

OTISCO TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Lynda Sower in the absence of Supervisor Paul Reeves at 7:00pm.

The pledge was recited

Lynda Sower understood she was to run the meeting in the absence of Paul Reeves but requested Ben Oatley to run the meeting because of his knowledge of the ordinance to be reviewed. All Board Members Agreed.

Board Members present: Clerk-Lynda Sower, Treasurer-Janet Breimayer Trustees- Ben Oatley and Dan Zeigler.

Board Member absent: Supervisor Paul Reeves

Ben Oatley moved that the agenda be approved as submitted, Jan Breimayer supported. Passed 4 to 0.

The minutes were reviewed and Jan Breimayer asked that the paragraph on the bottom of page 2 and the paragraph at the top of page 3 be stricken from the minutes. Jan Breimayer moved that the paragraph at the bottom of page 2 and the top of page 3 be stricken from the minutes Dan Zeigler supported. A vote was taken resulting in 3 yes and Lynda Sower voted no. 3 to 1 Passed

Jan Breimayer moved that the minutes be approved with changes Dan Zeigler supported. Vote was taken 3 yes and Lynda Sower voted no. 3 to 1 Passed

Monthly bills were reviewed, Jan Breimayer moved the monthly bills be approved Dan Zeigler supported Passed by all.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Karlene Johnson addressed the board regarding the November 5, 2013 election. She stated one of the poll workers tearing off the stub at the top of ballot compromised the secrecy of the ballot and stated poll workers need more training. Discussion followed and there has been a problem with the voting machine accepting the ballots while in the security sleeve although the machine has been serviced recently. Lynda Sower said there will be additional training for next election. Karlene Johnson also stated she felt the board members were all qualified and Lynda Sower would have done a good job running the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE : Lynda Sower brought to the boards attention a letter she received from the Society for Human Resources Management at a cost of \$165.00 per year. Lynda questioned whether the township needs this and also stated it gave the township an additional resource.

Lynda Sower stated a letter had been received from the IRS regarding 2010 Tax payments for the 941 forms. The letter stated the township owed \$786.36 for 2010 taxes. The total owed including late fees and penalties is \$1047.87 and the township will be up to date with all IRS payments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES:

Fire/ mutual aid compact/Ambulance –A report was read regarding an incident at the Belding Football game regarding response time. The response time of 20 minutes was not acceptable. The Life EMS reported that the Belding ambulance was out on another call and a neighboring ambulance had to be called.

Planning Commission – Jim Tarkowski stated they had been working on a new ordinance for transportation of farming and agriculture products which would be discussed later in the meeting.

ZBA –Dan Zeigler reported ZBA had granted a variance to Jeffery Fitzner to allow a sunroom to be built on his existing home.

Township Audit Report – Lawrence Tiejema presented his audit report. Mr Tiejema said the full 41 page report is available at the township hall for anyone who would like to review it in detail. The hand outs were reviewed with attending residents. The auditor's opinion reads as follows: In my opinion the financial statements referred to above are presently fair, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and the aggregate remaining fund information about Otisco Township as of March 31, 2013 and the respective changes in financial position, and the budgetary comparison for all major funds for the year that ended in conformity with accounting principals generally accepted in United States. The report includes information regarding the cemetery fund and the suggestion that it be brought into the general fund in the next fiscal period. He also suggested moving some funds from Choice One to other banking institutions so all balances are fully insured by the FDIC. Mr. Tiejema stated there may be some money in the township funds that may/or may not belong to the township. To correct this it would require an in depth accounting review for the previous 4 years. He stated he would not be the best person to do this since he was the person who ran the audit. He also stated that the Treasurer may need to get help from another Treasurer to understand everything.

Zoning Administrator report – None

New Land Splits – None

Road Committee –Whites Bridge Road should be finished by the end of the week. Ionia County Road Commission stated repairs to 4 Mile Rd would be completed early in 2014. Any questions regarding this please call Dorothy Poll, Ionia County Road Commission. FEMA money has been requested to help cover expenses to replace culverts and repair the road. The townships anticipated expense is \$40,000.

Area resident Hopkins inquired why the roads were only brined twice in 2013. Other residents ask why they were not brined three times as they have been in the past. A suggestion was made that some of our excess funds be allocated to the roads along with a request they be brined three times a year.

Cemetery Committee – Flags that were placed on all of the veteran's graves should be picked up by the end of the week.

Pitch Landfill Study –The landfill is being used by the residents of Otisco Township.

Ionia Commissioner-Lynn Mason – Lynn Mason was not present.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fred Meijer Trail –none

Web Site – Residents are becoming frustrated because the web site is not finished yet. Lynda Sower said she will find out an expected date web site will be finished.

Snowplow Bids- An initial bid was received from Bear Excavation for \$47.00 per time. This bid was not immediately accepted as Bear Excavation will not shovel the sidewalk around the township hall. A request for bids was put out to include shoveling the sidewalk. Two bids were received one from Leo Underwood at \$100.00 per plow including shoveling the sidewalk. A second bid was received from Mike Beuema at a cost of \$40.00 per plow including sidewalks. The ad for the bid did not stipulate proof of liability insurance be provided. A move was made by Jan Breimayer to accept the Bear Excavation bid even though he will not shovel and supported by Dan Zeigler. Vote was 3 yes and Lynda Sower voted no. 3 to 1 Passed

Liquor Sales on Sunday Review- Lynda Sower contacted the other two businesses in Otisco Township with liquor licenses to ask how it would affect their businesses if liquor sales were allowed on Sunday morning. Dick Reeves of the Double R Ranch said it made no difference to them and they may pick up a few extra sales from it. Marc Hoople of Smyrna Bar and Restaurant stated that he does not open until noon on Sunday and the approval will not affect him. Lynda Sower moved that we remove our resolution and go by the State guidelines in our township, supported by Dan Zeiger. Passed 4 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Repeal Name Zoning Commission & Zoning Board- The names Zoning Commission and Zoning Board are considered outdated and the names should be changed to Zoning Board of Appeals. A move was made by Dan Zeigler to change the names and was supported by Lynda Sower. Passed 4 to 0.

Flag No Light- It was brought to the attention of the township that if a flag is to be flown after dark or before sunrise the flag should be lighted. It was also noted the condition of the flag at the township hall as well as both cemeteries need to be replaced. Michigan law states any flag flown on governmental properties needs to be made in USA. Karlene Johnson stated she knew someone with in the township that makes flags and will give the information to Lynda Sower Township Clerk.

Planning Commission Ordinance – Transportation of Farm and Agricultural Products as a Business.

The ordinance would be to clarify special use trucking businesses for agriculture. The ordinance does not affect any one currently in a farming business that is in existence today. Much of the public present felt the ordinance was being enacted for the purpose of one person only. Many of the public felt the ordinance went against the Right to Farm Act. It was generally felt the ordinance was too vague. There was considerable discussion of the terms used in the ordinance such as the term “operating” in particular. The board was also asked if they are enforcing zoning ordinances, and the board replied they are probably not enforcing ordinances in all cases. Frank Mason of the Planning Commission asks if some of the farmers would attend the Planning Commission meetings and give their input. Ben Oatley stated the board had two choices –

1. to send the ordinance back to the Planning Commission to be revised
2. to vote on the ordinance the way it is

Jan Breimayer moved to vote on the Ordinance - Transportation of Farm and Agricultural Products as a Business, Dan Zeigler supported. Vote was taken with 3 yes and Lynda Sower voted no. Passed 3 to 1

Ben Oatley ask if there was a motion to vote on the ordinance the way it is.
Jan Breimayer moved to vote to approve the Ordinance-Transportation of Farm and Agricultural and Dan Zeigler supported. Vote was taken. Ordinance Voted Down 4 to 0.

Planning Commission Ordinance- To Regulate Blight and Minimize Nuisances:

This topic was tabled for discussion at the next township board meeting, as no one who is familiar with the proposed ordinance was in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The board was asked to take action to pay the 941- Re: 2010 IRS tax money still owed. Lynda Sower moved to pay the tax bill to the IRS Dan Zeigler supported. Vote was taken and Passes 4 to 0.

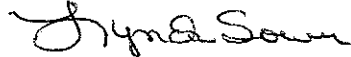
Agenda- Budget Workshop Dates January, February, & March

The board all agreed to table the discussion until the next township board meeting.

ADJOURN – Jan Breimayer moved that we adjourn and was supported by Dan Zeigler.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Signed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynda Sower".

Lynda Sower – Otisco Township Clerk