

HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
June 1, 2015

A regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair, Jessica Wooten.

The entire audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also present: Tim Markey, Fire Department, Frank Walterhouse, County Commissioner, Sherry Taylor, Deputy Treasurer, Karen Mallon, Recording Secretary, Butch Garber, Sharon Osborne.

PUBLIC INPUT: Sharon Osborne requested the Board to consider placing signs on US31 as placement identifiers for the Homestead Township Cemeteries. She indicated that the Cemeteries are historical sites citing that a Civil War Veteran started the cemetery.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Wooten to approve the agenda with addition under NEW BUSINESS of the Lion's request to use the Township Hall on August 22, 2015 during the COHO Festival. Support by Moore. All Ayes. Motion carried.

CONSENT GROUPING:

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Geetings to approve Minutes of the May 4, 2015 Regular Board Meeting. Support by Wooten. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of Bills: Motion by Wooten to pay current Township bills as presented. Support by Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Clerk's Report – As submitted with correction on interest on CD (amount is correct \$141.63, but not sure how to account for it) once auditor advises on how to make appropriate correction.

Zoning Administrator's Report – As submitted

Treasurer's Report – As submitted

Motion by Wooten to accept reports from Clerk, Treasurer and ZA with correction to Clerk's report. Support by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

JPC Report – At the last JPC meeting three sketch plans were reviewed.

1. Commercial Business – Tabled
2. Platte River Flat – Approval given 2 years ago. Must be resubmitted due to time lapse.

3. Coyne Oil Corp – Propane Distribution located at Lamb Road. It has passed with conditions that would require meeting standards held by MDOT, the County, the Health Department and the DEQ.

Ball Park – Written, as submitted.

Fire Department – 30 runs for May, no new projects or applicants.

Chief Markey requested First Responders to be paid from Fire Budget at \$10 per run. Discussion held regarding the pay for Medical First Responders who according to Markey arrive on scene an estimated 5 minutes prior to Benzie EMS. The consensus of the Board is First Responders should be paid, however the current Fire Department Budget was not presented with a line item that includes this type of payment. Geetings recalls that there was discussion regarding this matter during budgetary meetings, however no motion was made nor voted on to include a line item for First Responder pay in the current Fire Budget and no dollar value associated with it. There is a concern of adding this line item without the appropriate discussion and voting.

Further discussion on this matter related to the desire of the taxpayers. Taylor, Deputy Treasurer, suggests that the matter should be brought to the voters. The millage in place Benzie EMS does not include First Responder pay. Holbrook stated that tax payers often are fully aware of what the taxes are used for. Wooten stated that this is not a matter of double dipping tax payer dollars as is the case for the Deputies and Recording Secretary. Wooten requested the opinion of Moore in this matter. Moore stated Homestead works on a Volunteer Fire Department, and understands both sides of this issue, and asks for the legality of First Responder pay from a budget that does not list such payment. Holbrook added that she has no problem with paying for this service so long as the fire budget can support it.

Further discussion was held regarding Mutual Aid and that this only covers for fire calls and not medical calls.

Geetings returned the discussion to the fire budget and what the budget can support stating First Responder pay cannot be made from the General Fund. Geetings states two (2) points of concern: 1) Budget must support it, and 2) Taxpayers must be told because it is already paid to Benzie EMS.

Wooten requested that the auditors be involved in this matter. She further suggested that Benzie EMS contribute to this payment and suggests that patients could be billed for this service. Markey cautioned Wooten not to bill patients.

Wooten requests information where the fire budget show approval of MFR pay, information where MFRs were on scene but not paid for service so, and a discussion to be held on whether those nonpaid runs should have been paid.

Motion by Wooten to accept the JPC, Ball Park and Fire Department reports. Support by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

County Commissioner – Frank Walterhouse presented information to the Board regarding matters of the County. Discussion on Veteran issues and on the Commission on Aging and the delivery of meals to the elderly.

Walterhouse stated many things happening at the County level.

Correspondence – Correspondence to the Board was ready by Geetings. A letter from Janice and Steve Campbell was read regarding the disrepair of Narrow Gauge road requesting that the Board put aside money in the Road Budget to make necessary repairs. Correspondence from the Benzie County Road Commission that notified the Board of Seasonal Road “deletions”. Pioneer Road is off the Seasonal list.

Wooten reminded the Board that the next BCRC meeting will be the last local road meeting to be held in July or August. She further reminded the Board that all local roads are bad.

CLOSED SESSION: at 6:54 pm the Board went into Closed Session and at 6:59 pm reconvened the Open Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Improvements – Discussion was held on further improvements to the park. Wooten stated she would like a sand pile for kids to be able to play near the ball field. Motion by Wooten to pay Bob Rosa up to \$300 for the movement of sand to the ball park area. Support by Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Tennis Courts – Wooten informed the Board that Barb Skodal (?) offered to paint the tennis courts is the Board supplied the paint. **(RECORDING SECRETARY heard no motion presented to the Board on the matter of authorizing purchase of paint for the tennis courts to be painted.)**

Cemetery Pipes – It was reported that the pipes at the cemetery continue to break. A request was made to have Moore Mechanical offer an estimate of repair.

StaCY Rule – State Tax Commission – A matter of public inspection of records. The Board is to adopt a policy that allows for inspection of tax records. Wooten wonders about records online.

FOIA – July 1, 2015 new state laws go into effect regarding Michigan’s Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Discussion was held regarding the changes to FOIA and the Board’s preparation for instituting such changes for the FOIA requests that are received.

COHO Festival – Motion by Wooten to allow the Lion’s Club to use the Township Hall during the COHO Festival. Support by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Well Head – Quote needed to reinstall it. It is as large as it can be. Fire department would like a larger well head. Wooten to contact Bob’s Welling to see what the cost is.

Medical Marijuana – Continued discussion on this matter. Geetings reports that in 2008 Homestead voter voted Yes to approve at 674 and 474 No. Wooten says it is now about how the Ordinance will be written. Further discussion held on this matter. The JPC will continue to discuss this matter and present the Board with its recommendation.

FOIA – Tabled until July Meeting as members of the Board will be attending a FOIA workshop.

Fire Suppression Equipment – Tabled

Basketball Hoop - The “quote” received for installation of the basketball hoop in the amount of \$560.00 was strictly for the foundation of the post. A bill in the amount of \$560.00 is due for the actual installation of the hoop. No community groups expressed interest in installing. Motion by Geetings to pay the bill of \$560.00 for the installation of the hoop. Support by Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Natural Mitigation Plan – Continued discussion on this matter. Moore informed the Board that the JPC would consider passing it provided that the Township could back out of it at its will. The JPC leans towards the Township writing its own plan. Wooten suggested that this matter be tabled until the Board has time to review the changes to the plan. Stating to the Board: “Please consider our options: Do we sign up or not and do we put up more money to have an attorney review this?”

Risk Control Assessment – Tabled until August meeting. Some discussion on this matter. Moore reminds the Board that the Hall is an emergency facility and “we” may need to have it. Moore further suggested that Post should have gone to the Township for a committee on this matter and not to the County.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Chris Geetings suggested to the Board without a MFR payment MFS will not respond which in turn will cause the entire Fire Department to be called in which could then create a financial burden to the Township.

ADJOURN: Motion by Wooten to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm. Support by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted.
Karen Mallon, Recording Secretary