

**OTISCO TOWNSHIP AMENDED REGULAR  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 11, 2015 @ 7:00 P.M.**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Paul Reeves, Supervisor; Janet Breimayer, Treasurer;  
Lynda Sower, Clerk; Ben Oatley, Trustee; Dan Zeigler, Trustee;

**Agenda Approval:** Jan Breimayer moved the agenda be approved and Ben Oatley supported.  
Agenda approved: 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dan Zeigler moved the minutes be approved and Lynda Sower supported.  
Minutes approved: 5-0.

**Approval of Bills:** Total of Bills – \$31461.95 (Fire \$18397.50) (Roads \$451.80)  
(Acc Pay \$6538.56) (Payroll \$6074.09)

Jan Breimayer moved to approve the bills and Dan Zeigler supported.

Bills approved: 5-0

FOIA: Paul Reeves brought to the attention of the board Lynda Sower had filed a FOIA with the Treasurer Jan Breimayer as Lynda Sower (said she) was not receiving the financial information from the treasurer to execute her job. After much discussion the board decided the FOIA was personal (as she put her home address on the FOIA paper) and not job related and she ~~should~~ would have to pay \$104.00 to receive the papers. Lynda Sower said she will not pay as she needed the information to properly do her job and that as FOIA coordinator the papers had to be turned in to her to be filed in the FOIA folder. Paul Reeves moved that Lynda Sower be required to pay the \$104.00 and Jan Breimayer supported. Motion Passed 4-1 with Lynda Sower voting No.

**Public Comment:**

Ernest Strause stood up and asked Paul Reeves if this is when he could speak and Paul said no we will talk about it later.

Laura Staats thanked everyone for their attendance and help (especially Lynda Sower and Howard Uiterdyk for cooking at the breakfast) at the Smyrna Summer Celebration. It was a huge success.

Marie Hodges ~~brought~~ brought to the attention of the Township Board there ~~is~~ are still problems with tubers and canoes going down the river using ~~fowl~~ foul language and discarding trash along the way. There is also a problem with cars speeding *by their residence*. Paul Reeves said he is trying to get someone from the DNR to come and address these issues.

**Committee Reports:**

**Fire:** Paul Reeves stated we received a *quarterly* bill from the fire department.

**Planning Commission:** Ben Oatley stated the rezoning of 9195 Belding Rd was approved and was waiting for board approval.

Ben Oatley said parts of the ~~county~~ Township RV ordinance are not enforceable. There was discussion about not being able to find a noise ordinance and was wondering about possibly working on a new one.

The Home Occupation ordinance will be discussed next month.

**Cemetery Committee:** Laura Staats reported Gravestone Services has been contracted to clean and repair some of the markers. R Shults is going to be doing the repairs on the driveway at Symrna Cemetery. Climbin High Tree Service will be trimming trees and cleaning up brush. These services will cost ~~\$6025~~ \$5775.

**County Commissioner Dave Hodges:** Bev Young is retiring after 22 years of service in the Sherriff's Department. There was discussion about fencing around the Ionia Airport to keep animals from getting on the runway. He reported there are two job openings – one on the District Board and Clerk *one in the clerk's office*.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

##### ***News Letter:***

Paul Reeves said it was brought to his attention by Kendra Bailey (deputy clerk) that she has made sure all the newsletters have been available on the web site. ~~since Lynda Sower was elected clerk~~

**Facilitator:** Lynda Sower was asked to check the cost of a facilitator so the township board could attend a retreat to identify problems within the board and work together *to* better serve the residents. The cost was approximately \$1200 to \$2400 for a whole day. After some discussion the board except Lynda Sower felt it was not right to spend the townships money that way. It was decided the board would set a date for a meeting with just the board members to discuss problems.

#### **New Business:**

**Shoemaker Technologies:** There was a presentation by Shoemaker Technologies on paperless record keeping. They showed how their software will keep things organized and easily accessible when the documents are scanned.

**Repairs:** There was no decision made on repairs to outside of building as we are waiting for another bid. ~~as there is only one thus far~~. There were two bids on parking lot repairs – repaving & lines. One bid was from Harding Enterprises, Lowell for \$1425. Another was from B&E Coating Services from Blanchard for \$1784. Ben Oatley moved we use Harding Enterprises and Dan Zeigler supported. Passes 5-0

There were two bids for inside repairs of the hall such as patch drywall and paint, One bid from Brads Cleaners in Greenville \$3216. The other was from Impact Cleaners from Greenville \$2250. Paul Reeves moved that the township use Impact Cleaners. Jan Breimayer supported.

Passed 5-0

***Notary:***

Marc Larabel (Zoning Administrator) made a request *for a* notary book. Dan Zeigler moved the board approve his request and Jan Breimayer supported. Passes 5-0

***Audit Report:***

Lawrence Tiejema the township auditor gave the audit report. He stated the township is in nice shape and doing fine.

***Conditional Rezoning:*** The board was asked to vote on the rezoning of 9195 Belding Rd. Jan Breimayer moved to rezone the property and Dan Zeigler supported. Passed 5-0

***Scrap Yard:*** The scrap yard at 11370 Ellis Rd ask the board to renew their license. Jan Breimayer moved to renew the license and Lynda Sower supported. Passes 5-0

***RV Ordinance:***

It was brought to the attention of the board changes in wording were necessary. Paul Reeves moved the changes be made and it be sent back to the Planning Commission. Lynda Sower supported. Passed 5-0

***Noise Ordinance:***

There was discussion about whether there is a need for a new noise ordinance. It was tabled as a resident spoke up and said she thought she had a copy of the noise ordinance at home and will try to find it and give it to Paul Reeves

***Demolition Permit Wording:***

The Zoning Administrator Marc Larabel asked the board to amend the Demolition Permit wording. The county allows 180 days and the township only allows 120 days. Jan Breimayer moved that the township allow the 180 days also and Dan Zeigler supported. Passed 5-0

Ernest Strause stood up and said he has been trying to help his parents clean up after their fire but he has been working 7 days and week and his father is 75 and his mother is not able to do it. He wanted the 180 days as he said he was doing the best he could. Paul reeves said we are having a meeting now and to wait for public comment. Strause continued very frustrated over the \$500.00 escrow fee not being returned to his parents when clean up was done. He was told there was still cars on the property and he said that had nothing to do with clean up. After having his say Strause and his family left the meeting with him stating that he was very upset about the treatment of his parents by the township.

***Revised Public Gathering:***

The board agreed and voted there will be a \$50.00 fee for the permit and \$500.00 will be held in escrow until property is cleaned up. Ben Oatley moved in favor of the revision and Jan Breimayer supported. Passed 5-0

***Bike Race Exemption:***

Due to the time frame of the public gathering ordinance it was suggested the Bike Race be exempt. Lynda Sower moved for the exemption and Jan Breimayer supported. Passed 5-0

***Move Funds:***

It was brought to the attention of that the board funds needed to be moved funds from the contingency account to the Sheriff Fund. Paul Reeves moved \$43,000 be moved from the contingency account.

Lynda Sower supported. Passed 5-0

***Deputy will do September Minutes:***

Due to the absence of Lynda Sower the September minutes will be done by Deputy Kendra Bailey.

**Public Comment:**

None

**Agenda – September:**

A Lieutenant from Sheriff Dept. will speak.

**Adjourn:**

Jan Breimayer moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:25PM and Dan Zeigler supported.  
Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes Submitted by:

Lynda Sower - Otisco Township Clerk

