

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 21, 2011

The regular Elm River Township monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Members present were John Kelly, Cheryl Reynolds, Jim Saur, Shawn Hagan, and Bob Sibilsky.

MINUTES OF MEETING: The minutes of the August 22, 2011 meeting were read and approved. Motion to approve: Saur/Kelly, all voted aye.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING: The trustee selection session August 27, 2011 minutes were read and approved. Motion: Saur/Reynolds, all voted aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Reynolds. The fund balances are as follows: SNB General Account \$66,139.58, MBIA Fire Fund \$41,784.91, MBIA General Fund \$55,471.61, MBIA Tax Fund, \$1,616.87, SNB Tax Account \$18,936.84, All Banks total \$183,949.81. Motion to approve : Sibilsky/Kelly, all voted aye.

CORRESPONDENCE:

DEQ PERMITS: Permits were issued by the DEQ for 3 locations: Lake Roland for James Andreini 8 cu. yd. sand to create a beach, Military Creek for a culvert installation, and Shawmut Creek for a culvert installation.

NMU: Northern Michigan University Center for Rural Community and Economic Development request for completion of a needs survey.

UPSET: Solicit financial support for the Michigan Substance Enforcement Team.

ASSESSING CONCERNS: Various letters were received from citizens concerned with assessing issues. Copies were distributed to members of the board for review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Johnson vs. Houghton County Road Commission: The Wealton's lawsuit related to the road situation was related to the board by Supervisor Hagan. The position of the Township Board was unclear related to our future interest in the outcome of the lawsuit. If the plea agreement with the Wealton's and the Road Commission was to relinquish Road Commission rights to the Wealton's, there was no clear position of the board. More study by board members was encouraged. Further clarification was sought by board members from our attorney.

Lake Water Testing: Whitewater Engr. will present their findings at a public presentation at 7:00 p.m., September 26, 2011.

Webmaster: Website in place for two years. We weren't in danger of losing our site in the short term. Supervisor was able to do some interim entries. Webmaster assistance encouraged. Interested parties should contact Supervisor Hagan.

Propane Contract: Bids were received from Ferrellgas, Settler's Co-op, Keweenaw, and LaGasco with the low bid coming from LaGasco at \$1.899 for the entire heating season. Motion to award to LaGasco: Saur/Kelly, all voted aye.

Audit: The state audit was in progress. Reynolds met with the auditor along with Sibilsky and Kelly at separate times. The estimated time to complete the audit was 80 hrs versus 136 hrs the previous time. Preliminary comments indicated minor concerns by the state.

NEW BUSINESS:

Assessor contract: Supervisor Hagan reviewed the July minutes wherein Deb Maki stated her desire to only resign the Supervisor position: He also presented copy of a letter of employment for review and processing. Our attorney confirmed our having an assessor. Motion to formalize our current employee relationship with Deb Maki: Saur/Kelly. Saur, Kelly, Hagan and Sibilsky voted yes. Reynolds voted no. Motion carried.

Microphone/Speaker System: Goodtimes of Houghton offered two Samson systems a single for \$300.00 and a dual system or \$439.00 with two speakers and two microphones, Motion to Purchase dual system: Hagan/Saur, all voted aye.

Merit Network Inc: Provides network solutions to broadband (fiber optic cable) needs for our communities. Greg Rutgers provided info to Jim Saur, our resource person. Infrastructure to be completed by 2013. Our interest could facilitate a localized installation. Interested parties can get more info on the website: www.merit.edu.

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Need for more interest to reorganize the Planning Commission so as to complete its initial task of a master plan. Only one person has indicated an interest to date.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Mike Wealton spoke about their property and the road issue.

The following residents encouraged advertising for an assessor and having our records

reviewed: Ray Saatio, Bill Johnson, Phil and Mary Foltz, and Joe Siller.

Deb Maki commented on her resignation from Franklin Township and her health.

Mike Mallow encouraged community involvement.

Ray Tenza questioned the road issue and felt we should stick with the attorney's brief.

Tom Ward spoke relevant to the road issue and the Wealton property issue. He also was questioning the availability of access to the wireless network, and volunteered the donation of a computer for community use. He did not feel Deb Maki's work merited a contract extension.

All citizen's encouraged a learning session on assessing from an outside source, perhaps the State Equalization Dept.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion to pay bills \$12,524.01: Kelly/Sibilsky, all voted aye.

BOARD CONCERNS: Treasurer Reynolds spoke of her unhappiness with lack of assistance from Supervisor Maki when she started. Kelly spoke of possible assessor comparison review. Sibilsky echoed Kelly's process of review comparison. Like comments were shared by Hagan and Saur.

Sibilsky emphasized the need for concerned taxpayers to utilize the Board of Review before calling for change.

NEXT MEETING: October 17, 2011

ADJOURNMENT: motion Kelly/Sibilsky, all voted aye.

Robert L. Sibilsky, Clerk Shawn Hagan, Supervisor