

HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
July 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, Shelley Rosa, Jessica Wooten.

Also present: Frank Walterhouse, County Commissioner, Karen Mallon, Recording Secretary. No other persons from the community present.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Wooten to approve the agenda. Support by Rosa. All Ayes. Motion carried.

CONSENT GROUPING:

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Rosa to approve Minutes of the June 1, 2015 Regular Board Meeting with correction of name spelling of Barb Skarhdal and clarification made on the approval of payment of paint for the tennis courts. Minutes will stand and allow for paint clarification to be corrected in this July 2015 meeting remove the recording secretary portion of the last minutes. Support by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

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

APPROVAL OF REPORTS

Clerk's Report – As submitted

Zoning Administrator's Report – As submitted

Treasurer's Report – As submitted with side note "Johnston turned in more money for the ball field A" – will be in next month's report.

Motion by Wooten to accept reports from Clerk, Treasurer and ZA. Support by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried.

JPC Report – Special meeting held to review the Machine Shop / Nuts and Bolts in Inland Township. Approved for business.

Not a quorum so no JPC meeting – 3 from Homestead Township 1 from Inland.

Ball Park – Written, as submitted. Kids soon to be done with ball games. Asked for repair order for the light that went out. Problems with locks again. Sand continues to be an issue with the locks.

Fire Department – written submitted. Firefighters in training with DTE

New Fire Fighters for Approval: Victor Cicansky and Anna Oakley. Motion by Wooten to accept Cicansky and Oakley to the Fire Department. Support Moore. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Geetings suggests that Markey have all tax paperwork completed for new hires as required.

Motion by Wooten to accept formal letter of resignation from Ron Stocknick. Support Rosa. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Resubmitted Mutual Aid Agreement with Frankfort. Tabled for discussion for a later period.

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. Crystal Mountain Resort and Spa improvements \$10,000,000.00 improvements. Grant work being done. The county will do the book work on this project. Will generate new jobs. Did not indicate what the hourly rate would be for these employees. This improvement will make CMSR the largest employer in Benzie County. Crystal Mountain offers a lot of

County Fiscal year October 1st - Budgetary talks in place.

Sheriff Department awarded deputies for life saving measures performed. Jail millage talks at townships are still ongoing.

Treasurer working to put more properties on the tax roll and not return it to the State.

Walterhouse always available for questions.

Correspondence – Correspondence to the Board was read by Geetings. Stocknick resignation. Lt. Dan Smith, Jail Administrator “thank you letter for having us.” Wooten mentioned that a request has been made to allow the production of malt liquor in Homestead Township. An e-mail will be forthcoming.

ACTION ITEMS

Pataky's Fire Arms and Fireworks Display. All paperwork in for Pataky's. Motion by Wooten to approve Pataky's Firearms and Fireworks Display for COHO Festival on 8/22/2015. Support by Rosa. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Truth in Taxation Resolution: County Treasurer filled out paperwork for Township. Worksheet available at the Township. Motion by Wooten for to adopt the Truth in Taxation Resolution. Support Rosa. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Local Roads Committee Discussion: Email sent out to Board Members that covered the discussion held by the group. RECAP: Year end balance \$3874.00

BCRC suggests that townships consider all monies slated for local road repairs. BCRC wants Townships to come to agreement to fix the ultrathin overlay.

Wooten to inform BCRC that this Board is in agreement with the ultrathin overlay but reservations surround the naming of the new manager and his/her opinion in this work and what the state of Michigan will offer for Road Repairs.

Discussion was held on what happens to the monies slated for the Valley Road repairs that were previously approved by the Board if the Road Commission is now stating that no new monies from millage will be spent on local road repairs. Concern is that the improvements to Valley Road will now have to come from General Funds.

Discussion on a new Road Commissioner was held. This Board would like an opportunity to understand what ideas this new Commissioner would have prior to voting.

Pest Control: Ants crawling all over. Orkin came in and did an entire sweep for \$190.00 did submit a proposal for continued service. \$50.00 per month for service. Ant problem seems to be township wide. Discussion seems that there should be an as needed call, and forgo the \$50.00 monthly fee for now. Agreement by Board is as needed basis for pest control.

OLD BUSINESS

Old House Well: Proposals by Bob's Welling. Non-Potable water \$1600.00 no upgrade. Potable work estimated at \$2465.00. This is new pump-work placed in an old well casing. No improvements for the Fire department. For \$400 close/cap the well. Consider a future site for a new well.

2 wells (clarification) Fire Well as big of head as can be on the pump. Instead of making improvements on this well plug it \$400 then consider new pump site. Motion by Holbrook to plug the well in the amount of \$400. Support Wooten. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa Aye; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried

Bob's Welling no longer working due to health issues. Wooten will use this estimate for other quotes – marking.

Cemetery Maintenance: Pipes freezing and breaking. 50 year old galvanized pipes continue to break. Wooten to work on quotes for repairs.

FOIA – Geetings summarizes the fee structure to the Board and . Motion by Rosa to adopt guidelines and paperwork as needed. Support by Moore. All ayes. Motion carried.

State Tax Commission – Record Availability (StaCy Rule) – Online program. If they come to the office they can get it for free. BS&A \$2 charge okay on line. FOIA compromise let them have it.

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan – The Board continued discussion on this matter. There continues to be concerns over how this plan has been written and submitted to the Board. Concerns were voiced by Holbrook regarding approving any plan that would relinquish authoritative control to FEMA resulting in loss of recourse to homeowners. Once signed, as written, Township bound to insurance deemed necessary by FEMA.

Wooten suggests that Frank Post come again to discuss this plan with the Board either at the August 2015 meeting or at the September 2015 meeting. A decision will be forthcoming.

Geetings would like to add Bids to agenda Champion Hill Cemetery - Remove trees, shrubs and removal of debris.

Motion by Wooten to add bids/support Holbrook. All ayes.

3 shrubs in cemetery that need to be removed. Overlapping headstones. Champion hills. Smitty's \$2000.00 to remove.

Bob Rosa: Bid: Shrubs/trees – not roots Flushed to ground as to not disturb head stones. Cut and haul - \$1600.00.

Holbrook would like this work to be done by 8/11 for the historical society as this is a big deal in the cemeteries.

Wooten Motion to accept Rosa's bid. Support Holbrook. Roll Call: Geetings, Aye; Holbrook, Aye; Moore, Aye; Rosa, abstain; Wooten, Aye. All Ayes. Motion carried

MFR Business – On hold for Markey to be present. Geetings review. The proposal by audit. The millage does cover the MFR. Wages are wages so no separate line item, but must be tracked to show where the money goes. The general fund is charged the amount and FD must reimburse. Geetings also reminds the Board that there is nothing in the minutes that identifies that a motion was passed to pay the volunteer firemen who

respond and states that there must be a motion in the books prior to making this pay change.

Geetings informs the Board the auditor indicates that the MFR pay would be covered under the millage, and the pay would have to come from the fire budget. Rosa wonders if Craig Johnson has been contacted regarding this issue. Wooten indicated that she will discuss this issue with Johnson. Rosa would like this issue solidified as she has concerns for future millage proposals and the wording used to present such proposals to the voters.

Wooten informs the Board that if this pay change does not pass, all firemen will respond to medical emergencies and the Board will then be faced with paying all who respond and not just the MFR's. Holbrook suggests that when the budget is depleted and funds are gone, then no pay for MFR's. She stated there needs to be a proper fire budget.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Karen Mallon, Beulah, asked the Board to consider changing the label of "volunteer" to "paid on call" fireman, stating she is in the opinion that the public thinks the term "volunteer" means without pay. A new classification could be favorable to the MFR pay issue.

Craig Johnson's phone number is offered to the Board. Rosa wonders what the Board's responsibility is regarding the MFR issue. She would like to see historical data presented to the Board. Wooten suggests that Markey should be present on these MFR discussions. Holbrook wondered how the budget ends at year end on wages. Rosa suggests that Benzie EMS should pay for MFRs.

Rosa would like clarification on the license plate item in the budget for the Fire Department. Wooten suggests it is a state requirement that we never had and Tim would like this done. 6 plates needed.

ADJOURN: Motion by Rosa to adjourn the meeting at 7:27 pm. Support by Wooten. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted.
Karen Mallon, Recording Secretary