

**MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING
MARCH 30, 2015**

The regular Elm River Township monthly board meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Supervisor Hagan. Member present were Treasurer Lisa Saatio, Trustee John Kelly, Trustee Richard Trudgeon, and Supervisor Shawn Hagan. Absent was Robert Sibilsky.

AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda as presented: Saatio/Kelly, all voted aye

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 24, 2014 MEETING: The minutes of the February 28, 2015 Saturday meeting, rescheduled due to a snow day, were read and approved. Motion to approve: Kelly/Trudgeon, all voted aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Saatio gave the report with bank balances as follows: River Valley Bank \$30,974.62, Superior National Tax \$178,337.36, Superior National General \$60,970.37, MI Class Acct \$14,549.74. Motion to approve: Trudgeon/Hagan, all voted aye.

BUDGET TO ACTUAL REPORT: Adjustments between line items that were under budget moving to allow for the items that were over budget to be brought forward at the next meeting. Motion to approve: Kelly/Trudgeon, all voted aye.

ASSESSOR REPORT: Nothing new. John is on vacation, Shawn did notify him that we did receive word from the State that our books the assessing side of things will be audited this year. It isn't actually the State it is a 3rd party that they hire to come in and review things. Board of Review held March 9th, and 10th with 4-5 cases being heard. Next round is in July.

CORRESPONDENCE: We have received additional correspondence from Kerry Vaughn related to the existing audit. We need to follow-up, with details associated with January, February, March, and maybe even April in regarding to monthly items in conjunction with the audit they are doing.

*Shawn talked to John before the meeting about a FCC letter that is floating around that is related to the radio tower, not sure how it originated or where it came from, but back in November there was an application submitted on behalf of the department to have either narrow or wide band dropped. However if it was submitted FCC thought it should be the opposite of what was requested and a letter was received in December which John received and knew nothing about. Bob didn't act on it because he couldn't find anything in the folders related to it. Mike Sabo was questioned about the license by the clerk. We had received fraud requests in the past. This last week we received a termination of application letter so whoever applied for that it didn't go through but in conjunction with the license expired, so he said you are basically starting back at ground zero. John will check with Jack to see if it is going away and we really need it.

*The FIOA we tried to fulfill the best we could. We still have some information which was requested that will be provided when the state audit is completed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: The calendar which runs for the fiscal year April 1, 2015-March 31, 2016 was passed around. I believe those Mondays of the general board meetings would be the third Monday of the month. We still stick with the 6:30 p.m. start if that is alright with everybody. We will update the calendar on the web page to reflect these dates which, of course, are subject to change.

Board of Review meeting will follow the sequence that they currently follow July, December, and March.

The Planning Commission will probably meet in May and discuss what we can do to set some dates to resurrect the activity associated with that function.

Motion to accept schedules: Saatio/Kelly, all voted aye.

Resolution to establish Township Salaries:

Supervisor \$375.00 a month, \$4,500.00 annual, which is a \$125.00 a month reduction from 2014. Motion to approve: Trudgeon/Kelly, all voted aye.

Treasurer \$375.00 a month, \$4,500.00 annual, which is a \$125.00 a month reduction from 2014. Motion to approve: Trudgeon/Kelly, all voted aye.

Trustee \$110.00 a month, \$1,320.00 annual, same as 2014. Motion to approve: Trudgeon/Kelly, all voted aye.

Clerk \$350.00 a month, \$4,200.00 annual, which is a \$150.00 a month reduction from 2014. Motion to approve: Trudgeon/Kelly, all voted aye.

Any further discussion, for those of you that were not here for the budget hearing: The reason we have requested Supervisor, Treasurer, and Clerk have a reductions to their salaries is to help off set the assistance with back office in making sure the Accounts Payable, Payroll, General Ledger, and then the balancing of the funds and making sure that accounts are up to date and balanced. It is expected to be outsourced and that way hopefully we will minimize the errors we have seen over the couple of years and so with that we will have a roll call vote. Trustee Trudgeon aye, Rich asked if any other townships are doing this, can we combine with another township like Laird, John said no that would be a conflict. Shawn states that he doesn't know but it is owed to the community for the scrutiny for the last few years and it is the best for now, to make sure the books are correct and we can pass the red face test. If we can get it turned around in the next twelve (12) months and maybe we can go back to something else I am find with that. We still have to work out the details of how this is going to work, outsourcing but at

least we budgeted for it and these reductions are means of compensating and holding that close to neutral and without having that final agreement in place I am not sure how close to neutral we are, and maybe we will be on the plus side. Trustee Kelly, aye, Treasurer Saatio, aye and Supervisor Hagan, aye. With Clerk Sibilsky not here to vote, we will adopt the declared resolutions for those officer positions.

Salary Rate Policy, largely the same as what we had before. We made splits for attending conferences, full day meetings, half day meetings, chapter meetings locally those are all at the same rates.

\$75.00 a day, \$50.00 1/2 a day, and \$25.00 MTA the same

Maintenance from \$10.25 to \$10.50

Election Board \$10.25 & \$10.50 for the Chairperson the same

BOR \$100.00 a day, \$60.00 1/2 a day, \$50.00 MTA

Deputy Clerk, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Supervisor from \$10.25 to \$10.50, and \$50.00 a meeting

Liquor Inspector \$140.00 a month the same

Planning Commission \$50.00 a meeting the same

The mileage reimbursement per the Federal rate is up to .575 cents a mile

Motion to approve: Kelly/Saatio, all voted aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION: On hold

FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE: Chief Reynolds said we have gotten our truck back from Pomasl they never had the plumbing correct for the heater for the pump, they resolved that and I don't know if there is going to be a bill for any of that because we are out of our five (5) year warranty. We ordered a new tank for our tanker and we should have it next month.

ROAD COMMITTEE UPDATE: Potholes are getting bigger. John Kelly is to establish and get with the Treasurer to see how much will be collected. I know that Joe Siller was interested in that road committee and with Dick to see how he feels. What do you think Joe 5 people on the committee? Joe 3 to 5 if you have a difference of opinion you can work it out. How long is it going to take 10 years. Shawn to accumulate sufficient funds, with 1 mill we should be at \$21,000 or \$22,000 a year. The small jobs around here, but anything major you are talking \$100,000.00. If there is grant money around we could get a match on it.

PAYMENT OF BILLS: \$7,556.47 in monthly bills, \$2,885.04 in payroll. Motion to accept: Kelly/Trudgeon, all voted aye.

CITIZENS COMMENTS: Debbie Maki don't you have to have a resolution to adopt your depository accounts? Shawn I don't know, but I suspect you do. Even if you aren't changing them I think you need one. I believe the Treasurer has the right to move things around as needed. All you do is designate the banks you want to deal with. One thing

with this trying to outsourcing concept with Debbie Bradford that is a possibility has to be flushed out further with her and ultimately with Lisa and bring it to the board to which way we want to go with it is to establish accounts, savings and one checking account to work from via the general fund. But for each dedicated funds to have there own savings account so it is very easy to see what the fund balance is. You go to the fund savings account and see what the fund balance is. What we have now is comingled accounts which obviously haven't allowed us to keep things clean. Before we go any further we need to pass a resolution for the fund accounts and the three (3) institutions are Superior National Bank, River Valley Bank, and Michigan Class account. Motion to accept them: Trudgeon/Kelly, all voted aye.

CITIZENS COMMENTS CONTINUED: *Ray what is the status on the trapping of beaver on destroying the dams early this spring? Shawn we have it in the budget and we had Wildlife Services up here and Richard Krupp, Shawn was out of town. Richard met with them to go over a little with them. Richard met them at the store and they talked a little about what the problems were and he took them on a tour down to the river where our water bar is. Explained what it was for and reasons it was there, and took them to the highway and showed them the dam on the stream side of the highway. I showed them the dam under the snowmobile trail and we decided not to go thru the 2 1/2 feet of snow to get back to the other dam. We drove down the snowmobile trail from the bridge and I pointed out where the other dams were below and they accepted that. They would as soon as the snow went away. If we accepted them Richard could show them exactly how to get back there. Their feeling is whatever makes the majority of the township people happy is what they want to do. I told them putting the regulatory in the spring and taking it out in the fall enabled it just keep everything pretty much so everybody can live with it, and that sounded real good to them. I told them the problem we are having is the beavers are coming in and damming up the river and pushing that brown water back into the lake and that got a whole lot of people concerned if that is the cause swimmers itch in the summer time or how good the body of water that is coming back into the lake is. The one thing I forgot to tell them was they were concerned about how flat it is from the lake down to Wyandotte dam down there, but forgot to explain to them if they go another 200 yards down stream it falls off 18 or 20 feet at Wyandotte Falls. I got a hold of Shawn and asked if he would explain that, because they were concerned if we take out the dams that are there now they would go another 200 yards down stream and build another one. That's not a problem if they go down stream they would go over the falls. In conjunction with that Shawn has talked to them on the phone a couple of times and the price tag approximately \$2,000 but we have not seen paperwork yet and what they request is payment upfront and they work off of that. Kind of backwards to what I think you would do it but that is what they do and they thought they would want to sign a two (2) year agreement, just so they could continue to trap and work the area because they will go thru in the spring of displacement, the old beavers will kick the young out of the colony and they have to go set up shop some where else. So usually just one year of trapping beavers and cleaning stuff out is insufficient, you want to hit for two (2) years pretty hard to make sure it is clean and free of beavers and than hopefully you are good for a couple of years. The person I talked to and Richard met works out of Gaylord but they have one in Iron Mountain, but the guy that would do the actual labor would be from Iron Mountain. What about the dam by the golf course (John Kelly) they don't want anybody out there that is

their water source. I guess we will see as that is up to them and the DEQ if they should get involved, the beaver activity would not bring them down that far. So it is hard to say what would be asked of the golf course. They need permission from everybody that owns property where they have to access. Didn't they have property above 26 there? Norm and Marie Durham own most of that, I don't know exactly where the property line is at between Durham's and Mansell's. Mansell says it is on his side of the river and when Maki's own it they said it was in the middle of the river and then it would be park department and part of Betty Kratt's property. So are you going to go forward with it for the two (2) year? We are going to hopefully, we are going to get the details and bring it to the board, as here is the plan. But that is the direction you are going in? Shawn said yes.

*Mike Sabo I missed part of the garbage discussion, I would personally be dead set against the dumpster operation, having experience with that in the past to me it was a disaster. The ones behind the building, they would empty them one day and the next day they all would be full, everybody knew they were there and there was garbage all over the road. Living on the back road here I would certainly be against that, my opinion. *

*Yesterday (March 29th) we just had another accident on the corner by my house coming into town and I think maybe it might be a good idea to pursue or at least push again for a speed limit thru Twin Lakes. I know it is almost a lost cause but maybe if you keep hounding on them we are looking at the summer months coming up again, kid running around the park, crossing the highway, and bicycles. I think it damn sure time to slow people down. I know they will say that is what the average person is dealt but that doesn't make it right. Just something to think about, we have had how many accidents just on my corner in the last five (5) years, at least four (4) and I know that there has been a lot more before that. Maybe it is something the Road Committee could at least look at.

*Joe Siller questioned pay cuts and wanted more details on the beaver problem. As to the pay cuts, Shawn spoke to the salary resolutions. The Clerk would be going just to give the numbers, would be going from \$6,000 annually to \$4,200 annually, which comes to \$350 a month. This is slightly lower than the Supervisor and the Treasurer.

*Joe questioned the beaver dam and lake and asked if anyone has contacted John Pekkala of what is going on? Shawn said the last time he talked to him he said he has nothing to do with beavers any more and he doesn't want to hear about beavers. Joe had talked to him today and he said when this goes to court it will be addressed the Misery and the beaver dams to be maintained that the papers are sitting on his desk now to go to the Board of Commissioners and then to the court. Nothing against what you guys are doing. (Shawn) so a judge is going to decide if beaver dams are going to stay? It sounds like that the height of the Misery is very important to getting rid of the high run off in the spring, not the lake level, just the run off. The river should be down 18 inches roughly from the cement, that is what it used to be. Basically Wildlife Division would handle the beaver, they give out the permits. They have never done it but they give the permits out. It might have to be done twice a year. The trapping would be on the water shed so that would include the river from the bar down to Betty Kratt's and making sure that it is clean to the waterfalls and it would go up into the lake too. So if there are any bank beavers residing in the lake that they would want to take them too. The water in the last

couple of days is 6 or 7 inches above the concrete right now and it isn't moving very fast because the two dams down there are not holding much back, so it has to have two dams further down stream.

BOARD COMMENTS: Sherri, Saatio, Richard no comments. John you want to talk about beavers.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 20, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Kelly/Trudgeon, all voted aye.

Sherri Brandt, Deputy Clerk

Shawn Hagan, Supervisor