

**OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
JULY 14, 2015 – 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was opened with the Pledge and a short prayer by Paul Reeves, Supervisor.

Members Present: Paul Reeves, Supervisor; Janet Breimayer, Treasurer;
Lynda Sower, Clerk; Ben Oatley, Trustee; Dan Zeigler, Trustee,

Agenda Approval: Paul Reeves agenda amendments; correspondence, something about a Planning Commission member – Planning Commission report, Outdoor Gathering Ordinance – Zoning Administrator Marc Larabel would like to go to a training session in Aug. Jan Breimayer moved that the Agenda be approved with these changes and it was supported by Ben Oatley. 5-0 passed

Approval of Minutes: Ben Oatley moved to approve the minutes as presented and Dan Zeigler supported. 5-0 passed

Approval of monthly bills: Paul Reeves reported that there is one member of the Planning Commission that is not being paid and according to our Lawyer, Cliff Bloom, this is against the Law. Lynda Sower has requested the social security number from this member, but he states he does not want to be paid. Paul Reeves is going to write a letter to the member and request his social security number or he will have to resign. Bills were presented to the board; Payroll-\$5,663.98; Accounts Payable-\$9,281.62; Roads-\$11,128.04. TOTAL: \$26,073.64 Jan Breimayer moved that we pay these bills and Lynda Sower supported. Roll call – 5-0 passed

Public Comment: David Hodges stated that he received his newsletter and appreciated the cemetery rules being listed in the letter. He stated that the letter was very well done. David also spoke about all the speeding traffic by his home on the weekend. People were also parking on the bridge to watch tubers going by. David suggested that “No Parking” signs be placed on the bridge. He also stated that people were not respectful to the owners of the properties when traveling down the river. Paul Reeves stated that we will talk to the DNR about this matter.

Correspondence: Lynda Sower received an email from Don Hilton, who is running for Director of Michigan Township Participating Plan (Par Plan) Board and would appreciate our townships vote.

Committee Reports/Minutes

Planning Commission: Ben Oatley reported that the committee had the Outdoor Gathering Ordinance read for the board to look at. They also have some amendments to the Home Occupation Ordinance. Ben Oatley moved that we adopt the new Outdoor Gathering Ordinance and Jan Breimayer supported. Roll Call 4-1 passed Lynda Sower was the only no vote. The Home Occupation Ordinance is returning to the Planning Commission for some changes. Next month this will be back to the Board for a decision. Marc Larabel, Zoning Administrator, has requested to attend Zoning Training August. Jan Breimayer moved that Marc attend this training and Dan Zeigler supported. 5-0 passed

Zoning Adm.: Paul Reeves stated that years ago the Supervisor was told by the Board to oversee the Zoning Adm. Paul then stated the policy used to be that the Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator could agree to cancel a Planning Commission meeting if there was no need to have a meeting. After a discussion Jan Breimayer moved that we keep the rules as they have been in the past and Dan Zeigler supported. 5-0 passed

ZBA : Dan Zeigler reported that they did have a meeting this month to approve last month's minutes.

Cemetery Committee: Laura Staats thanked the Board for giving them money to work with last month. She also reported that they have some quotes to do some work at the Smyrna Cemetery. Repairing 13 broken headstones and clean them for \$1,680 – Fixing driveway and putting down crushed asphalt - \$2,300 – Trimming and taking down some trees - \$2,020 TOTAL --- \$6,000
Lynda Sower moved that they get the jobs done at the cost of the approx. quotes and Ben Oatley supported. 5-0 passed

County Commission – David Hodges: The County Commissioners were given land from the city to build a new maintenance building. An approval of \$2.5 Million has been set aside in the budget for this project. The old court building on the south side of Main St. will be taken down and that will become a parking lot. The Friend of the Court requested a full case worker and part time case worker. Thornapple drain system is a drain flows out of Jordon Lake, Ionia County is financially involved about 30%, and they have spent their allotted money for the year for this project. Ionia County is loaning money to the drain commission \$21,000, in March it will be paid back to the county. There has been trouble with the Appraisal & Equalization; the \$70,000 was not enough to attract people to the job. They want a level 3 or 4, an agency is going to be hired at a cost of \$90,000.

New Land Splits-Lamborne(Whites Bridge Rd.)- A split of 1.6 and 1.5 acres in the front of the property, separating the house and barn. Parcel # 34-130-009-000-035-02. Jan Breimayer moved that we approve this split and Lynda Sower supported. 5 -0 passed

Unfinished Business:

Newsletter – web?: Paul Reeves stated that he thought we should look into getting our newsletter on our website. This is to save money and maybe we need to find someone to put things on our web. Laura Staats ask if we sent newsletters to people that do not reside in our township, one in particular? Lynda Sower stated that news letters were sent to property owners, but she knew who Laura was asking about. Lynda stated that we could send one to her. Lynda also stated, if they put it on the website, she is not doing it. Paul Reeves agreed that this job should not be left up to any of the township officials.

Sheriff Deputy: Lynda Sower read a letter from the Ionia Sheriff office: They are offering enhanced service from the Sheriff's office to the Township of Otisco. The township currently receives limited coverage on a when available as needed basis.
This proposed enhancement of service would provide directed Sheriff's Office personnel to the Township of Otisco and provide specific Police coverage.
There is a list of services that they will offer the Township a 1 to 3 year agreement for this service. The rate of pay would be \$41.77 per hour. The township will be able to name the hours for this service. The County will provide and carry all liability insurance for the indemnification of the township and personnel assigned to Otisco Township for patrol operations.

After much discussion, Lynda Sower moved that the board commit to a One Year Agreement at the approximate cost of \$43,000 and Ben Oatley supported. 5-0 passed Roll call

\$10,000 Transfer to Cemetery: Lynda Sower gave reports to board members showing the \$10,000 from General fund and putting it in Cemetery Allowance.

Clerk's results from questionnaire: Lynda Sower gave a quick report to the Board from her TGA survey that was given to each member to fill out and return to her. Lynda received four surveys and did an average on the answers. The boards' averages were 3-5 with a 1-6 ratio. Lynda requested the board to think about having a retreat to get the numbers up to 5&6's. Paul Reeves told Lynda to find out what the cost would be for this event report back to the board.

Voting Booths & Voting location: Lynda Sower presented the board with a quote for six new collapsible voting booths. The cost would run approximately \$165 per booth. Lynda Sower reported that she has spoken to a board member of the Smyrna Church if the elections could be run in the church's all purpose room this next year. She feels that the elections next year will be larger than normal. Lynda will get back to the board when she hears from the church board.

New Business:

Planner: Paul Reeves reported that he has called a couple of townships and they do not have a Planner on call. LSL Consultants is used by Vergennes and Grattan Township. These townships do not hold Planning Commissions meetings that often.


Township Hall Repairs: Paul Reeves has some bids for repairs but does not have enough to present to the Board.

Light Pole: Paul Reeves stated that he has looked on the Trail and there are several old poles but he has to contact someone about them.

Agenda: DNR next meeting
Contact County about "NO PARKING" signs for bridge
DNR closing old damn

Adjourn: At 8:40 p.m., Jan Breimayer moved that we adjourn the meeting and Ben Oatley supported.

Minutes By:



Lynda Sower – Otisco Township Clerk