

FINAL APPROVED 11/2/2015

HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 2015

The regular meeting of the Homestead Township Board was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Supervisor Jessica Wooten.

The entire audience participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Also Present: Frank Walterhouse, Benzie County Commissioner. Tim Markey, Fire Chief.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

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

GUEST SPEAKER: Amanda McLaren – Benzonia Library Presented Annual Report (On File)

CONSENT GROUPING:

Minutes: Correction to minutes of September 8, 2015: Public Input should have None and second page Dan's name is Moore. We have typed corrections to August 4, 2015, minutes. Motion by Wooten to accept both minutes with corrections, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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

Reports – Treasurer, Clerk, Zoning Administrator -

Geetings has stated we're overdrawn on the Park and Rec account on Salaries and Concession Supplies. Geetings made a motion to move the \$300 that is in the budget for Taxes to cover one of the shortfalls and move the other from Repairs and Maintenance. Supported by Rosa. Roll call Moore – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Rosa – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wooten to accept reports as written with the amended Clerk report (on file), supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

JPC – Dan Moore – Nothing to report.

Fire Department – Tim Markey stated we had 25 calls in September, 20 medical and 5 fire. (on file)

Rec. Park – *Frank Walterhouse stated the park was well used for the Purchase fundraiser. *There is a bulb burned out in one of the back lights and the scoreboard is out. There was some vandalism to the building also and Frank was asked to file a police report. If the repairs become expensive then we can file an insurance claim. *The lawn equipment will be taken to Ferguson's for maintenance and the park will be closed.

Motion by Wooten to accept Fire Department and Ball Park Manager reports as presented, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

COMMISSIONER: *Frank Walterhouse stated that the county has agreed on union contracts with a few raises. *The County Commissioners are meeting tonight at 7:30 to choose one of the three County Administrator candidates as Karl Sparks chose not to stay past October 23, 2015. *The county budget has been adopted at \$500 million for all departments.

Correspondence – The only correspondence was from Jeff McCray of Burnham & Flower Insurance Group saying he wouldn't make our meeting tonight. He will be at the November meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution St. Ambrose: Banquet facility permit is crossed out because they did not request for that so it is not a part of the license. Jessica, Shelley, and Bev met with Mr. Jones and he is working on some of the requests people had at the meeting in August, one of them being parking. They have utilized side acreage and parking attendants for large events. They were also measuring the noise level at events. The state alcohol control has stated that St. Ambrose has no violations against them. There was one complaint and the commission did a field investigation at the winery and found no violation. The Mass Gathering ordinance is something we are looking into. Motion by Wooten for a resolution to submit a MLCC Resolution for St. Ambrose Winery for a Michigan Brewer and Microbrewer License not including the banquet facility, supported by Moore. Roll call: Gettings – Yes, Moore – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Rosa – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

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Oakley Road Failed Culvert: The total project cost was \$9493.00 with the twp share of \$4746.50 plus \$474.65 equaling \$5221.15. We asked what the \$474.65 was and found out it was office administration fees. The invoice we received is \$9467.69, our share \$4733.84 and a \$473.38 fee totaling \$5207.22. We will pay the invoice which comes from our road budget.

The Oakley road failed culvert will cost \$2000, our share \$1000 plus administration fees?

We need to know why we're paying fees – Jessica will follow up on this. We need to be accountable for millage monies. We will have to budget for these extra fees.

Wooten made the motion to repair the completely failed culvert on Oakley Road for the estimated value of \$2200, supported by Holbrook. Roll call: Geetings – No (would like to see a cost breakdown), Moore – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Rosa – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. Four Yes, One No. Motion carried.

Benzie Historical Society: We could archive our old records and make room in our small conference/storage room. These records could be open and available to the public. We can send everything through 1980, we need to retain everything here for 30 years. They ask for an annual storage contract with a fee of our choice. Discussion of microfilming and storage in case of fire. Wooten made the motion to start the proceedings with the Benzie Historical Society for storage of our outdated historical documents for \$500 a year, supported by Rosa. Roll call: Moore – Yes, Rosa – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Department Cost Recovery Ordinance: Tim Markey presented a sample of Inland Cost Recovery Ordinance and asked the board to look this over as he is not looking for a vote at this meeting. One thing we do not want to do is bill our residents for any fees. This is why they pay taxes. The Fire Department can bill the insurance companies certain fees as long as we have an ordinance in place. There is a billing company to be used for this purpose. These charges are included in the homeowner and auto insurance policies but many times are not utilized. With this Ordinance we could also bill Utility companies when our guys are sitting at a site, such as a down power line or underground utility break. The goal is not to bill area residents but to help fund the fire department outside the millage. Many incidents are with large truck haulers, not our local residents who pay the taxes for the department. These fees would help offset many runs that our department covers. We have other ordinances from the JPC coming up so we could include this with the public hearings. We will discuss this further next month.

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FD resolution support to go for Grant for county wide communication upgrade: Tim Markey explained what the grant would cover and each department's cost is estimated to be 5% (\$10,000 to \$15,000 with the grant) of the total cost to upgrade portable and mobile radios. This would get us 18 hand held's, 8 mobiles and a station radio. These would update radio traffic between fire departments, police, DNR and many response teams in the area. This grant would come on next year's budget. Motion by Rosa to write a resolution to support this grant for the communication equipment upgrade. Support by Wooten. Roll call: Moore – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Rosa – Yes, Holbrook – Yes. All Ayes. Motion carried. Mary Geetings will send Frank Post a resolution letter.

Mail box location/access for FD Chief: Tim will have a key for the conference room and be able to access his mailbox.

Old copier in the FD does not work and was estimated to have zero value. Tim stated he can get a nice small copier for under \$100. He will look into this. Mary will also look for one.

NEW BUSINESS

Hep shots and/or flu shots for FD (as needed): Butch Garber will go to Hometown Pharmacy and see if something can be set up for both shots. The cost will come from the general fund.

Tim Markey stated that there is a county wide Hose Testing for 3 days being held here starting tomorrow. October is Fire Awareness Month and around the 20th we will have a trailer here for 3 or 4 days to educate the Platte River students about fire safety.

Blight vs. Junk Ordinance: Homestead has a Junk ordinance and Inland has a Blight Ordinance (both have been copied for board members to read). The junk ordinance limits what can be enforced and we may add in blight. We will review in November. There will be a public hearing regarding any changes.

Dan Moore stated there are 5 changes coming on the medical marijuana laws regarding township approvals on operations. Jessica Wooten stated there are 17 votes in the November election regarding this subject.

Mass Gathering Ordinance: This is on the JPC agenda. Our township attorney stated that our mass gathering ordinance was not adopted correctly and we have to go through adopting it again. Jessica will have a copy of our ordinance emailed and we will discuss in November.

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Recording Secretary: MTA said there is no conflict of interest for a Board Trustee to have additional duties such as taking of meeting minutes. A motion by Wooten to assign the duty of recording of meeting minutes to the Trustee with the pay commiserate of that position, so it would be additional pay of \$60. Supported by Geetings. Roll call: Rosa – Yes, Moore – Yes, Geetings – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Holbrook – Abstain. Four Ayes, One Abstain. Motion carried.

Field Usage Agreement: We have an agreement for usage of the hall but none for the ball park. We have a sample agreement per our insurance carrier. We will read through it and forward any questions to Jessica. We can vote on it in November.

Vinyl siding repair for Hall: There are several holes and some cracks along the side. After discussion it was decided to wait until spring to have any repairs made.

DNR grants for snowmobile trail easements: With discussion it was said that the Snowbirds might apply for this type of grant.

OLD BUSINESS

Cemetery Road Signs: Discussed how many locations for the signs in order to get an estimate. Need to know if the signs are two sided. If they are one would be needed on US31 for Champion Hill and one on US31 and one on Pioneer/Goose for Homestead. Bev also asked if there are Historical type signs available. Jessica will follow up on this.

Insurance Risk Assessment Review: We need to update our hall rental with a disclaimer clause. Because Jeff McCray was unable to be at this meeting we will set this aside until next month.

Snowplow bids: The bids did not get into the paper so they will be submitted in the paper and website again.

PUBLIC INPUT: None

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

Respectfully submitted:

Beverly Holbrook
Recording Secretary

Jessica Wooten
Supervisor

Next monthly meeting November 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.