

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING JANUARY 18, 2012

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

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 19, 2011 MEETING: The minutes of the December 18, 2011 were read and approved. Motion to approve: Kelly/ Saur, all voted aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Reynolds had submitted her resignation prior to the start of this meeting. Cheryl was questioned relevant to the reason she resigned by Trustee Saur. She responded that it was frustration related to communications with Deb Maki and Supervisor Hagan. She did her training with the County Treasurer and others and felt she was being criticized for having done so. Supervisor Hagan explained the rational for some of the comments and that it wasn't his attempt to interfere or discourage her learning.

In as much as Cheryl Reynolds wasn't willing to reconsider, the resignation was accepted. Motion to accept: Saur/Sibilsky, Hagan, Saur, and Sibilsky voted to accept with Trustee Kelly abstaining. The Board thanked her for her services.

The financial reports provided by then Treasurer Reynolds were read by Supervisor Hagan as follows:

December 2011: SNB General Acc't \$41,251.85, MBIA Fire Fund \$34494.19, MBIA General Fund \$69,401.78, SNB Tax Account \$53,954.93, Total \$199,102.75.

January 2012 SNB General Acc't \$64,027.87, MBIA Fire Fund \$33,267.49, MBIA General Fund \$70,637.25, SNB Tax Account \$57,197.05, Total \$225,129.66.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report with clarification related to refunds: Kelly/ Saur, all voted aye.

BUDGET REPORT: Supervisor Hagan provided a rough draft of the 2011-2012 Budget for discussion. Our comparison of year to date is on track. Estimates projected show positive balances and will be monitored over the next couple of months.

CORRESPONDENCE: None that aren't covered by specific items in the agenda.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: Mr. Tom Novascone handed out a 14 page assemblage of e-mails related to tax bills in question. A more specific question was what was Mr. Novascone's explanation related to the Siller property capping. Supervisor Hagan needed to know why the opinion of the Township attorney Mr. Fahey was incorrect.

Mr. Novascone took exception to the questioning by Supervisor Hagan and proceeded to give his interpretation of appropriate action.

Supervisor Hagan wasn't aware that Mr. Novascone didn't do e-mails. It was Mr. Hagan's intent to get direction and information on the appropriate action under the circumstances. Mr. Novascone said he doesn't do e-mails and doesn't respond to them. The Board wasn't aware of this fact nor was it previously related in his interview for the job. Mr. Novascone indicated he wanted to resign, but he said he would perform limited duties and continue functioning until April 1st 2012 for a fee of \$7500.00.

A motion was made by Trustee Kelly to accept the extension proposal by Mr. Novascone there wasn't a second.

Motion to accept Mr. Novascone's resignation: Hagan/ Sibilsky (yes) a split vote was recorded with Kelly and Saur voting (no).

A meeting was scheduled for January 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. to meet with our alternate choice from our first Assessor interview. Mark Maki was contacted and agreed to meet with Board on the January 23, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

TREASURER/ CLERK JOB DESCRIPTIONS: The job descriptions were previously written and filed in 2010 but not formally adopted. Motion to adopt with minor correction stating signature responsibility as co-sign in both writings: Saur/Kelly, all voted aye.

3% LATE PENALTY ON PROPERTY TAXES: The late fee would be enforced if the payments weren't in hand on the date due.

BUILDING REPAIRS: Door replacement in the township office, reflashing of chimney in Fire Department end of building, as well as Honor Roll sign rebuilt/ enhancement, total cost \$1715.00. Motion to approve: Hagan/Saur, all voted aye.

MERIT BROADBAND: A proposal for providing access through township by Metro for a telecommunication right-of-way was accepted by the Board. Motion: Sibilsky/ Saur, all voted aye. Township received a \$500.00 permit stipend and would receive an annual maintenance fee per foot. This access would be state wide for schools, libraries etc.

COMPUTER REPLACEMENT: Supervisor Hagan and former Treasurer Reynolds were looking at replacing. Concern about the system being compatible with BS&A. No action at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Storage Building needed for Fire Department, custodial, records, tables and maintenance equipment. Future discussion and possibly a committee to study.

Assessor's Plat on Lake Gerald: An issue raised by Joan Boyer in September of 2009 about the ownership of two 50' lake lots has resulted in the Department of Treasury performing a mapping exercise around the entire NW Quarter of Section 13 T52N R36W (more or less from the Johnsons to the Penegors). The State recommends an Assessor's Plat be completed for this area. Karl Johnson says they are his lots. Surveyor, Steve Hein will be contacted to review and provide a quote.

PLANNING COMMISSION: No action at this time.

TREASURER POSITION: Clerk to advertise for replacement. An ad for three days in the paper and local postings would be prepared indicating that Jan. 27th is the last day for candidates to apply.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

John Reynolds suggested opening up tie voting to the community for input.

Joe Siller requested the Board to continue with Mr. Novascone as the assessor.

Joan Boyer read a letter reflecting her belief that the township supervisor does everything in his or her power to micromanage township business. She contends the property owners have been for years over assessed and that there is favoritism in taxation. She also contends that this township has been lead on a destructive path. It was suggested that we not accept the resignations of Tom Noviscone and Cheryl Reynolds.

Rick Gemignani was unhappy with micromanagement.

Esther Kieranen said training was lacking for new employees.

Shawn Hagan reflected on the performance of the board member's that resigned and thanked them for there service, commenting that we need to move forward and provide the necessary training to our new members and that the funding is there.

PAY BILLS: Motion: Sibilsky/Kelly \$11,175.58, all voted aye.

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 15, 2012.

SPECIAL ASSESSOR SELECTION MEETING: JANUARY 23, 2012 at 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURN: Motion: Kelly/Saur, all voted aye.

Robert L. Sibilsky, Clerk Shawn Hagan, Supervisor