

**HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
May 4, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:00 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: Tim Markey, Fire Department, Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner, Karen Mallon, Recording Secretary. Residents attending: Sherry Taylor, Chris Geetings

WORKSHOP - Supervisor Wooten presented a budgetary workshop session from 6:00 pm – 7:20 pm. The Regular Meeting began after a short break at 7:28 pm.

PUBLIC INPUT – Wooten read rules regarding public input prior to opening the meeting to public input. Chris Geetings, a volunteer fireman requested a 5% “good faith” wage increase for the volunteer firemen. Without said increase, Mr. Geetings warned that there could be a loss of volunteer fire personnel. No other Public Input was brought before the Board.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA - A motion by Wooten to approve the agenda with the addition of a discussion item on the State Police Honor Post rent. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - Regular Minutes – Motion by Wooten, support by Moore to approve the Regular Minutes of the January 5, 2015 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. Support Holbrook. 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, with the changes to the Clerk’s report as presented (move funds in the amount of \$200.00 from Capital Outlay to Election Supplies to cover the cost of equipment purchased for Elections; and move funds in the amount of \$400.00 Capital Outlay to Insurance & Bond cover an insurance payment. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – As submitted.

**Clerk's Report – As submitted, with changes.
Zoning Administrator – As submitted.**

JPC Report – Moore presented the Board a synopsis of the JPC Board meeting. New officers were elected: Christy Andersen was elected Chair and Fred Poyner Vice Chair. Brief discussion was held regarding the Alternates to the JPC Board, and the Board was informed that Inland Township is looking for an Alternate to serve the JPC Board as well. The 2015 meeting schedule will be e-mailed to the Homestead Township Board members. The JPC 2015-2016 budget was approved. Discussion was also held regarding the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan. Moore indicated that the JPC Board would like more time to review and “bullet/mark” areas of concern before offering recommendations to the Township Board. The JPC will invite Frank Post, Benzie County Emergency Manager to their meeting.

Fire Department – Tim Markey of the Fire Department presented the following statistics for the month of January: 2 fire runs and 10 medical runs. Information was presented regarding the upcoming Pancake Breakfasts for March. The Fire Department requested access to the Hall on the Saturdays prior to the Sunday breakfasts to set up. Meetings will reserve dates requested.

Markey requested funds to be moved from Wages to Supplies/Clothing in the amount of \$4,000.00. Motion by Wooten to move funds as requested by the Fire Department. Support Rosa. Roll Call: Meetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Parks and Recreation – No report, the park is closed for the season.

Motion by Wooten to approve Fire Department and JPC 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 building permits, EMS reports, Council on Aging and the Prosecuting Attorney's new office. A complete handout of the reports given is available at the Township Hall and the County for review. Walterhouse indicated that the new Commissioners “are in place and the Board is up and running.”

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 – Correspondence from County Administrator, Karl Sparks, was read. The next Open Meetings Act workshop will be held at the county on 3/16/2015 at 6:30 pm. Please contact Sparks at the County for more information. Correspondence was presented regarding an MTA meeting for Supervisors and Officers to be held at Benzonia Township on 2/12/2015 at 7:00 pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

Fire Protection Agreement with Platte Township (renewal) – Brief discussion was held regarding the nature of a Fire Agreement and that the renewal agreement contains updates and changes. Markey offered information on the changes for clarification. Rosa advised the Board of needed date corrections on the tax year presented. Rosa offered renewal agreement is for 2014 not 2013. Wooten wondered if changes to the numbers had to be done prior to agreeing on the renewal. Motion by Wooten to approve Fire Protection Agreement with corrections. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Board of Review - Motion by Wooten to approve Vicki Sager and Gary Macchioni to the Board of Review. Support Rosa. All Ayes. Motion carried.

2015 New Year Business - Motion by Wooten to use Honor Bank and Central State Bank as the township depositors/banking institutions for the 2015 – 2016 fiscal year, but to have the option to negotiate with other banks if so desired. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wooten to conduct the Homestead Township meetings by “Robert’s Rules of Order”. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wooten to conduct the Homestead Township Regular Meetings the first Monday of each month for the fiscal year 2015-2016 with a 6:00 pm start time unless a holiday falls on the first Monday, then for that month the meeting will be held on the first Tuesday following the first Monday. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Wooten that the Homestead Township Board will levy the maximum millage allowed following the guidelines set by the State of Michigan for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Support Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan Adoption Resolution. Discussion was tabled until the JPC Board can offer suggestions and clarification to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS – The following New Business items to the Board were discussed.

Motion Lights – Glen Lake Electric, Inc. presented an “estimate” for the installation of motion lights to the exterior of the Homestead Township Hall. \$1272.00 was presented for the installation of motions lights at the “flag pole area”, at the main office door and at the fire station door. After brief discussion, the Board was inclined to approve funds to install lights only at the flag pole area. Motion by Wooten to approve funds to Glen Lake Electric in the amount of \$333.00 to install lights at the Flag Pole Area. Support Rosa. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Generator Service and Maintenance – Motion by Wooten to approve a one-year service agreement in the amount of \$230.00 for the generator with Glen Lake Electric. Support Rosa. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Cemetery Tree Service – Motion by Wooten to approve cemetery tree service agreement in the amount of \$1200.00 to Steve Fouch for 2015. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Cemetery Flags – Geetings will order 6 new flags for display at the township cemeteries.

State Police – Honor Post Rental – After brief discussion, the Board was inclined to keep the rental agreement with the State Police – Honor Post at the current rate. The Board believes that this post provides a great service to the community.

OLD BUSINESS

Benzie County Road Commission – Road Projects – The Road Commission offered that if the Township would like more work done on Brownell Road it would benefit the Township to do so at the time the Road Commission is scheduled to work on Brownell Road. The funds would have to come from the Township, no additional funds would be allocated from the County, however the overall cost might be reduced because manpower and equipment would be on sight. No estimate on costs were given.

OPEN FORUM

Discussion was held regarding a misconception among various townships within Benzie County and the role of the Emergency Manager. Clarification was given by a representative of the Sheriff's department that there are no measures by the Sheriff's Office to place this position in the control of the Sheriff's Office.

No other discussion was held.

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Karen Mallon
Recording Secretary**