

**MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
February 15, 2012**

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

MINUTES:

The **minutes of the regular January 18, 2012 meeting** were read. Motion to approve: Kelly/Saur, all voted aye.

The **minutes of the Special Assessor January 23, 2012 meeting** were read. Motion to approve: Saur/Kelly, all voted aye.

The **minutes of the Special Treasurer January 30, 2012 meeting** were read. Motion to approve: Hagan/Saur, all voted aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Saatio. Checks were written for \$11,145.80. The bank fund balances are as follows: SNB General Account \$52,880.07, Fire Fund \$33,267.49, MBIA General Fund \$70,635.25, SNB Tax Account \$58,732.05. Total of all funds \$215,518.86. Motion to approve treasurer's report: Kelly/ Sibilsky, all voted aye.

BUDGET 2011-2012: Supervisor Hagan presented a budget to actual report for the current fiscal year as of February 15, 2012. Supervisor Hagan, Treasurer Saatio and the County Treasurer are to work on the system at month end. There are no major changes related to budget versus actual for current year.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT: John Botto, our Assessor, is working with the county and Mark Pierpont. He is working on data beginning April 1, 2011. He is reviewing the current permits, and feels confident that he will have the tax roles ready.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk Sibilsky received letter from Portage Township advising their intent to update the Portage Township Master Plan. Once the plan is updated a copy of the materials will be circulated and they would desire input from our township.

Shawn Hagan received a call from Denise Saari, Elm River School Board chairperson, that a school crossing sign in Winona needed to be replaced. It was determined that the township would pay for the sign and the county would install.

OLD BUSINESS:

Door Replacement and Building Repairs: The office door was scheduled to be installed this past week but came in wrong and was reordered with it currently being

rescheduled for the 17th. The Honor Role has been taken down and is in the process of repair at Mr. Cline's shop in South Range.

Contract Services with Houghton County: Shawn Hagan has contacted Cheryl Patrick for the services desired by the township and the costs. We should have figures to review by the end of next week.

Computer Replacement: Shawn and Lisa to review needs and possible replacement.

Assessor Plat on Lake Gerald: Certain real property located between 33607 Lake Gerald Rd. and 33563 Lake Gerald Rd had been omitted from the property tax roll pursuant to the petition filed(MCL-211.154 L-4156) by Joan Boyer in September 21, 2009. The State Dept. of Treasury inferred that if it cannot be determined from existing deeds that the parent parcel actually includes any lands which are not already separately conveyed, further investigation would be required and perhaps an assessor's plat could be developed. Shawn Hagan had maps and feedback on section 13 from the State and Steven Hein P.S. Hein Surveying. Steve estimated the assessor's plat would cost between \$16,500-\$19,500 and it is a very detailed process. The last one Steve did took two years to complete once the paperwork was submitted to the state for approval. Also, one of the steps related to the Assessor's Plat process includes approval by the County Road Commission of any public roads included in the plat. The Lake Gerald Road would in part be included in the Plat. The lawsuit between the Johnson's, the Road Commission and Wealton's is scheduled to resume in June 2012. Our assessor may help with the process once he is caught up with current work load. Our Board discussed this issue and decided to wait until after this suit is settled before making any decisions regarding an assessor's plat for this area.

NEW BUSINESS:

B S & A Upgrade: It's being suggested that we should look at Dot/Net Platform utilizing or trading up our existing systems. Supervisor Hagan received quotes from BS&A regarding our Assessing and Treasury software. The estimated cost is \$7500.00 for programs and \$2500 for maintenance plus new computer and components. If this system is implemented we would be in concert with the county.

Board of Review: Mike Sabo and Jay Glandon requested replacement on the BOR as alternates. They were replaced with Richard Krupp and Dick Trudgeon. A motion to accept the resignations (with our thanks) and appoint the replacements was made. Motion: Kelly/Saur, all voted aye.

Planning Commission: No action at this time

CITIZEN'S COMMENT'S:

Ray Saatio suggested that the township form an adhoc committee for the purpose of developing a priority for future road work by the county in our township. As a result of this suggestion, Supervisor Hagan appointed Trustee's Kelly and Saur to head up this adhoc committee.

Mike Sabo requested our influence with the Sherriff's Dept for the assignment of more police action on the snowmobile trails to prevent the inappropriate actions currently going on in the area. Trustee Kelly is to contact the Sherriff for action.

Joe Siller had concern about the accuracy of the Lake Gerald surveying provided by the state and Hein P.C.

Carl Johnson contends that their family has owned all of the questioned Lake Gerald property since 1890 and therefore any undivided property was theirs.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: Motion: Saatio/Hagan, to pay bills totaling \$11,145.80, all voted aye.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Treasurer Saatio reminded people that she would be in the office on Wednesday, February 29, 2012 to receive tax payments from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Clerk Sibilsky reminded people that the Presidential Primary election is February 28th.

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

Robert L. Sibilsky, Clerk

Shawn Hagan, Supervisor