

FINAL APPROVED 10/5/2015

**HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Clerk, Mary Geetings.

The entire audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present by roll call: Dan Moore, Mary Geetings, Shelley Rosa and Beverly Holbrook. Absent/excused Jessica Wooten.

Also Present: Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner. Tim Markey, Fire Chief. Public: Sharon Osborn and Bruce Wilde.

PUBLIC INPUT: NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Rosa to approve the agenda as stated, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

GUEST SPEAKER: Frank Post was not present, he is on vacation.

CONSENT GROUPING:

Minutes: Correction to minutes of August 4, 2015, page 5, Medical First Responders, motion should be "Motion by Holbrook to pay Rescue Responders \$10.00 per hour after 1st hour will be paid in 15 minute increments starting as of August 5, 2015". Motion by Geetings to accept minutes with correction, supported by Rosa. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Bill Paying: Motion by Rosa to pay all bills, support by Moore. Roll Call: Rosa – Yes, Moore – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Holbrook – Yes, Wooten – Absent. Motion Carried.

Reports – Treasurer, Clerk, Zoning Administrator - Motion by Rosa to accept reports as written (on file), supported by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

JPC – Dan Moore – There has not been a JPC meeting but will be one this month. Three items that will be on agenda is 1. Mass gathering (St. Ambrose) zoning ordinance clarification – Roger is looking into this. 2. Marijuana issue. 3. Ordinance for gun control.

**Page 2
Homestead Township Regular Meeting
September 8, 2015**

Fire Department – *Tim Markey gave a report on the COHO Festival. The fire department had a presence from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. after fireworks on Saturday. * We had a record month with 36 calls in August. (on file) * Helped in Beulah

with a downtown fire. * Asked to accept a new firefighter, Katie Austin. Motion to accept Katie Austin to the fire department by Rosa, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried. *We have 13 to 14 firefighters on count at present. *MFR – Motion by Rosa to rename to Rescue Responders supported by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion Carried. *Would like to sell the Mack Truck, value around \$5000. Tim will look into value and would like to post bids in paper, Craig’s list and other print media. A motion to place for sale by Geetings, supported by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Rec. Park – Frank Walterhouse presented a written report (on file). Also the park was well used during the COHO Festival and well taken care of.

Local Roads – Motion to table by Holbrook, support by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONER: Frank Walterhouse stated that the county budget should be adopted this month at \$55 million. They had 3 final people for the County Administrator but the Board was able to come to an agreement with Karl Sparks to stay one more year. The county will be going to arbitration with 4 of the 5 unions regarding pay increases.

Correspondence - Zoning lawsuits and Benzie County Economic Development Plan letters were not read. A letter from last month from Karen Mallon was read regarding St. Ambrose.

ACTION ITEMS

Township park use for fundraiser: A motion to let a group having a fundraiser for Purchase to use the park for ball games in September was made by Rosa, supported by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Township Insurance Renewal: The board had a discussion regarding the difference of Inland Marine (which we now have) vs. Par Plan and adding \$250 to increase zoning coverage from \$100,000 to \$250,000. A motion to keep the insurance as is with Inland Marine and pay the additional \$250 for the increase in zoning coverage to \$250,000 was made by Rosa, supported by Holbrook. Roll call: Moore – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Rosa – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. Wooten – Absent. Motion carried.

Insurance Carrier Risk Assessment Review: Will review next month.

Page 3
Homestead Township Regular Meeting
September 8, 2015

Resolution St. Ambrose: Motion by Holbrook to make a resolution for St. Ambrose to have a micro brewery license without the banquet facilities. Discussion regarding the mass gathering situation that the JPC is going to look into. Also would like to have more information on the exact winery license they have been given. Need more time to discuss. Without support for first motion, died. Motion to table this discussion until next month by Rosa, supported by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion on Natural Mitigation Plan: Motion by Rosa that Homestead Township does not support/approve the NMP, supported by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Bids for Winter Work:

Lawn equipment repairs/maintenance – no bids needed.

Snow plowing, snow bank removal – Motion to run ads for 2 weeks in local paper by Rosa, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Hall floors annual maintenance: Motion to hold off until next year by Rosa, supported by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Oakley Road Failed Culvert: After discussion, decided need clarification. Motion to table until next month by Rosa, support by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion Carried

NEW BUSINESS

Public access to internet: After discussion of safety with students in close area a motion was made by Rosa to not offer internet access to the public, support by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

HARP – MDNR and Homestead Twp partnering: Harp is asking the Twp to sign a resolution to support the acquisition of property on the Platte River by the DNR. There will be no monetary involvement. They would like the township to have a voice in the development and management of the property. There was some discussion as to taking property off tax roles. A motion was made to support and sign the resolution by Geetings, supported by Holbrook. Roll call: Rosa – Yes, Moore – No, Geetings – Yes, Holbrook – Yes, Wooten – Absent. Motion Carried.

Revisions to local road agreement: For information. Revisions noted.

COHO Festival wrap up: Have a lot of questions. Table until next month.

GTP use of hall: The Gathering Place would like to use the hall every Tuesday for 2 hours (1:00 – 3:00 pm.) for 3 months to have exercise programs. The only reason they would not be able to use the hall would be in case of a funeral. A motion to let the GTP use the hall for this purpose was made by Geetings, supported by Rosa. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Page 4

Homestead Township Regular Meeting
September 8, 2015

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Road Signs: The historical society asked for these signs and there has been correspondence regarding the signs. An estimate will be asked for.

Resignation letter: A letter from Karen Mallon was read and stated her resignation from Deputy Clerk and recording secretary. A motion was made by Rosa to accept the resignation with regrets, supported by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC INPUT

Sharon Osborn wondered why the DNR is not opening the mouth of the Platte. The residents in the village on the river are seeing more flooding than usual with the rains. Bruce Wilde stated that this now is in the National Park Service hands and because of the lack of funds this year they will not dredge. Frank Walterhouse stated that the land bank accepted bids to take down the old Bud's. AJ Excavating will have it down within 20 days.

ADJOURN: Motion by Rosa to Adjourn – Adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Beverly Holbrook
Acting Recording Secretary

Jessica Wooten
Supervisor

Next monthly meeting October 5, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.