

MINUTES OF THE ELM RIVER TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2011

The regular township monthly meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Jim Saur, Lynn Huotari, Margaret Lindeman, Deb Maki, and Bob Sibilsky.

MINUTES OF MEETING: The minutes of the January 17, 2011 meeting were read and approved. Motion to approve: Saur/Huotari, all vote aye.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was given by Treasurer Huotari and accepted as given. The fund balances are as follows: Citizen's Bank \$7,565.15, SNB General Acc't \$60,109.28, MBIA Fire Fund \$25,997.36, MBIA General Fund \$58,228.56, MBIA Tax Fund \$2,032.96, SNB Tax Fund \$40,645.45.

CORRESPONDENCE:

*Ramaker & Associates have filed with the FCC for the installation of a new tower for Alltel Wireless/Verizon Wireless at the site location in Winona, 4274 East Winona Tower Road.

*State of Michigan, Liquor Control Commission submitted copy of permit to sell spirits, mixed spirit drink and/or beer and wine on Sunday for Parkview Lodge & Grill.

*DEQ submitted approval for culvert installation for logging in the Winona area.

*MTA/Workers Compensation being checked by Supervisor Maki rate schedule and update of implementation status.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Township Hall/Tanker/USDA: Supervisor Maki indicated that our application for funding needed to be sent to FEMA as well as USDA. We need to await that process for further action by our Engineers.

NEW BUSINESS

*BUDGET: Minor Budget adjustments to Bldg & Ground, Election Expenses, Clerk, Assessor, BD of Review, and Township general expenses were identified. All changes conformed to the 2010-2011 original budget totals. Motion to accept changes: Lindeman/Sibilsky, all voted aye. Budget suggestions 2011-2012 were as follows: Tables and chairs replacements, ceiling tile replacement in the meeting/ kitchen area as well as the windows in the fire department. Community walking trails should be looked at for grant possibility. (see attached)

*POVERTY GUIDELINES: A new poverty guideline was adopted. Motion to approve: Sibilsky/Lindeman, individual voice approval, Saur, Maki, Huotari, Lindeman, & Sibilsky.

*LAKE GERALD LITIGATION: A land dispute involving the Houghton County Road Commission, Elm River Township and Karl and Doris Johnson is being litigated in Houghton County Circuit Court under File No.10-14505-CH. The case argues a portion of the Lake Gerald Road. In as much as the townships had ownership rights to land prior to 1951, we were required to have legal representation to protect our interests. Subsequent to the filing of the lawsuit, the township hired the firm of Fahay, Schultz, Burzych, and Rhodes, an independent firm, not having conflict with principle parties in the suit and recommended through the MTA as a specialty firm related to land disputes. Township land records 1951 and prior are not able to be found or non-existent. The township defers to the county records.

*ELM RIVER SCHOOL INFORMATION: The township function as related to the school is to act as a tax collection agency for the Elm River School. We as a township board process /provide election services but have no other control of the school operation.

The taxpayers, who claim residence in the township as their PRINCIPLE RESIDENCE, ARE EXEMPT FROM PAYING SCHOOL OPERATING TAX. However, Principle Residence do pay CCISD, Special Education and the SET millages which are mandated by the State.

PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE: The Planning Commission is scheduled for March 7th 2011. Lake Maps should be finalized. The firm of Whitewater Engr. from Amasa is to be contracted to perform water testing in July and August, to aid us in determining the condition of the major lakes in our township.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Mike Sabo announced the addition of John Hoover as a new fireman.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Motion Huotari/Saur, amount \$13,910.16, all voted aye.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- BOARD OF REVIEW: March 8th organize at 6.p.m., March 14&15 3-9 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: March 21, 2011, BUDGET MEETING 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion Saur/Huotari, all voted aye

Robert L. Sibilsky, Clerk

Deb Maki, Supervisor

