meeting	5
Equipment Checks	7
Pumps Ops and Drafting	8
Ice Rescue Certification	4
Probationary drive and pump ops time- X 5	5

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