

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
At the OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL
MARCH 15, 2016 @ 7:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Clerk, Linda Sower. The board unanimously agreed to have Trustee, Ben Oatley manage the meeting in the absence of Supervisor, Paul Reeves.

Members Present: Janet Breimayer, Treasurer; Linda Sower, Clerk; Ben Oatley, Trustee; Dan Zeigler, Trustee

Members Absent: Paul Reeves, Supervisor

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by a short prayer.

Approval of Agenda: Ben Oatley requested that we add under New Business, Ionia County Road Commission Road Repair and under Unfinished Business, RV Ordinance. A movement for the approval of the amended agenda was made and supported. Approved 4-0

Approval of Minutes: Janet Breimayer requested several corrections, page three, 1st paragraph, for clarification to read roll call vote. And clarification for the responsibility for web site content to be handled by Addorio. Lynda will continue handle all Cemetery information and transactions. A movement was made and supported to approve the minutes with corrections. Approved 4-0

Special Meeting Minutes - March 9, 2016 for approval – movement made and supported, Passed 3 - 1 abstention because member was not present for the meeting.

Approval of Bills: a movement was made and supported to approve the bills as listed for a TOTAL of \$14475.03. Roll call vote –Approved 4-0

In addition to the monthly bills, additional expenses were submitted for approval; this included pay for the election workers for the March 8, Presidential Primary, for an amount of \$1610.00. Plus an additional \$4160.43 for expenses out of the general fund. Movement was made and supported to pay these additional bills for a total of \$5,770.43. Approved 4-0

Correspondence: Included in the information packets for the Board Members was information on DEQ FEMA Disaster Fund, Ionia County Sentential Standard, and Pension information, Treasurers Report,

The Clerk took a phone call from a landowner regarding property on Gold Lake Road pertaining to a camper-trailer. Landowner feels that their property was trespassed upon and may take legal action. The husband passed away recently and the letters regarding the camper-trailer were received at a bad time for the family. The ensuing discussion of the Gold Lake property included the information that Zoning Administrator, Marc Larabel, has been working with the landowner for a number of months, beginning last summer, regarding the camper-trailer improperly located on the property. Landowner recently received a letter from Marc which included photographs of the camper-trailer. The letter with enclosed photographs is what has prompted the landowner to inquire about the trespassing. The land is posted No Trespassing. The landowner would like to know 'who' took the photographs. It was noted by a Zoning Board Member that most of our ordinances allow for Township Officials to enter private property to be able to complete their duties. The Ionia County Sheriff Deputy present at the meeting

addressed what he felt the difference between a 'trespass' was and a 'legal entry' onto the property is. It is considered trespassing when someone unlawfully enters property with intent to do malicious destruction. When an official of the Township enters upon a property to fulfill their duties, not causing any harm or destruction, it is considered a lawful entry. Prior notification to the property owner should be made. In general any governmental official, state or local, should have contacted the land owner prior to visiting the property.

Public Comment: Zahm Road is to be closed and traffic rerouted to Hawley Highway and through Smyrna. It was also noted that during this same time that Lincoln Lake Road in Kent County near 6 Mile (Button) will be under construction at the same time. Janet Breimayer will contact the Ionia County Road Commission for more details.

It was also noted that the Otisco Township sign had been moved away from the Flat River Trail intersection. Flat River Trail is the boundary line between Otisco Township and the City of Belding. The City of Belding relocated the Otisco Township sign without authorization.

Concerns were raised that the speed limit in the area has been dropped from 35 mph to 25 mph. Lynda Sower spoke with the Belding Police Chief, who felt it would keep large trucks from speeding through the area. Placement of the speed limit signs is causing confusion as to when and where the 25 mph speed limit takes effect. Lynda has contacted the Council members about the changes made and has not yet received an answer.

It was suggested that a resolution be enacted for term limits to be placed on board members, not to exceed 4 - 4 year terms. Also that deputies should not be related to or involved in the same business interests as the elected officials.

COMMETTEE REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Are currently working with CNC business on Whites Bridge Road regarding the expansion to their building. It is located in an agricultural area and is a nonconforming use and will be sent to the board for approval.

New Land Splits: Tom Miedema on Ranney Lake – paper work available, the Planning Commission will continue to work on this.

Cemetery Committee: Laura Staats indicated that the cemetery group would likely be holding a meeting in April.

County Commissioner, David Hodges: The County Commission meeting held this week was a "Committee of the Whole". Mr. Hodges gave a brief overview of the different committees and some of the progress they are making. Department heads made reports from, MSU Central Dispatch, Sherriff Department, Building & Grounds, Registrar of Deeds, and new facility discussion, Ionia is working with Landmark out of Grand Rapids.

Ionia will now have a Michigan Works office located in town, local residents will no longer have to travel to the Greenville Michigan Works office.

Ionia County Sheriff Deputy: Jason Lavato introduced himself, he is the deputy assigned to Otisco Township. He has been in law enforcement since 1999. Currently he is working days and spends about 10 hours a week within Otisco Township. He reported that there had been a robbery on Fish Road and that most of the items had been recovered. When questioned about

road speeds and road speed studies he stated that it is a responsibility of MDOT to set speed limits.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Budget Public Hearing: A movement made and supported to suspend the business meeting to open a public hearing for the new budget. Passed 4-0

Public Hearing opened at 7:42 PM. Everyone in attendance had access to copies of the proposed budget for the upcoming year. It was determined that the grand total for each section of the budget would be read aloud, and any discussion if necessary.

Anticipated Expenses:

101 Gen. Fund	\$687,792.02
102 Township Board	\$ 63,479.00
171 Supervisor	\$ 18,100.00
191 Elections – Governmental	\$ 4,400.00
192 Elections – Schools	\$ 1,300.00
209 Assessor	\$ 19,900.00
210 Professional Service	\$ 9,200.00
215 Clerk	\$ 22,400.00
247 Board of Review	\$ 2,900.00
248 Gen. Service Admin	\$ 41,100.00
253 Treasurer	\$ 22,400.00
265 Building and Grounds	\$ 12,000.00
276 Cemetery	\$ 18,000.00
400 Planning Commission	\$ 7,250.00
410 Zoning	\$ 19,050.00
411 Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 2,900.00
445 Drain System	\$ 1,800.00
448 Street Lighting	\$ 2,800.00
651 Ambulance	\$ 12,000.00
858 Payroll Expense	\$ 9,000.00
872 Miscellaneous	\$ 800.00
890 Contingency	\$349,469.00
Total Appropriations	\$640,244.00
Net of Revenues/Appropriations	\$ 47,548.02
Beginning Fund Balance	\$1,230,684.65
Ending Fund Balance	\$1,278,233.67

Estimated Revenues:

209 Cemetery Fund	\$ 10,000.00
230 Road Fund – Net Revenue	\$ 145,250.00
449 Roads	\$ 149,250.00
500 Fire Protection Services	\$ 110,000.00
Estimated Revenues - All Funds:	\$ 953,042.02
Appropriations - All Funds:	\$895,494.00
Net of Revenues/Appropriations – All Funds	\$ 57,548.02

Beginning Fund Balance - All Funds \$1,478,109.30

Ending Fund Balance - All Funds \$1,538,657.32

Movement was made and supported to accept the budget as read. A roll call vote was taken, Approved 3 - 1.

Movement was made and supported to close the Public Hearing, closed at 7:55 PM Passed 4-0

RV Ordinance: Ben Oatley stated that the Zoning Administrator, let it be known that there was no big hurry to pass the stand-alone RV Ordinance. The board members briefly discussed the ordinance, a movement was made and supported, a vote was taken on the RV Ordinance. Passed 3-1

New Business:

Lawn Care: Janet Breimayer made a movement that we continue the lawn care service provided by David Hodges for the next year. Movement was supported and Approved 4-0

Lawyer: A brief discussion was held regarding law services to Otisco Township, the general consensus between Board Members was that our current lawyer was not as effective as he has been in the past. Board Members may solicit and contact potential lawyers, preferably those with township law experience. Janet Breimayer will send out letters to potential law offices.

Hall Addition: A discussion was held regarding adding on to the Otisco Township Hall. Lynda Sower stated that she has been contacted by a number of people regarding the expansion to better facilitate elections being held within the hall building. Lynda's reply to them is that she did not ask specifically for an extension just to house the elections. As the Clerk, she is required to make sure that the elections take place in an appropriate facility. And that this year with the Presidential Primary in March, the August Primary, and General Elections being held in November, she made arrangements for all elections to be held at another location that better suited the potential number of citizens showing up to cast their vote. She also noted that the elections at the off-site location, Ashley Baptist Church on M-44, did not cost the township anything. The location was very accommodating and most voters expressed their pleasure at the alternate site. As with anything, there were some who were displeased at the site change.

After some discussion it was determined and a movement was made and supported that the Supervisor appoint a committee of five people to undertake the task of determining the level of interest from the citizens of Otisco Township in adding onto the current Township Hall. This Committee will report back to the Township Board with its findings at the earliest possible date. It was also noted that the Township has sufficient funds in reserve to build the expansion at no additional cost to the Township Taxpayers. Paul Reeves is expected to return to Michigan in time for the April meeting. Approved 4 - 0

Road Repairs: Ionia County will be doing some repair work on selected paved roads within Otisco Township. It was unclear as to whether all or a portion of this road repair was to be at a cost to the Township. The repair was described in the following manner that they would crack, chip and fog seal to repair these roads. Further discussion was tabled. Janet Breimayer will contact the Ionia County Road Commission to clarify costs and invite a representative to attend our April Board Meeting.

Suggested road work is as follows:

Fisk Road between Montcalm and M-91

Whites Bridge Road from M-44 to Button
Zahm Road from Belding City limits to Krupp Road
Krupp Road from Miriam Road to Zahm Road
Krupp Road from Albert Road to Miriam Road
Dumon Road from the Bridge to Button Road
Miriam Road from Krupp to Jacoby Road

Two of the worst roads were identified as:

Krupp/Andres/Jacoby Roads from Zahm Road to Hawley Hwy.
Ingalls Road from Zahm Road to Miriam Road
Repair to these are advised to be; Crush, Shape and Overlay.

Public Comment:

A number of citizens present at the meeting asked if additional road repairs could be made, and are funds available, specifically gravel on some the roads that were quite impassable this time of year due to the thawing. It was stated that the township holds two Certificates of Deposit, one in the amount of \$97,971 and the other in the amount of \$175,406.92, that are specifically designated for road use. It was also noted that some roads have had the ditches dug to near the roadway edge and others the ditches were dug too far away and did not carry waters away from the roadway.

At 9:02 PM a movement to adjourn was made and supported, Passed 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura J. Staats
Zoning Board

OTISCO TOWNSHIP PREPOSED AGENDA

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM

- I. Call Meeting to order
- II. Pledge to flag and Opening Prayer
- III. Approval of meeting Agenda
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Approval of monthly Bills
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Correspondence
- VIII. Committee Reports/Minutes
 - a. Fire/mutual Aid Compact/Ambulance
 - b. Planning Commission
 - c. ZBA
 - d. New Land Splits – Tom
 - e. Zoning administrator
 - f. Road Committee – Road Commissioners-Local Bridge Grant & Road Evaluation – Gravel contract
 - g. Cemetery Committee
 - h. County Commission-David Hodges
- IX. Unfinished Business
 - a. Tree Removal at Twp Hall
- X. New Business
 - a. Zoning Ordinance change-Non Conforming – Industrial
 - b. Tax Allocation Papers
 - c. Lawyer
 - d. Hall addition
 - e. *Flags For Cemetery*
- XI. Public Comment
- XIII. Agenda -
- XIV. Adjourn