

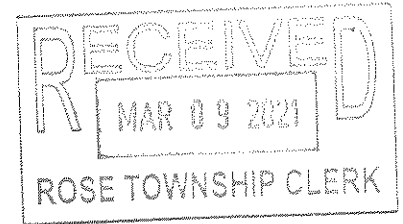
Check Date	Bank	Check	Vendor	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
Bank GEN GENERAL POOLED ACCOUNT (COMMON)						
03/09/2021	GEN	22421	CONSENRGY	CONSUMERS ENERGY	ROSE TWP LIGHTS/101-463-448-000	74.95
03/09/2021	GEN	22422	DELEWES	DAVID FLEWES	FEB & MARCH ZONING ADMIN MILEAGE/ 101-2	220.64
03/09/2021	GEN	22423	DTE1	DTE ENERGY	STREET LIGHTS/101-463-448-000	313.37
03/09/2021	GEN	22424	RICOH2	RICOH USA	EXTRA COPIES/101-289-726-000	271.63
03/09/2021	GEN	22425	SCHANG	DAVID A. SCHANG	CASH IN LIEU OF MED BENEFITS/101-289-70	575.00
03/09/2021	GEN	22426	SSLAUGHTER	SUSAN SLAUGHTER	CASH IN LIEU OF MED BENEFITS/101-289-70	575.00
<b>GEN TOTALS:</b>						
Total of 6 Checks:						2,030.59
Less 0 Void Checks:						0.00
<b>Total of 6 Disbursements:</b>						<b>2,030.59</b>

*ADD AFTER CHECKS*

Check Date	Bank	Check	Vendor	Vendor Name	Description	Amount
03/09/2021	SAD	2326	CONSENRGY	CONSUMERS ENERGY	HOLLY SHORES LIGHTS/861-000-920-000	66.48
03/09/2021	SAD	2327	TRADEMARK	TRADEMARK OUTDOOR SERVICES	FEB SNOW FLOWING BIG TRAIL/204-000-930-	1,440.00
<b>SAD TOTALS:</b>						
Total of 2 Checks:						1,506.48
Less 0 Void Checks:						0.00
<b>Total of 2 Disbursements:</b>						<u>1,506.48</u>



**Holly Area Youth Assistance  
Board of Directors  
February 4, 2021**



**Meeting called to order at 3:35 p.m. by President Tena Alvarado**

**Members Present:** Tena Alvarado, Cherie Monette, Teresa Blaska, Shirley Charbeneau, Nancy Hanks, Janie Andrews, Margaret Bloom, Shelly Kidd

**Others present:** Ragen Rockwell, Linda Blair, Patricia Walls, Sean Miller.

**Agenda:** Teresa Blaska moved to accept. Second by Shelly Kidd. Motion carried.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to accept by Shirley Charbeneau. Second by Shelly Kidd. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report for was shared for January, 2021. Expenditures for the month totaled \$75.00. Total deposits of \$100.00. \$12,000.00 was transferred to the HAYA payroll account. The ending balance for the report was \$\$30,811.37. Support from Teresa Blaska, second by Shelly Kidd. Motion Carried.

**Case Worker's Report:** Ragen Rockwell shared the January, 2021 caseworker report and noted that there were 15 new referrals for the month. There are currently no mentors plus meetings being held. Ragen shared that she is currently working on life skills and executive functioning with many of her caseload students. Ragen also shared that a \$500 grant was received for a family in need of car repairs from OCYA.

**COMMUNITY REPORTS**

**Groveland Township:** Vacant

**Holly Township:** Absent

**Rose Township:** Nothing new to report.

**Springfield Township:** Nothing new to report.

**Village of Holly:** Absent

**Holly Area Schools:** Linda Blair –Covid cases are decreasing in Oakland county and students have returned to in person learning. The new diversity and inclusion plan is ready to be presented to the board of education.

Blessings in a backpack – Packing dinner for approximately 400 students.

**Police Liaison** –Absent

## **Standing Committees**

- A. Skill Building** –Shirley Charbeneau shared that 1 new application was received for January.
- B. Family Education** - There will be an upcoming Love and Logic class February 22, 2021. There are approximately 12 Holly families enrolled in the class. The class will be held on Monday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 pm, for a total of 4 weeks.

## **Old Business**

- A. Secretarial Wages** –No pay increase recommended at this time due to budget concerns and being a fiscally responsible organization.
- B. 2020 Annual Report** – Committee chairs need to complete and send report to Karyn by February 28, 2021.
- C. 2021 Budget Proposal** – Proposed budget shared with the board prior to meeting. Motion from Teresa Blaska, support from Shelly Kidd to accept the proposed budget. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

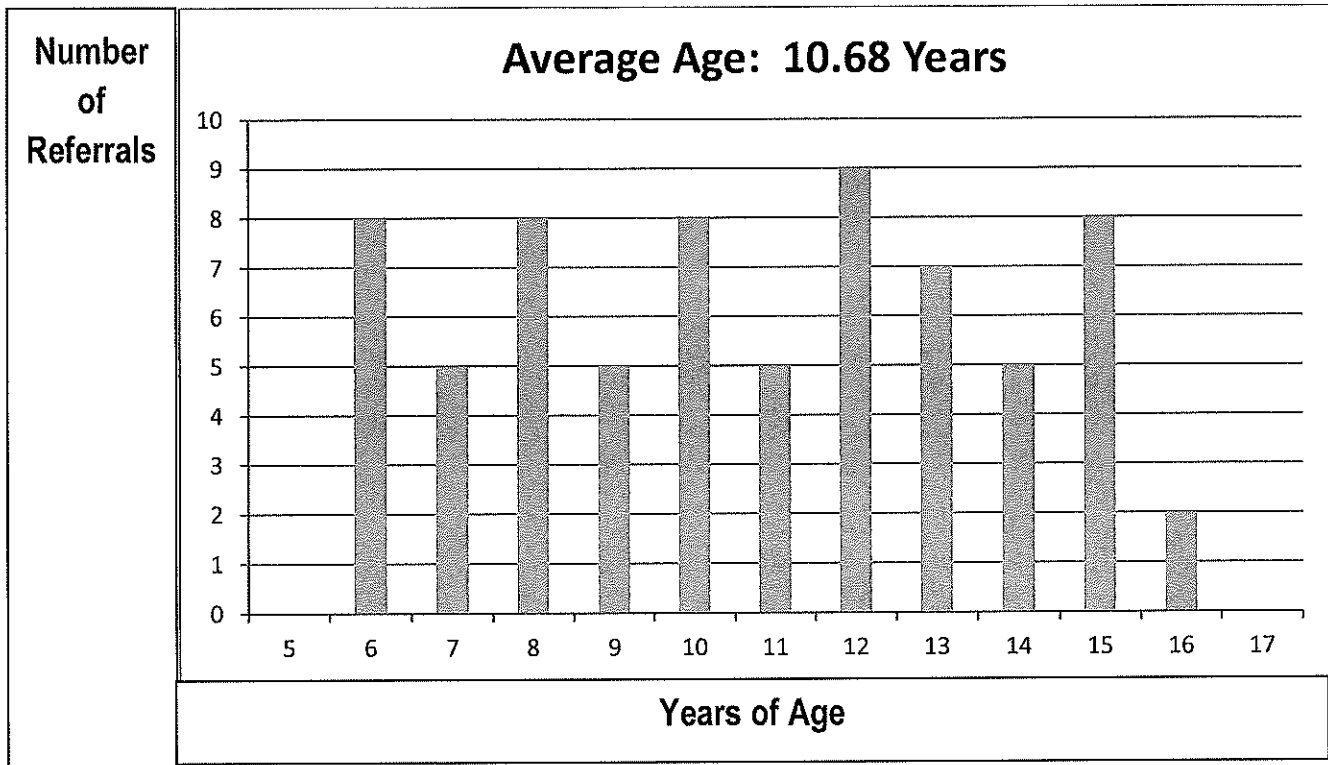
- A. HAYA By-laws** –Verified that all active members have a copy of current by-laws. If copy needed, contact Tena Alvarado.
- B. Youth Recognition idea** – Would like to try alternative ideas of recognizing outstanding youth such as social media, yard signs or small gift cards. Margaret Bloom will look into cost of signs and possibility of gift card donations.

**Meeting adjourned at 4:16PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Blaska

**Holly Area Youth Assistance  
Casework Services Report  
February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



Families Serviced Year to Date: 71  
31 new cases in February 2021

**Reasons for Referral**

Prevention/Counseling 7  
Curfew Violation  
School Incurrigibility 16  
Alcohol/Drug Related 2  
Vape Related  
Home Truancy  
Home Incurrigibility 1  
Technology Misuse  
School Attendance Issues 44  
Threatening Behavior  
Breaking and Entering  
Assault and Battery  
Harrassing Communication 1  
Malicious Mischief

Referral Source

School 67  
Police 2  
Parent 0  
Other 2

Gender

Male 33  
Female 38

Information and Referral Consultation Year

to Date: \*\*\*8

\*\*\*These are not open cases

Mentors Plus

HAYA currently has 0 mentor matches. All Mentors Plus Orientations are held at the Oakland County Executive Office Building which is located at 2100 Pontiac Lake Road in Waterford. Mentor matches are not currently being made, but if you are interested in mentoring in the future, please call Julie Stitt at 248-858-0045.

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 2:48 PM  
**To:** 'sstone@tctimes.com'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Paul Gambka; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE: The Devoted Barn

Hello Sharon and everyone,  
I have not received this letter from a Mrs. Seger so I am sending a copy to all board members. Thank you for sharing with me.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** Sharon Stone <sstone@tctimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 10:40 AM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** FW: The Devoted Barn

Debbie,  
You might have gotten this letter too. I'm just sharing.

Sharon

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**From:** Patricia Seger [<mailto:seger001@umn.edu>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 04, 2021 10:10 PM  
**To:** [sstone@tctimes.com](mailto:sstone@tctimes.com)  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Sharon

Thank you for your article on The Devoted Barn. Following the work of this great non-profit for years, one thing is very very clear - it is all about the animals. They always receive the very best of care, attention and love. Rose Township should be proud to be the home of a nationally recognized animal rescue.

Melissa and her wonderful team of volunteers work to rescue and rehabilitate animals that others discard. Animals that *would have been euthanized at traditional shelters* due to the physical and emotional scars of being stabbed, beaten, shot, intentionally starved or seized from hoarding situations are given loving care by everyone at TDB. Over time Melissa and her team have made it possible for over 5400 animals to heal both physically and emotionally

Nothing else should matter except the care of these animals that would stand no chance in this cruel world without the selfless dedication of a few.  
It is my hope that the court and the township board members see their way to keep this wonderful program alive and vibrant in its current location

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**From:** Patricia Seger <seger001@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 12:25 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** helping the animals of the devoted barn

To the members of the board and planning commission:

Rose Township should be proud to house The Sanctuary of The Devoted Barn. I have followed the work of this fantastic non-profit for years. One thing is very very clear....it is all about the animals...they receive the very best of care, attention and love. I cheered when I learned the rescue was moving to what seemed to be a perfect location to allow security for these vulnerable animals.

This is about the discarded animals that *would have been euthanized at traditional shelters*. They have suffered physical and emotional scars of being stabbed, beaten, shot, intentionally starved or seized from hoarding situations. At The Devoted Barn they are now given loving care and medical attention by the volunteers. The team at The Devoted Barn have made it possible for over 5400 animals to heal both physically and emotionally. Melissa's unwavering dedication to her vision is a large part of the Barn's national reputation as an exceptional sanctuary willing to help abused or feral animals from any location.

The Sanctuary of TDB is one of the few rescues in the US to have a program specifically dedicated to caring for and rehabilitating feral dogs. Dogs such as Shaggy, the Newfoundlander who turned feral after eight months on the run in the Grand Rapids area. After being trapped by Melissa, her patient and loving hands and those of the TDB volunteers spent 3 years helping transform him from fearful to being able to live with a new furever family.

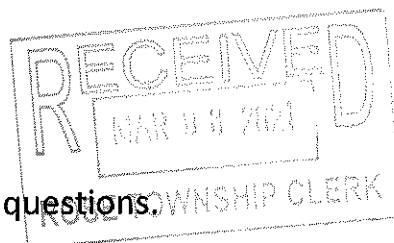
Nothing else should matter except the care of these animals that would stand no chance in this cruel world without the selfless dedication of a few.

It is my hope that the court and the township board members see their way to keep this wonderful program alive and vibrant in Rose Township.

Thank you.

Pat Seger  
phone: 651 440 0907

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.





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**From:** bluezeus2000 <bluezeus2000@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 12:55 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller  
**Subject:** DEVOTED BARN

Monday, March 8, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

I want to officially go on record that: 01. I support Melissa Border, and The Devoted Barn. I think she is doing a wonderful job!

justice!,  
complaining

02. I am appalled that Diane appointed Mr. Jacob Mauer on the Planning Commission.

03. Mr. Jacob Mauer should recuse himself from this appointment, in the name of  
since he is already on the Planning Commission in Flint, MI, and he is the one  
the most about The Devoted Barn.

tens

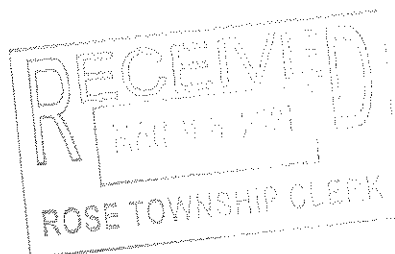
04. I am horrified and disappointed that Rose Township supervisor, Diane, is WASTING  
of thousands of dollars of taxpayers money to sue its residents, i.e. not just Melissa  
Border and The Devoted Barn.

mid-stream

05. Rose Township initially approved The Devoted Barn as a rescue. They cannot in  
start changing and creating new rules to suit certain biased people.

Sincerely,

Janet Schreiber  
Rose Township Resident



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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 3:58 PM  
**To:** Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** FW: helping the animals of the devoted barn

FYI

**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 3:58 PM  
**To:** 'Patricia Seger' <seger001@umn.edu>  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider <Dianne@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; 'Paul Gambka' <paul@gambkacpa.com>; Glen Noble <trustee1@rosetownship.com>; Glen Noble <genpef@sbcglobal.net>; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** RE: helping the animals of the devoted barn

Mrs. Seger,  
Thank you for your letter regarding the Sanctuary of the Devoted Barn. I am forwarding your email to the Rose Township Board of Trustees for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
clerk@rosetownship.com  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** Patricia Seger <seger001@umn.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 12:25 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** helping the animals of the devoted barn

To the members of the board and planning commission:

Rose Township should be proud to house The Sanctuary of The Devoted Barn. I have followed the work of this fantastic non-profit for years. One thing is very very clear.....it is all about the animals...they receive the very best of care, attention and love. I cheered when I learned the rescue was moving to what seemed to be a perfect location to allow security for these vulnerable animals.

This is about the discarded animals that *would have been euthanized at traditional shelters*. They have suffered physical and emotional scars of being stabbed, beaten, shot, intentionally starved or seized from hoarding situations. At The Devoted Barn they are now

given loving care and medical attention by the volunteers. The team at The Devoted Barn have made it possible for over 5400 animals to heal both physically and emotionally. Melissa's unwavering dedication to her vision is a large part of the Barn's national reputation as an exceptional sanctuary willing to help abused or feral animals from any location.

The Sanctuary of TDB is one of the few rescues in the US to have a program specifically dedicated to caring for and rehabilitating feral dogs. Dogs such as Shaggy, the Newfoundlander who turned feral after eight months on the run in the Grand Rapids area. After being trapped by Melissa, her patient and loving hands and those of the TDB volunteers spent 3 years helping transform him from fearful to being able to live with a new furever family.

Nothing else should matter except the care of these animals that would stand no chance in this cruel world without the selfless dedication of a few.

It is my hope that the court and the township board members see their way to keep this wonderful program alive and vibrant in Rose Township.

Thank you.

*Pat Seger*  
*phone: 651 440 0907*

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:47 AM  
**To:** 'Kelley Kazmierczak'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Paul Gambka; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE: The Devoted Barn

Ms. Kazmierczak,

I have received your letter in support of the Devoted Barn. I am sending to the Rose Township Board of Trustees for review.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
clerk@rosetownship.com  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888

-----Original Message-----

From: Kelley Kazmierczak <kbandkk1@gmail.com>  
Sent: Monday, March 8, 2021 5:45 PM  
To: Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
Subject: The Devoted Barn

Township Board,

I'm writing in support of The Devoted Barn and the dog program that they run there.

The program not only helps abused, neglected and feral dogs. It also helps countless adults and children. These people, like myself, who might be battling personal or emotional issues. Especially now with all the isolation that COVID has brought.

Without TDB, many people would not have anywhere to go. Take their family to.

Not to mention what about the dogs? Every living thing deserves a chance. A chance to be a dog in a loving and nurturing environment. Everyone and everything deserves to find someone to care and love them. TDB does that. It gives dogs the people to love them and the dogs love unconditionally.

I really don't understand why it was decided to carry through with this lawsuit. Is it really worth 26K, plus what ever continuing legal fees should this continue.

I would think that money would be better spent on upgrading libraries, parks or more support for seniors.

Has the board ever visited TDB and walked a few of the dogs? Listen to their stories? I believe if you had, you would not of taken the side of one or two neighbors.

I believe if you had taken the time to visit and go in and see the dogs, you would of tried to help find a solution.

Isn't it better to be a hero to these animals instead just another human that has let them down?

What about all the good TDB has done for the community? Having many local kids volunteer and learn some valuable lessons about compassion.

Please, instead of trying to end the dog program, why don't you try and make it better to reach more people. How wonderful would it be for Rose Township to be able to say they assisted in creating a renowned therapy program for kid, adults, veterans and of course the dogs.

Please reconsider your decision and instead help TDB. Assist them in creating a safe spot for these dogs and also calm the one or two neighbors concerns.

Respectfully,

Kelley Kazmierczak

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** 'don gardner'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Paul Gambka; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE:

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I have received your letter in support of the Devoted Barn. I am sending to the Rose Township Board of Trustees for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** don gardner <donaldgardner38@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 5:02 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:**

I am absolutely against the townships harassment and lawsuit against the devoted barn, I am angry that my tax dollars are being used for this, please cease and desist immediately.

Donald Gardner  
3520 davisburg rd

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** 'Jona Keller'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snyder; Paul Gambkã; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE: The Devoted Barn

Hello Ms. Keller,  
Thank you for your letter I received in support of the Devoted Barn. I am sending your letter to the Rose Township Board of Trustees for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
*[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)*  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** Jona Keller <lyriccd3@frontier.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:01 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Dear Rose Township,

I am just a city girl, born in Anaheim, California. I have 2 beautiful rescue babies, cats, Lyric & Charlie. I came across The Devoted Barn after I saw one of my best friends "like" one of their posts on Facebook. This was around the time that Mel was in California rescuing Buster. I had recently lost my Mom to cancer and was just devastated. I was new to Facebook. I had not wanted to join Facebook as I was depressed and really didn't want anything to do with anyone. My heart was broken. Well, my heart started to get filled up again starting with the cross country trek of Mel, Buster and crew. I have been part of the barn family ever since. The videos, posts and pictures are lifelines to me. I am so happily and amazed with all that is still good in this world. The abuse and neglect the animals of The Devoted Barn endure has left me speechless and in tears many times. Hearing Breslin's story, Hope's story, Phoenix's story, The Meat Trade dogs, sweet Louise, Sunshine, Buster, Shaggy...the list goes on. Then you see the transformation of these angels, learning to trust again. Discovering that there are truly good people in this world. The real, true and good people of The Devoted Barn. Feral time, roll call amazed me as Mel knew all the names of the dogs. I remember thinking I would never be able to remember all those names. Now I do! Almost...we have a few black dogs that still throw me. 🤔 Over this time, well over 3 years, I connected with the dogs, livestock, horses, pigs, goats, lambs, alpacas, llamas and volunteers. I, too, felt feral, misunderstood. So did Andrea. She didn't feel like living anymore. She reached out on one of the live videos. The outpouring of support was amazing!

Kristy Whitman even went to her aid in person. What is amazing to me now is the fact that Kristy went to help this person does not surprise me. There is something special about this barn, this barn family. I look so forward to the daily check in from Mel and the barn family. I love all these animals so much. I never knew

the depth of these animals until we lost the first one I was aware of. Buster. The grief is so real and so is the love and devotion. I don't have much to give but when I can give, it's to The Devoted Barn. I learn so much from Mel and she just shares, there is no condescension. She just wants to be part of the solution. There are many things in this world of mine that make me shake my head and wonder what the heck is going on...what is wrong? I can always count on The Devoted Barn to be real. Though I am 2,285 miles away, I feel so connected to this family...2, 3 & 4 legged folks! Thank you for your time and please help Melissa and the barn family with whatever they need to keep caring for these animals, the barn and each other! Please, keep an open mind and choose love and understanding...for these beautiful souls.

Sincerely,

Jona

Jona Keller  
[lyriccd3@frontier.com](mailto:lyriccd3@frontier.com)  
714-321-1835



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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 3:49 PM  
**To:** 'sstone@tctimes.com'; 'e-sjostrom@hotmail.com'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Paul Gambka; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE: Letter to the Editor

Thank you Sharon and Ellen for your letter. I am forwarding your letter to the Board of Trustees for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** Sharon Stone <sstone@tctimes.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to the Editor

The Letter to the Editor is at the bottom of the email, which I am running this weekend. We always confirm they are ok with their name printed. She is.

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**From:** Ellen Hoff [<mailto:e-sjostrom@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 09, 2021 9:42 AM  
**To:** Sharon Stone  
**Subject:** Re: Letter to the Editor

Hi Sharon,

I just want people to know that The Devoted Barn is much more than a Dog Rescue and what it means to people like me to be able to go there and visit with these Dogs at some of the darkest times in life... I have a favorite, his name is Landry! . When I leave there, I have forgotten all about my cancer and feel fill of love from all the affection I have gotten from these animals. I wanted you to know my story about my cancer, so you knew I wasn't making it up! some sick people do those things. It has never been about me and my cancer, it's about me going there to donate goods and to get the therapy I soooo much need from these animals. I want to do what I can to help save these dogs!! They mean much more. I hope you understand. Yes, you can share my story to let people know it's much more than a dog rescue and what it does for people like me who get healing from these animals.

Thank you,

Ellen Hoff

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**From:** Sharon Stone <[ssstone@tctimes.com](mailto:ssstone@tctimes.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 8, 2021 11:37 AM  
**To:** [e-sjostrom@hotmail.com](mailto:e-sjostrom@hotmail.com) <[e-sjostrom@hotmail.com](mailto:e-sjostrom@hotmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Letter to the Editor

Ellen,

Thanks for sending in a Letter to the Editor. I need to verify that you intended to send this in for publication. Also, please be aware that it is our policy to print your name and hometown with the Letter. Are you okay with that?

Thanks

Sharon Stone, editor

Tri-County Times

**First-name:** Ellen

**Last-name:** Hoff

**Address:** 1570 N. Hadley Road

**City:** Ortonville

**State:** MI

**Zip:** 48462

**Phone:** (810) 623-8761

**Email:** [e-sjostrom@hotmail.com](mailto:e-sjostrom@hotmail.com)

**Type Your Letter:** I would just like to say a few brief words about what The Devoted Barn animal rescue means to me . I am a stage four cancer patient out of the University of Michigan hospital in Ann Arbor I live in Ortonville Michigan and previously was on a NASCAR race team out of Holly Michigan. Those dogs are my salvation animals have brought me from a deep dark depression without those animals I have no idea what I will do I am begging you please save the dogs and leave them where they're at I recently University of Michigan did a story about me and posted it for millions of people to see during this interview the sweatshirt I am wearing is the devoted barn the reason is because of how much it means to my recovery! I am not lying <https://www.facebook.com/MichiganMedicine/posts/10157819142221891Ha>

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 4:13 PM  
**To:** Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** FW: The Devoted Barn

**From:** Wendy Burton <wendy.allynn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 1:57 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider <Dianne@rosetownship.com>; Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>; Paul Gambka <Treasurer@rosetownship.com>; Glen Noble <trustee1@rosetownship.com>; Patricia Walls <pwalls@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Good Afternoon to All:

I am writing to voice my support for The Devoted Barn and more specifically, their Dog Rehabilitation Program. I have been a resident of Rose Township for 29 years, and in October of 2019, when I learned The Devoted Barn had moved to Rose Township, I began as a Volunteer. Since then, I have helped with all aspects of caring for the dogs and have come to love them as if they were my own.

The Devoted Barn is not simply an 'animal adoption' rescue. We take animals and dogs who have special needs because they have been abused or neglected and they have lost hope in human beings. Our dogs come to us very wary and shy, and prefer not to be approached or petted. They are fearful of people because their experience has taught them to be. We have to work with them to build their confidence in people after unspeakable things have been done to them by those who were entrusted with their care.

I take pride in my volunteer work and seeing the results of my efforts. I have met some wonderful people through my association with The Barn, and my enthusiasm has spread to two other Rose Township residents who now volunteer as well. One of my neighbors, Ellie Butkovich is a Junior at Holly High School and is logging her time toward the required 'volunteer hours' that most colleges require for admission. She has also involved some of her friends! It's a great chance for everyone to learn about life on a farm and Melissa and her staff are always willing to show us new things and involve us in whatever we choose to do.

In addition to the Rose Township residents that volunteer, I have had the pleasure of meeting others who have offered donations of blankets and sheets, returnable bottles and supplies. I was also overwhelmed by the number of my neighbors that donated canned food during our Christmas drive.

The Devoted Barn is a great addition to our Township. People feel good when they can help and they can see their donations being used and appreciated. This was a tough year for everyone, and following the daily posts from The Devoted Barn on Facebook and online was a welcome break from the horror that had become our world.

I live across the field from the barn and we can sometimes hear the dogs barking. They do not bark constantly; and in fact, only bark when our volunteers enter the area to care for them. They do not bark all night long. It is my understanding that we are attempting to save the funds to eventually build a more suitable dog kennel on the property. As an organization that relies heavily on donations, we have been impacted by the economics of living through a pandemic. Funds are limited and it was our hope that every dollar not spent on direct care for our animals

would be saved and used for our new kennel. It saddens me to think of the money wasted by both The Barn and Rose Township to litigate when there may have been an alternative.

I only ask that you have some compassion for our animals. Please help us show them that not all people should be feared. I beg you to give us the time we need to build our new kennel and relocate our special needs dogs. We have been entrusted to take care of these animals until they are ready to be adopted and they will not survive if relocated to another rescue.

Please include me on the invitation list for the next Rose Township Meeting. It is my understanding that you will be discussing The Devoted Barn and I would like to participate in this discussion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Wendy Burton  
248-891-8378  
1398 Beaverbrook Drive

03/07/2021

Attn: Rose Township Board of Trustees

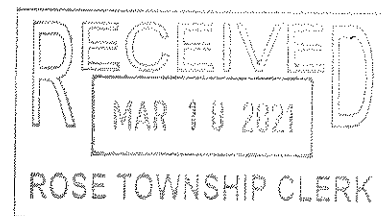
From: Jacob Maurer, 1415 W. Rose Center Rd.

Re: Thank You

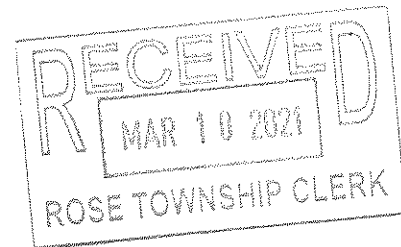
I wanted to reach out and express my gratitude to the entire Rose Township Board of Trustees for their dedication to upholding our community's permitted land uses within the rural preserve / residential district. Thank you for the time you have spent protecting our neighborhood and Township as a whole.

The past 18 months have been extremely detrimental to myself and my family's quality of life due to the dog barking nuisance adjacent to my property. I do not expect all of my fellow residents to understand the toll this has taken but I would appreciate their respect. Visiting the place next door is not the same as living next to it 24/7. Imagine not being able to open your windows in the summertime, or sit on your porch, or be able to put your 6-month old child to sleep without a room fan to hide the sound of 60+ dogs less than 200 feet away. I didn't move to Rose Township and invest my entire life savings for an unauthorized agency to ignore the rules of our community, then try to spin the story as if it was my fault. As you know, zoning ordinances are in place for all residents (including animals) to protect their health, safety, and quiet enjoyment of property.

It is my hope that the Courts maintain their recent ruling and to allow Rose Township the means to enforce the locally adopted Zoning Ordinance.



To: The Rose Township Board of Trustees  
From: Aaron Marconnit, 1300 W. Rose Center Rd  
Date: 8-MAR-2021  
Re: Township Appreciation and Land Ordinance



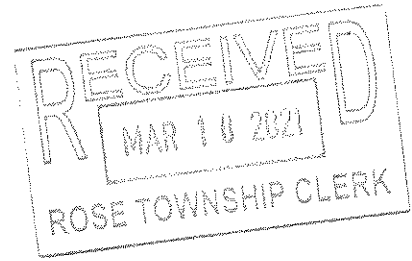
As a tax paying resident of Rose Township, I would like to thank all members of the board for addressing the concerns of my household regarding land use by The Devoted Barn. For the last 21 months, especially including this last year, times have been complicated for many reasons. But in the midst of everything, the Board has held its ground to try to protect its residents and the heritage of this Township.

This topic hits home for us quite hard. I've always enjoyed doing things outside; working in the yard, grilling, playing with my children, waving as people drove by. Unfortunately, life is different now since I expressed my concerns regarding The Devoted Barn. When I go to collect our mail, or work around the property, instead of people waving as they drive by, I get glares and angry faces. Now I mostly keep my head down when near the road. My parents came to visit and stay in their motorhome and were awoken multiple times during the night due to barking. We have had [REDACTED] people visit and the first thing they say when getting out of their vehicle is "What on earth is that noise?" Our oldest child has told us on multiple occasions "I can't sleep because of the barking." Last summer, my wife was taking a walk along the edge of our property with our youngest child. Someone drove by, blew smoke in her direction, flicked a cigarette butt at her, and then pulled in and parked in The Devoted Barn upper barn parking across the road.

I cannot convey how much we understand that dogs are indeed great companions. We wholeheartedly appreciate the need for animal sanctuaries. But now my sanctuary is compromised. We did not move here and start a family so we could live like this and be shunned for voicing concerns, because we strive for what we once had. Unlike those who visit and/or volunteer at The Devoted Barn, we can't just "go home" at the end of the day. This is our home, all day, all night, every day.

In closing, thank you again to the Township Board for keeping its residents' and Township's best interests at heart. I would also like to thank those who do not see or understand our position, for continuing to be respectful to my family and I.

To: The Rose Township Board of Trustees  
From: Devonne Marconnit, 1300 W. Rose Center Rd  
Date: 8-MAR-2021  
Re: Township Appreciation and Land Ordinance



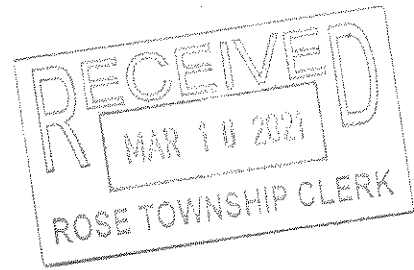
I would like to start by saying I am a Rose Township resident, and I truly appreciate the allocation of resources to preserve our Township values and ordinances.

I can remember my husband working on our fence on May 29, 2019, as The Devoted Barn began moving into the house across the street. I can also remember incessant barking from that same house, as we watched a temporary chain-link fence be built in front of the garage for several dogs. We decided to give the neighbors the benefit of the doubt, because they were just moving in and getting situated. Unfortunately, to this day, little has changed.

Since that moment in time, our life has been accompanied by a constant noise of barking, pigs squealing, machinery at all hours of the day and night, and dogs trying to explore our property. We have concerns regarding this, as not all dogs like children or other dogs.

Thank you, Rose Township, for your time and upholding our laws as well as our regulations.  
Thank you, Rose Township residents, for understanding our position in these trying times.

March 8, 2021



To Whom It May Concern:

It has been requested, of us, that we submit a letter regarding the ongoing dispute involving the business, The Devoted Barn.

My son and his wife own the home and property directly north, across West Rose Center Road, from The Devoted Barn. In the summer of 2019, we were made aware of the noise issues emanating from The Devoted Barn and how disruptive and distracting it was, often in the middle of the night, as well as during the day.

We visited my son and his family on the weekend of August 24th, 2019. Upon our arrival, we were greeted by the constant noise of dogs barking, coming across the street from The Devoted Barn. It was on and off all day long as well as during the night. We had come to visit in our motorhome and planned on sleeping in the motorhome. The noise of barking dogs made sleeping nearly impossible. During the day, even in my son's closed up house, we were always aware of when the dogs were barking.

Unfortunately, The Devoted Barn and boarded dogs detract from the beauty and seclusion that others in the area have found so attractive. Because of Covid-19, we have not been able to visit our family since that time, but have been told that the situation has not improved at all.

Thank you for your consideration of the issues and taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

John and Lynn Marconnit, Gaylord, Michigan



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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** FW: The Devoted Barn

Please place on website.

-----Original Message-----

From: Holly Cote <hollycote065@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 9:17 PM  
To: Dianne Scheib-Snider <Dianne@rosetownship.com>  
Cc: Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
Subject: The Devoted Barn

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing this in reference to the current proceedings regarding Melissa Zudweg Borden and The Devoted Barn. I have been a Devoted Barn "family member" for approximately 6 years. Let me say that I call it an honor and a privilege to be a part of this incredible rescue and outstanding group of people!

I began volunteering with The Devoted Barn as a therapeutic opportunity, shortly before my dad passed away from Dementia. I needed the distraction and, most importantly, the opportunity to give back; which, was a trait my parents both instilled in me at a very young age. I learned very fast, giving back is what The Devoted Barn is all about. Not just for the animals, but for people as well. Each person I've met through The Devoted Barn has their own history, their own story to share, and we come together as a "family" for the animals, as well as each other.

We are about education. Educating people about animal behavior, animal care and the bond between people and animals.

For me, personally, I have been around animals my entire life and am still learning from Melissa and the time I spend with the animals at the sanctuary. We are honored to be able to educate those who are seeking assistance with training their animals.

Education is a vital part of what we do.

While there has been heartache over losing animals we love and cherish, there are so many more chapters of happiness that are beyond rewarding.

I am forever grateful for this!

In addition, our mission isn't just about us and the animals we rise to help, the bigger picture also includes community. Our family is about serving the community as well and we take great pride when this awesome opportunity presents itself.

Whether it be special needs individuals, citizens that need to complete community service, other rescues (near and far), or neighbors who have lost their pets and we assist in recovering them (which has already happened many times in Rose TWP)...we are all about community!

Included in this letter, you will find a list of organizations that have reached out to us and we heeded the request for help. It's what we do!

In return, many of these organizations have reciprocated when they were able to and we are so grateful for that!

I appreciate your time reading what I've written.

Please know, it comes from a place of love and respect. Not only for Melissa and The Devoted Barn but also for the community in which they reside.

Sincerely,  
Holly Cote  
Perrysburg, OH

Our Partners:

- Animal Foundation of America, Calif.
- SOS Dog Rescue, Calif.
- Marley's Mutts, Calif.
- Vet Friends/One Last Treat, MI/Calif.
- Bissell Pet Foundation
- Oaks of Righteousness

We sponsored a Christmas party, including Santa and gifts, for the last 5 years as well as donations of clothing and toiletries for the residents there.

- Goodwill-special needs volunteers assisted with barn chores each Wednesday.
- Monroe County AC
- Monroe Youth Detention Center
- JAWS Program
- K9 Turbo Training
- St. Landry's Parish and Point Coupee Parish, Louisiana.
- Flint City Pits
- Soi Dog Foundation, Thailand
- MIA Foundation
- Calhoun, Oakland and Wayne County partnerships.
- Project Second Chance, Eaton County.
- L&F Pets
- Chicago, IL, W. Virginia, Holland, MI and Upper Peninsula MI ferals we have trapped and rescued.
- Girls Scouts of America
- Downriver For Veterans
- "22 in 22" - Promoting awareness of suicide amongst veterans, and prevention for the same.
- Meals for veterans
- VFW groups have been included and are always welcome.
- Holiday Camp Maybee, MI

Sent from my iPhone

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 9:49 AM  
**To:** Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** FW: Rose Two vs Devoted Barn

**From:** Katherine Bair <ekbairden@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:17 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Rose Two vs Devoted Barn

Rose Township Board,

I do not want my Township taxes wasted on these lawsuits against the Devoted Barn.

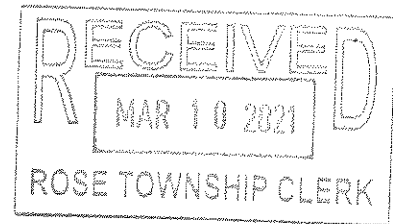
This rural township enjoys it's animals and agriculture. Please stop sueing the Devoted Barn that has already upgraded it's facilities. Stop.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Bair

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

To: Rose Township

8 Mar 2021



Township Board Members,

Concerning the lawsuits, you have been pursuing against The Devoted Barn, an animal rescue facility, I have the following comments.

- The Devoted Barn owner met with the supervisor and zoning administrator before purchasing the property to explain their animal rescue facility and the Supervisor and Zoning administrator assured them there were no ordinances or issues with that type of facility.
- What started as an attempt to stop a barking dog complaint against The Devoted Barn, has turned into a vindictive action by the Township Board and their attorney.
- The first complaint was made to the Township and on Facebook by Jacob Mauer.
- When the Supervisor found out Mr. Mauer was a "Flint City Planner", she immediately appointed him to the Planning Commission. I personally mentioned at a Planning Commission meeting that he should recuse himself from this issue. This is a definite conflict of interest and the Township already contracts with a Planner.
- When the Planning Commission wrote a new ordinance for kennels, took the Devoted Barn to court and lost their case, that should have been the end of it. Now it has turned into at least four times in court for different actions against the Devoted Barn and now this last time to make the Devoted Barn remove the Dogs until the latest case is settled. This is the Township's only win, unless the Devoted Barn wins at the appellate court.
- Now it is just a question of how many times the Township Board is going to allow this ridiculous suing of residents to try and prove they are right. The dog barking noise had been taken care of shortly after the complaint.
- Since 2019, until late in 2020, I checked the Attorney's bills and saw where over \$20,000. Had been spent, so now I am sure it is much higher after this last attempt to remove The Devoted Barn from the community, without a good reason. Very soon, the Township might find themselves in court for harassment and the officials recalled.
- If this were just a one-time issue in the Township it would just be a terrible thing, however, there have been other lawsuits and more ongoing. This is not acceptable.

Linda Dagenhardt  
9125 Clinton St.  
Holly, MI 48442

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:03 AM  
**To:** 'Katherine Bair'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snyder; Paul Gambka; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE: Rose Two vs Devoted Barn

Dear Mrs. Bair,  
Thank you for your letter. I am forwarding your letter to the Board of Trustees for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** Katherine Bair <[ekbairden@yahoo.com](mailto:ekbairden@yahoo.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:17 PM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <[Clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:Clerk@rosetownship.com)>  
**Subject:** Rose Two vs Devoted Barn

Rose Township Board,

I do not want my Township taxes wasted on these lawsuits against the Devoted Barn.

This rural township enjoys it's animals and agriculture. Please stop suing the Devoted Barn that has already upgraded it's facilities. Stop.

Sincerely,  
Katherine Bair

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

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**From:** Debbie Miller  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 11:07 AM  
**To:** 'Sarah Minter'  
**Cc:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; 'Paul Gambka'; 'Paul Gambka'; Glen Noble; Glen Noble; Patricia Walls; Renee Kraft  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting on the 10th

Dear Ms. Minter,  
Thank you for your letter. I am forwarding to the Rose Township Board of Trustees for review.

*Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II*  
*Rose Township Clerk*  
*9080 Mason Street*  
*Holly, MI 48442*  
[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)  
*Phone: (248) 634-8701*  
*Fax: (248) 634-6888*

**From:** Sarah Minter <sarah@johnwentworthgroup.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** Debbie Miller <Clerk@rosetownship.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Meeting on the 10th



Good morning! I thank you for your time. I just wanted to share my concerns with you. I understand that I am not directly involved or allowed into meetings. I am looking at the situation with The Devoted Barn as a resident of Rose Township. I am concerned with changes being made, that seem to be directed at a non profit organization. My understanding is that as changes have been made, The Devoted Barn has continued to comply as quickly as possible. Being a non-profit, they would be at the mercy of donations to fund these changes. I recently learned of the excessive amount of money Rose Township has taken upon themselves to waste on a lawsuit against The Devoted Barn. As a resident of Rose Township I am both disgusted and disappointed in these actions. I am, without a doubt, certain that there is a more worthy use of tax dollars. I once was proud to say where I live, now this situation has placed

a dark cloud over the entire township- and honestly I find it embarrassing. I have volunteered many times and would invite all township residents to do the same to both experience the positive work being done and to directly educate themselves. I find it priceless to be able to think for myself and not assume/come to a negative conclusion based on rumors or word of mouth. The volunteers and supporters reach across the country and are some of the hardest working and best people that I have had the honor of meeting.

I thank you

On Mon, Mar 8, 2021 at 10:35 AM Debbie Miller <[Clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:Clerk@rosetownship.com)> wrote:

Hello Sarah,  
I have attached the meeting information and it is also on the [rosetownship.com](http://rosetownship.com) website. I will add you to the email list for future meetings as well. If you have any additional questions, please contact me. Thank you.

Debbie Miller, MMC, MiPMC II  
Rose Township Clerk  
9080 Mason Street  
Holly, MI 48442  
[clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:clerk@rosetownship.com)  
Phone: (248) 634-8701  
Fax: (248) 634-6888

-----Original Message-----

From: Sarah Minter <[sarah@johnwentworthgroup.com](mailto:sarah@johnwentworthgroup.com)>  
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 5:36 PM  
To: Debbie Miller <[Clerk@rosetownship.com](mailto:Clerk@rosetownship.com)>  
Subject: Meeting on the 10th

Good Day! My name is Sarah Minter, I am a 13 year resident of Rose Township. I was told of an upcoming meeting, I believe on the 10th, and the ability to receive a ZOOM link to virtually attend. I would appreciate being included as a recipient of that link . Thank you! Sarah

--  
Sarah Minter  
Real Estate Professional  
John Wentworth Real Estate Group  
734-717-1068

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**From:** Andrea P <mcbtnor@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 10, 2021 12:12 PM  
**To:** Dianne Scheib-Snider; Debbie Miller; Paul Gambka  
**Subject:** The Devoted Barn

Good afternoon,

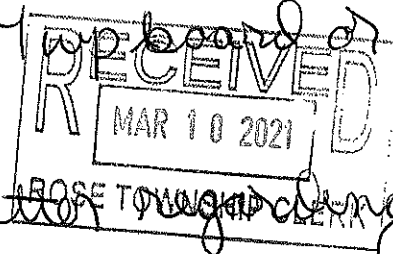
I just wanted to send a quick note regarding The Devoted Barn. My husband and I bought our forever house in Rose township in October 2019. We love it. And we love the area. And when I found out there was this amazing animal sanctuary just down the road, I was thrilled! I started volunteering in the early fall last year. I work in the dog room. Even though I spend 10 hours a week there, the dogs have given me so much more than I could ever give them. These dogs have been through so much, and yet they still love, and thrive there. It is a testament to the resilience of animals, but also to the absolute dedication of the volunteers to these animals. It is a wonderful group of people that have rallied around all of these animals. Not just the dogs, but the horses that were rescued from kill pens. The livestock, the cats, it's a tremendous amount of work to make the barn run. And they do it without hesitation. They give of their time, their money, and their resources. My absolute wish, as a volunteer and a taxpayer, is that the two sides can reach an understanding in this matter. I'm certain that Rose township has better things that they can be spending their resources on. I have no doubt they want what is best for all of the residents of this township, but perhaps have lost sight of the bigger picture here. There has to be a way that the Township and the Sanctuary can figure out a mutually beneficial arrangement. I believe wholeheartedly that the Sanctuary is something good for the township. I know personally, I am indebted to them for what they have given me, not least of which is hope, especially in these very difficult times. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely  
Andrea Petzold



March 7 2021

I am not sure to whom this letter should be addressed to. Either local board of the 52nd district court.



I am writing this letter regarding the on going situation between the TWP and the Devoted Barn/melissa Zudweg Borden.

I am asking and hoping that you please consider working with the Devoted Barn/melissa. I have a dog from the Devoted Barn (Harper) and if it wasn't for melissa I do believe my dog Harper would never of had a second chance at life. melissa went out to California to rescue dogs from a hoarding situation and brought back with her at least 4 dogs from the same litters. Harper was one of them. They were all born with distemper and some had pneumonia (Harper was one). They were take to MSU veterinarian hospital, where they were treated for sometime. I can speak for Harper, as she is truly a miracle that she is with me today. Harper is a special needs dog, due to the distemper. This is just one story of many, and I mean many of dogs and other animals that the Devoted Barn/melissa has given them a second chance. All the animals at the Devoted Barn have a story behind them. melissa & the Devoted Barn believe in rehabilitation and caring for each and everyone of these dogs & animals.

Please allow all the dogs to remain  
on the property so they can continue to  
receive the love & care they much deserve  
and need ~~from~~ from Melissa & the  
Devoted Barn, Please

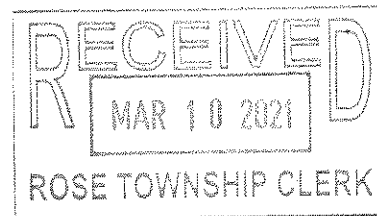
All animals have the Biggest Hearts  
Thank you for your time regarding  
this matter,

Kathy Gardig  
KA

March 10, 2021

To: Rose Township Clerk, Trustees and officials

Re: The Devoted Barn



Good Day to all,

I am a volunteer/co-dog coordinator at The Devoted Barn located in Rose Township. I have been volunteering at the organization since March of 2017. I am not a resident of Rose Township but none the less feel compelled to write this letter to show my support for the dogs that I have worked hard for over the last 4 years. I have volunteered for many organizations prior to this so volunteering is not new to me. I have been a member of the Fraternal Order of Eagles for almost 20 years and part of our mantra is to volunteer and serve.

I live in Clinton Township, Michigan. My drive to the rescue is 60 miles one way. I try to make it to the barn 2 times a week, maybe more if I can swing it, but would gladly make the drive more often if my life and job allowed me more time. Prior to volunteering at the barn I did not know where Rose Township was or that it even existed. If someone had asked me where it was, I would have shrugged and told them I have no idea. The barn has brought me to your township, as it has brought many, physically and through social media who had no idea where you even were. Maybe you are unaware that the following of the barn is international and there are people in Australia, England, Thailand and numerous other countries who also now know where your township is because of the barn and what it does. I make the drive, and there are closer places to volunteer, but volunteering at The Devoted Barn is different.

The impact of the dog program at the barn is amazing. It is like no other place I have ever been involved with. As most rescues take rather healthy dogs and find them new homes, the barn is quite the opposite. We take those who may not have any other option than euthanasia. We cradle the lost souls, the broken minds, the shut down and defenseless, the ones who have lost trust in humans, who see us as only monsters. We see the possibility, the promise and the hope in each one of them. That is our mission. That is our purpose. Many dogs are rehabilitated and go on to live great lives, but, it is the ones that stay behind that teach so many people life's lessons. These "lifers" would have no life or nowhere to go without the barn and the people involved with it. Many of them that have reminded me, as well as others, that as bad as things can be, you can always find a way to get through and make the best of it. That being different, being handicapped or being unable to deal with everyday life does not mean that you do not have a place in this world. These dogs hold no prejudice and by just being themselves, teach lessons that a human cannot do. Although those who are reading this may find no personal value in these lessons, there are many who do and go forward and take what they learn and use it in their everyday lives. Compassion, empathy, understanding, caring, helping and general concern for the welfare of others and animals all come from things we take away from our time there. As we live in a country so full of hate, discrimination and anger, the one solace we have is the time with the dogs at the barn,

I find it difficult to believe that mere barking could cause such a public display of hate. That an entire township board would spend 1000's of tax payer dollars on something that could have easily been solved with cooperation and communication. As the person who took on the task to investigate and come up with a plan for a new dog facility on the property, I can assure that our intension to build a quiet, safe and non bother some building was the first thing we considered. We have been in touch with companies in Michigan, Florida and Ohio regarding sound proofing materials to make the building quiet. We have consulted with a sound technician to talk about sound waves, transfer of them and what we could do to curb the noise. Our overall plan was to make the building run on green energy. We were researching using solar power, wood heating and even wind power as the barn is located in what seems to be a wind

tunnel. All of this researched stopped when the dog program was put in jeopardy of ending. All these things were always looked into with the value to the township and the neighbors involved.

My question to you is a question I ask many people; "What do you want your legacy to be?" As I mentioned in the beginning of this letter, the rescue brings recognition to your township. It in a sense has put you on the map. If the rescue is allowed to continue to grow, so will the recognition your township receives from the dog programs endeavors. Media coverage, newspapers, radio will all mention you when they reference what we do and our work with the dogs. With the number of people wanting to visit for a variety of reasons that include canine behavior training, Canine body language understanding and insight on many other dog related issues, the potential impact to your town and surrounding towns' economies is great. Hotels, restaurants, shopping malls and other attractions will reap the benefits of visitors from all over the United States and several countries and Rose Township will not be just another unknown place in Michigan. Is your legacy to be the board that takes the initiative to dismiss this judgment and help our dog program help you gain the notoriety that any town would want to have in a positive and uplifting atmosphere, or, is your legacy to be the board to deny this opportunity and be shamed on social media by your residents and our over 90,000 followers.

It was not that long ago that the city of Waterford experienced total rebellion when a man who lived there adopted an American Bulldog and the city told him he could not keep the dog due to its breed. The public outcry to keep the dog in Waterford was staggering. Businesses threatened to relocate, people vowed to oust elected officials and the whole story placed a black eye on Waterford for its lack of compassion and its hate for a breed they deemed vicious. It became so disruptive that the city had to go back and re-look at its policies and change what they would allow in their city and with that effort allowed the dog to stay. It was not until then that people stopped the backlash. Is that what you want for your township? Is that the way you want people to remember you and your time in your positions. Please think about those repercussions when deciding which way to go with this. Think about what you want your legacy to be.

I am asking that you consider granting The Devoted Barn an opportunity to build a dog facility that is acceptable to all persons involved. Working together we can make this a great thing for the township, the rescue and most importantly the dogs. Please have some empathy and compassion in your thought process when considering this endeavor. Man domesticated the "dog" and turned it into a loyal companion, somewhere along the way the man turned into a monster and abused and neglected the same "dog" he promised to love. Please give us a chance to fix what monsters have now created. It has become our mission. It has become our purpose.

Thank you for your time and for all consideration.

Sincerely,

Adrienne Quenneville  
Co-Dog Coordinator  
Dog Rehabilitation Program  
The Devoted Barn