

**HOMESTEAD TOWNSHIP  
APPROVED SEPT 6, 2016  
REGULAR MEETING  
AUGUST 1, 2016**

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: Shelley Rosa, Dan Moore, Mary Geetings, Jessica Wooten, and Beverly Holbrook.  
Also Present: Tim Markey, Fire Chief

**PUBLIC INPUT:** Keith Riemersma stated that the website does not have our township and JPC meeting schedule correct nor is the schedule on the outside board correct.  
Closed public input at 6:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Wooten to approve the agenda with changes as follows: Under Old Business add Park Usage Agreement; under Action Items add Kevin Taghon and Shannon Purchase for the Kelsey Rae Fundraiser and Pavilion; under New Business add 52 Acres on Platte River; supported by Rosa. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT GROUPING:**

**Minutes:** Motion by Wooten to accept July 5, 2016, minutes as written with corrections under JPC correct Kathy to Cathy and on page 3 there is some unknown side mark, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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

**JPC – Dan Moore** – \*Had a presentation by Joe Derohour of Bay Area Disposal regarding recycling of construction waste materials using the old Bill's Sawmill site. They will come back with a site plan review. \*Reviewed a site plan for Cornerstone Assembly of God on Cinder Road for a day care center and education rooms. The board approved this. \*Mr. Echo came back to amend his site plan for storage area. The board approved this. \* There was a discussion on drones and if it can be in the planning ordinance but it basically falls under the FFA. \*Someone is interested in putting in a campground at the Starlight motel on 31 and will be back with plans.

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**Fire Department – Tim Markey** gave a written report (on file). July was extremely busy with 38 runs. \*We are looking at medical landing zones for the AeroMed helicopter.\* Markey recommended that Butch Garber be accepted as Assistant Fire Chief. Wooten made a motion to accept Butch Garber as Assistant Fire Chief with the recommendation by the Fire Chief and Fire Department, supported by Holbrook. All Ayes. Motion carried. \*The firefighters will be in the Coho Festival with training materials for the kids and other involvement.

**Rec. Park –** Frank Walterhouse stated the kid's teams are finished. \* The well is fixed and working. The drinking fountain and a sink have been cleaned and are running. \*Advanced Electric worked on the light bulb and found the ballast was bad. We will get an estimate on for a new ballast. \*Men's and women's teams are going good. \*Vandalism is down. \*Park is being well used.

**Coho Festival:** Nathon Lane wanted to make sure everything is good with the insurance. Camping this year is for workers only. Health Department paperwork has been filed.

**Cemetery:** Moore Mechanical will begin work August 8 for the projects and start at Homestead

Motion by Wooten to accept all reports written and verbal as presented, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**COMMISSIONER:** Frank Walterhouse passed out report April-May-June from the Building Department. They had a busy May and June. \*Landbank may have sold the old Duchess Café in Honor. \*Inspector from Lansing has been to see the Maples and gave high marks for work. Now report goes on to State for review.

**Correspondence –**\*From county clerk the 911 plan Amendment public hearing is on Oct 25, 2016. The next gen system adds text message availability.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **Blight/Junk Violation/Complaint Review:**

1. 19 Pioneer Rd. regarding appeal of zoning decision from Roger Williams, ZA. The Township Board does not have the authority to overturn a ZA's decision. What we can do is ask him to revisit the site and re-evaluate, we can dismiss him as ZA if he refused to revisit or we can recommend that the decision was in agreement with the board. The next step is for the one asking for an appeal is to take it to court since we have no power over the ZA's decision. Our township attorney has all this information in a letter to the board. From the road we can only see 2 vehicles. There are several properties in the area that have more than 3 vehicles and as a township how are we going to enforce it all. We have to uphold the ZA and support his

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decision. Anyone can Google and see what people have on their property. The most we can do is to make a recommendation to the ZA and revisit it. Mr. Riemersma asked the board to have a re-inspection. The owner says the truck is only plated, titled and insured for winter as it is used only in winter, the Jeep is going to be fixed as it was in an accident. The board decided to have the ZA go back out for an inspection. If the re-inspection is the same it will be up to Mr. Riemersma to decide what direction he takes. Wooten made a motion to request ZA to re-inspect 19 Pioneer Rd. and that Ms. Corey has offered to meet Mr. Williams to allow access to the property to investigate the two or three vehicles, supported by Moore. All Ayes. Motion carried.

2. 3056 Indian Hill Rd. known as the Tyler residence. Had a dumpster on site but trash was emptied on the lot last fall. We have found Ms. Tyler and she is in the Maples and will be there the remainder of her life. She has let her home go into foreclosure and the bank pays the taxes. Do we want to pursue cleanup and add the charges to the tax bill or do we want to wait and see if the bank will do the clean up? The board decided to wait until next month to see if the financial intuition makes a move to clean up because of liability. Wooten will get the name of the bank and see if she can get any information as to any clean up plans.

**Shannon Purchase: new pavilion at ballpark project update and fundraiser:** Kevin Taghon stated that they would like to build a pavilion over by 3<sup>rd</sup> base at the upper field with all donated materials except for concrete and the permit. There was discussion on if this needs to be commercial plans and guidelines. It is a 20' x 24' open pavilion. Corey's will pay for the permit. We need to get the land use permit. Wooten asked the area be staked out so the board can see the site. Need to coordinate with Frank W. the ballpark manager. Wooten made a motion to approve the pavilion project with commercial grade building, all permits obtained, motion stopped by discussion of commercial needs. Wooten will find out if commercial comes into play. Wooten made a motion to move forward with pavilion project based on design code by building dept, land use and insurance guidelines, supported by Geetings. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**Kelsey Rae fundraiser:** Sept. 24 and 25 ball games and other activities and events. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual memorial but will be changing around to two other parks in the future. We are helping people with some unseen circumstances in Kelsey Rae's memory. Area Neighbors giving each other love is the reason for Kelsey Rae's Angels being formed. Expecting 20 teams may have 2000 people here but not all at once. Had close to 1000 last year in October. All these events need to go to our insurance and Kelsey Rae's Angels need to be insured also. We are going to find a way to slow down traffic because we have so many kids running around. They will get more port-a-potties. Request to the board to use the field Sept. 23,24,25 for a tournament and other kids events for the Kelsey Rae fundraiser, Wooten made motion to approve supported by Rosa. All Ayes. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

**52 Acre property on 31:** Jessica Wooten attended a meeting regarding the 52 acres on the Platte River being purchased by the DNR to put in river access for fishing and canoe/kayak but it was back burned. A group of people from HARP, AES, DNR, Land Conservancy, and Honor village are now talking at a community level an initiative to purchase the land through grants and fundraising for matching in the townships name. Tad Peacock from Soil conservation said his group would take on the maintenance of the area. Heather from the DEQ will be involved. There will be a purchase agreement among all parties involved with the township not having any monetary responsibility. Three years ago HARP had a community forum and 136 people said their top priority was to get river access handicap accessible. This piece of property has 1500 feet of river access and we would maintain a wild nature space. This property would be removed from the tax role. May be a problem and take away business from local businesses. Shelley will look at what taxes would be currently.

Asked public what their thoughts are on this project: Not taking away from businesses but will draw more business. Wooten asked public if they would support the acquisition of the township buying additional property and heard many say yes. It was stated that it is priceless to one person to get handicap access to the river and they don't care how much it would cost. People have to eat and the restaurants will be full. Asked if there would be any insurance liability to the township because of the handicap accessibility. Wooten said this is a good question to ask the group and our insurance carrier.

**OLD BUSINESS –**

**Records prior to 1950 stored at Benzie County Historical Society –** Has been done.

**Computer components to disposal:** Have been sent off for recycling disposal.

**Junk and Blight Ordinance Review:** Got this back and we have copies. Our last adopted ordinance is from 2005 and we have copies. Will review in September.

**Park Use Agreement:** We are working on developing one through our insurance carrier and attorney. There are copies available. Will review in September.

**Mass Gathering Ordinance Review:** We are still waiting on more information.

**Open Forum:** None

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**Other Business:** 1. Vote Tomorrow.  
2. ZA job description – is in the paper  
3. Cemetery clean up brush piles – one bid from Honor Excavation to push the brush pile at Homestead Cemetery for \$150 and to fill the well hole for \$150, total bid \$300 motion by Wooten, supported by Holbrook. Roll call: Geetings – Yes, Wooten – Yes, Moore – Yes, Rosa – Abstain, Holbrook – Yes. Four Ayes, One Abstain. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:** Motion by Wooten to Adjourn, supported by Moore. Adjourned at 7:35 p.m.  
Respectfully submitted:

Beverly J. Holbrook  
Recording Secretary

Jessica Wooten  
Supervisor

Next monthly meeting September 6, 2016, at 6:00 p.m.