

HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
December 1, 2014

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair, Jessica Wooten.

The entire audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present by Roll Call: Mary Geetings, Beverly Holbrook, Dan Moore, Shelley Rosa, Jessica Wooten.

Also present: AJ Zirkel, Fire Department, Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner, Karen Mallon, and Recording Secretary. Residents attending: Dennis Rodzick, Bob Short, Shirley Short.

PUBLIC INPUT – Wooten read rules regarding public input prior to opening the meeting to public input. No public input was presented at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion by Wooten to approve the agenda as presented. Support Rosa. All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Minutes – Motion by Wooten, support by Moore to approve the Regular Minutes of the November 3, 2014 meeting as presented with corrections as suggested. All Ayes. Motion carried.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion by Wooten to pay current township bills as presented to the Board with the addition of payment anticipated bill in the amount of \$480.00, not to exceed \$600.00 for the repairs of the mower. Support Geetings. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Motion by Wooten to accept the Treasurer's, Clerk's, and Zoning Administrator's reports as presented. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – As submitted.

Clerk's Report – As submitted.

Zoning Administrator – As submitted.

JPC Report – No meeting.

Fire Department – Chief Zirkel presented the Fire Department report with the following statistics for the month of November: 27 fire runs including medical and fire. Fire Truck Accident: Approval to repair fire truck with insurance monies. The damage to the truck was reported to be not as severe as first thought. Repairs may only be needed to the grill.

Discussion was held regarding appointing Tim Markey to Assistant Chief. Wooten wondered if he will still work as Safety Officer. Holbrook wonders if more training would be need for

replacement Safety Officer. Zirkel offered that the Assistant Chief would be a full time position and not allow time for Markey to work as Safety Officer. Further discussion will be held on the matter in January. Motion by Wooten, support by Moore to approve Tim Markey as Assistant Chief conditional to the approval and support from the Fire Department at their next meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Parks and Recreation – Frank Walterhouse, Ball Park Manager. The park is closed for the season no activities planned until Spring.

Motion by Wooten to approve Fire Department and Parks and Recreation reports as presented. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Frank Walterhouse, County Commissioner, presented information on County matters to the Board regarding the Maples and the completion of the new building. Walterhouse informed the Board that Judge Batzer will be retiring after 30 years of service. A retirement party will be held in his honor on December 18th at the Government Center and is open to the public. Walterhouse also presented the Annual Report from the Benzie Conservation Office, which will be available for review at the Township offices. A Conservation Millage was approved by voters which will raise nearly \$110,000.00.

Walterhouse had no further information and encouraged any resident to contact him by phone if he could be of service in providing answers to questions.

CORRESPONDENCE

Benzie Bus brochures were left at the Township for review.

ACTION ITEMS

2014 Poverty Exemption - A motion by Wooten to approve the Resolution for 2014 Poverty Exemption Guideline. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Snowmobile Safety Program – A request from the Benzie County Sheriff's Office for financial support with the \$3000.00 needed for the 2014-2015 Snowmobile Safety Program was presented to the Board. After discussion, it was determined that the Sheriff's office spent 13% of the Snowmobile hours in 2013-2014 throughout Homestead Township. Based on this figure, the Board determined that Homestead Township would offer financial support in the amount of \$400 (approximately 13% of the monies needed). Motion by Wooten to allocated \$400 to the Benzie County Sheriff's Office 2014-2015 Snowmobile Safety Program. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS - NONE

OLD BUSINESS

Benzie County Road Commission 2015 Projects – It was reported that the \$950,000.00 received from the Road Millage is allocated as follows: +/- 50% of monies to snowplowing and

approximately \$450,000.00 to local County roads. Homestead roads slated for repairs are as follows: Brownell Road \$227,800.00. Holbrook wonders about repairs to Valley Road. Discussion was held regarding the expense needed to repair Valley Road. Due to the nature of the road and the needed repairs it was determined that Valley Road and Haze Road are too expensive to be repaired at this time. Any additional work on the roads would need to come from General funds, and discussion was held regarding the need for the Board to be decisive on such means towards those repairs. No further discussion was held. The Benzie County Road Commission 2015 Project Recommendations letter is available for review at the Township.

Valley Road Culvert Repairs – The Board was informed that the 2015 Road Commission repairs estimated for Valley Road would exceed \$300,000.00. Wooten informed the Board that she will begin to look for other means to pay for the repairs rather than tax payer dollars, such as grants. Previously approved repairs on culverts on Valley Road will not happen until Spring 2015.

Township Materials for Disposal – Desk and Credenza. One bid was received for the purchase of the desk and credenza. The opening of the bid for offer to purchase revealed an amount of \$25.00 for each piece or a total of \$50.00 by Carol Moore. Motion by Wooten to accept the bid of \$50.00 for the purchase of both the desk and credenza. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore Abstain; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. Majority vote Ayes. Motion carried.

OPEN FORUM

Dennis Rodzick from the Village of Honor presented a plea to the Board to help fund the demolition of the ? Building. Wooten offered that the Township could only consider funding if there was a partnership in place with the Village.

Rodzick informed the Board that the Village would be “going dark”. 30 of the 62 street lights in the Village will be turned off by mid December. He stated the high cost of the lights was the deciding factor in the Village passing the Dark Sky initiative. He offered further discussion on blight and junk ordinances in the Village and Wooten requested copies of such ordinances stating that Homestead Township is faced with similar problems.

Words of sympathy and remembrance were offered on the recent passing of Connie McMorris

Rosa informed the Board of printing errors that occurred on approximately 100 tax bills. The clerical error occurred at the county level and corrections have been made.

Adjourn: Motion by Wooten to adjourn. Support Holbrook. Adjourned 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Mallon
Recording Secretary