

OTISCO TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 8, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Paul Reeves at 7:00pm.

The pledge was recited and there was a short prayer by Supervisor Paul Reeves.

Board Members present: Supervisor-Paul Reeves, Clerk-Lynda Sower, Trustees- Ben Oatley and Dan Zeigler.

Board Member absent: Treasurer-Janet Breimayer

Dan Zeigler moved that the agenda be approved as submitted, Ben Oatley supported. Passed by all.

Paul Reeves called for a motion to approve the September minutes.

After discussion regarding the quality of the minutes Lynda Sower moved that the writing of the minutes be turned over to Jan Breimayer there was no support for the motion and it did not pass.

Ben Oatley moved the monthly bills be approved and Dan Ziegler supported. Passed by all.

There was discussion regarding the cds that need to be renewed and the highest rate for renewal was 1 percent for 5 years. The board agreed 5 years was to long.

PUBLIC COMMENT : There was no public comment.

CORRESPONDENCE : Paul Reeves stated that the board members should have copies of all the accident reports. Lynda Sower read an invitation inviting board members to attend a ground breaking ceremony for the new Sparrow Ionia Hospital. Lynda Sower received a bid from Bear's Excavation LTD for snow removal. After discussing the bid it was decided to take bids.

There was a Election Committee Meeting October 8, 2013 at 10:00 AM to approve the election inspectors for the November 5, 2013 election.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES:

Fire/ mutual aid compact/Ambulance – none

Planning Commission – Ben Oatley said they are working on a new zoning book. Ben also stated they are working on an amendment to allow citizens to more easily run a small business from their home.

ZBA –None

Zoning Administrator report – None

New Land Splits – None

Road Committee – Paul reported the Road Commission is looking into repairing the wash out on Flat River Trail just off Miriam Road.

Cemetery Committee – Two bids were received for tree removal one at \$450. with an additional \$120. to grind stumps from Midwest Tree Service and the other at \$650. from Moore Tree Service. Dan Ziegler moved the bid from Midwest Tree Service be accepted and Lynda Sower supported.

Pitch Landfill Study –none

Ionia Commissioner-Lynn Mason – Lynn was not present.

Ionia County Deputy Report – Deputy Dion Sower gave the Incident Report for Otisco Township from August to September 2013. Deputy Sower stated the township has been pretty quiet except for a couple breaking and entering and a larceny. Deputy Sower also stated the township is patrolled nightly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fred Meijer Trail –none

Web Site – Lynda Sower reported Betsy Davidson is accepting ideas and input for our new web site. She has been working on it and citizens will note the web site is under construction.

Liquor Sales on Sunday- It was discussed and Lynda Sower moved to review facts relating to liquor sales on Sunday morning and Ben Oatley supported. All supported except Paul Reeves for religious beliefs.

Kendra Bailey asked for a public comment at this point and was recognized. Kendra ask for religious beliefs to be set aside and think about the success of businesses in Otisco Township. If the alcohol sales make a difference to the success of the business we need to think about this.

NEW BUSINESS

Audit –Paul reported the audit is moving along nicely and the auditors will be coming back next week to help Jan Breimayer with her Treasurer problems.

~~**Lynda Sower ask to Speak to the board.**~~

~~Lynda Sower wanted it put on record the Treasurers problems were illegal and Lynda also wanted it recorded that she tried to alert each board member about the problem and the response has been “Jan is working on it”. There is a large sum of money held in an account that has not been allocated to the appropriate parties. This has been ongoing for five years. It has been since January when Lynda became aware of the problem and tried to get it resolved and nothing was happening. Lynda wanted it known that she is not responsible for the creation of the problem and has been actively trying to get it resolved. In her frustration over this matter Lynda called MTA and The State Treasury Dept. at that point she was connected with the governors office and was advised by a representative of that office to call the media or the State Police over this matter. She said she has not done either yet and is still trying to get the board to resolve this. This is not a~~

~~treasurers problem everyone on the board is responsible. Lynda suggested the board make a decision to get the appropriate help for Jan, which can be done as a board. This would be a treasurer from another township and also a township that uses the BS&A software for taxes. The Grattan Township Treasurer and the Eureka Township Treasurer are both highly competent and willing to come to Otisco Township to straighten out the problem. Still nothing has been done to correct this. Lynda wanted to make a motion but Paul Reeves stated he would contact the Ionia County Treasurer for advise.~~

Audit Continued- Paul Reeves said the board needs to bring in someone to help Jan Breimayer. Paul Reeves also expressed some concern over the budget and observed we were not having an indepth audit.

Ambulance Contract- Jani Millard spoke about reasons and statistics for renewing our Life EMS contract. She stated the cost will increase from \$4.51 per person to \$4.95 which will be gradually distributed over the next three years. She also said they had not had an increase in twelve years. Jani said Otisco Township is the last township to vote on this. Lynda Sower moved to renew the contract and Dan Ziegler supported. Passed by all.

Zoning Administrator – Blight- Zoning Administrator Eric Griffin is seeking approval by the board to act on six cases of blight in the township. Paul Reeves does not want to act until the ordinance is cleared up thus wanting to wait on approval. Lynda Sower ask why have an ordinance if the zoning administrator can't act on it. Lynda stated why worry so much about the alcohol on Sunday ordinance but not the blight issue. Deputy Sower commented that when law enforcement sees a violation to an ordinance they can issue a citation but typically they contact the Zoning Administrator of the township first. He said to let law enforcement know when the ordinance is correct.

Pay for Laura Statts – A request was made by Lynda Sower to pay Laura Staat for her work on the cemeteries. Lynda sought her help after discovering many discrepancies in the cemeteries. Laura is presently working on matching the map with the headstones. Dan Ziegler moved to pay Laura Statts \$14.00 per hour and Lynda Sower supported. Passed by all.

MTA Annual Conference- Paul Reeves brought to the attention of the board reservations for the MTA conference in Traverse City were now open. Paul gave an overview of what trainings were going to be available this year.

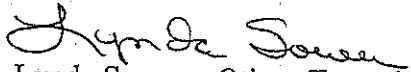
PUBLIC COMMENT – Howard Uiterdyk questioned why the 4 Mile Rd project was not on the agenda as was previously stated in the September minutes. Paul Reeves stated that it looked like the culvert/bridge project was going to be the responsibility of the township. Fema money is suppose to come to help with it but it's not known when. Paul also said the county is taking responsibility for the removal of the old foundation from the bridge.

Board Policies- Paul Reeves requested the members of the board read the print outs of Board and Administrative Policies Manual and to think about policies that may be needed in the township.

ADJOURN – Dan Ziegler moved that we adjourn and was supported by Lynda Sower.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Signed



Lynda Sower – Otisco Township Clerk