

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING

October 13, 2015 @7:00 P.M.

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and short prayer by David Hodges, County Commissioner.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Paul Reeves, Supervisor; Janet Breimayer, Treasurer
Lynda Sower, Clerk; Dan Zeigler, Trusee

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ben Oatley, Trusee

Agenda Approval: Janet Breimayer moved the agenda be approved and Dan Zeigler supported. Agenda approved: 4-0

Approval of Minutes: August 11, 2015 amended minutes – Paul Reeves could not tell what revisions were made, because the revisions were not struck out. We need to put a line through them otherwise there is no record of them. Janet Breimayer mentioned that in the Public Comment in the second paragraph the word foul is misspelled. Paul Reeves referred the minutes back to the clerk.

September 8, 2015 minutes – Paul Reeves moved to approve the minutes and it was supported by Lynda Sower. Janet Breimayer mentions that there were some type-o's; on third page under amendment, the word asked and ask, and also does not need the explanation point after meeting adjourned. Janet Breimayer moved that we approve the minutes with the above corrections and Dan Zeigler supported. Approved 4-0 Paul stated now we will approve the minutes that were amended. Approved 4-0

September 22, 2015 minutes – Paul Reeves moved that we approve the minutes and Dan Zeigler supported. Paul wanted to know if there was any discussion; Janet Breimayer stated on the part about questionnaire, she would like this include *Paul ask the board what problems there were at this time; Mr. Uiterdyk spoke up, and is not a board member, he stated that the clerk had a problem with the two members at the end of the table. Trustee's wondered why the clerk could not have keys from the Treasurer. Paul spoke up and said he had asked for ordinances a few years ago and has never received them.* Janet Breimayer moved that the corrections be made and approved and Dan Zeigler support. Approved 3-1 Lynda Sower voted no. Paul stated that we would now approve the approved minutes. Approved 3-1 Lynda Sower voted no.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: Paul Reeves stated that we had a couple of bills turned in after checks were made out, that need to be added to this month's bills. There was a bill from Climbin' High

Tree Service for \$2,200 and that Paul had a bill for \$104.49, for the parking lot light. Paul stated that the light still does not work. Accts. payable - \$21,450.23 + \$2,304.49 = \$23,754.72

Payroll - \$6,350.79

Roads - \$10,799.00

Grand total - \$40,904.51

DanZeigler moved to approve the bills for the month and Jan Breimayer supported.

Roll Call 4-0 Approved Paul stated that a couple of head stones were broken again with the trimming of the trees at the Smyrna Cemetery. Paul also thinks that the board should try and find some other way to repair them.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Katherine Henry introduced herself. She is a Lawyer in Belding and is running on the 2016 Primary on August 2nd, in the position that Lisa Lyons currently holds as 86th District Representative. Katherine is holding a Kick-Off Sat. November 7, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lowell Chamber office.

Tammy Jahnke and Sherry Boersma who own Tammy's Tax Service, now in Orleans, but have bought a house on M-44, and will be moving her business to Otisco Township. They would like to know about the Zoning Ordinances for home occupation. Paul told them that they could talk to Marc Larabel, who was sitting in back of them.

Committee Reports:

Planning Committee: Paul Reeves reported that we have received a letter from Attorney Cliff Bloom regarding Home Occupation, RV's, and other ordinance matters. The board had just received the letter and has not had time to read through it. This was tabled until next month's meeting.

ZBA: Dan Zeigler reported that the ZBA had a short meeting to vote on a variance, that they thought was done, but the letters did not get out to people on time for this hearing. The variance was passed at this month's meeting.

Zoning Administrator: Marc Larabel, made some recommendations; he would like the board to look into hiring a Planner for the township. He would also like to change the dates for the Planning Commission meetings. He would like a staff only workshop. Paul stated that LS&A could be one choice, but there are others. Because of the lack of funds in our legal planner budget at the present time, the board should talk about this at our 2016 budget meeting. The Planning Commission is going to discuss moving their meetings to another day of the month. maybe the 1st Wed, of the month, so they can get things to the board and receive an answer quicker. A staff meeting will be held on Wed., Oct. 21, 2015 at 10:00a.m.

Road Committee: We have received a complaint from 9980 Button Rd., and Paul Reeves has requested a speed study in that area, for there and at the Bridge on Button Rd. Paul also stated that another area with problems is the Double R Ranch where golf carts cross the road, and the curves by David Hodges home.

Cemetery Committee: Paul Reeves entertained a motion for the revised Cemetery Ordinance. Jan Breimayer moved that the Cemetery Ordinance be approved, and Lynda Sower supported. Approved 4-0

County Commissioner: County Commissioner, David Hodges reported that the county had a Public Hearing for the 2016 Budget, \$9,000,000 for the General Fund and with all the other monies and grants coming in, it comes to \$12.3 Million. The employees received a 1% raise as of January, there was a full position added and not a half position for 4-H. This was for the kids in the county. They are also paying half of the Otisco Township police officer. They made a really good buy on a lot from the city of Ionia for \$1.00 for the new maintenance building. The old jail will be demolished. The commission entered into an agreement with Michigan Community Health, they do the water testing, Wic program, food testing and drug testing.

Unfinished Business

Elections: Smyrna Church may withdraw their offer to rent the all-purpose room for elections. We will know after October 20th. Paul remarked that Lynda Sower is already looking into other options.

Addorio Technologies: We received an email from Addorio about some raises in prices for their service. We have to either Opt out or Opt in for their services of backing up our computer system. Jan Breimayer moved that we Opt-in to Addorio and Dan Zeigler supported. Approved 4-0

New Business

Repairs to hall: Impact Cleaning gave the township bids on cleaning carpet - \$260, and cleaning furnace and duck work - \$435. We are not going to do this work at this time. Lynda Sower will make a call to them and let them know of our decision.

Snow Plowing Bids: Lynda Sower commented on the bids for snow plowing; when we did the side of the road bids, we gave a contract for more than one year, and we also did not have bids the second year that David Hodges did the mowing for us, and I was satisfied with the snow plowing last year so why can't we just stay with who we had. Delbert Linebaugh commented

that the last two years his snow plow bids have been opened and who knows what happens to the numbers. He also, stated that therefore, his bids are no good. How Lynda can open sealed bids whenever she wants and does whatever she wants. Lynda Sower responded that when she got this envelope that she was not looking for bids to be coming in, because she has not advertised as of yet. And because Delbert does other work for us I assumed it was a bill from previous work. Lynda stated I wrote you a letter about this and apologized for what happened. Lynda stated that she did not know what else she could do. Delbert commented what you say and what you do are two different things; the envelope was marked and sealed. The bids can sit on your desk until it needs to be opened. She does what she wants when she wants. Lynda commented I'm sorry but I don't do what I want when I want. Delbert stated obviously you do, because my bid has been compromised two years in a row. Explain that. You can't explain that, your actions speak louder than your words Lynda. Delbert stated obviously you don't know your job. Lynda stated I apologized to you, that is why I sent it back to you. Lynda: I was not thinking snow plow bids. Delbert: Obviously. Lynda; It wasn't like I was trying to hide it from you, I sent it back and I told Paul what I had done. I had made a mistake and gave it back to you. At least I fessed up to my mistake. After five more minutes of this going back and forth. Dan Zeigler moved that we get snow plow bids for next month's meeting and it was supported by Paul Reeves. Paul Reeves stated that Delbert had showed him the envelope and it was marked, this does not give Del much chance, because in Paul's opinion the numbers are out there. Again, Lynda stated who knows besides me? Paul's response was Hopkins was in the next day asking for you and had a sheet of paper in his hand. Then David Hodges stated that last year's bid was a dollar difference, not that, that means anything happened. Delbert had more response to this statement. Lynda stated that it was too bad that every time I make a little bit of a mistake around here I get raked through the coals, but when other mistakes get made others do not get raked through the coals for what they did wrong. This is why we had that special meeting. Paul stated he is presenting the problem he has and it is a problem. Lynda stated I can't help it that Don Hopkins came in here, I have not talked to him and seen him. Paul stated that he has taken a lot of complaints about it and he was hoping that this year would go smoother, more conversation back and forth between Delbert and Lynda. Paul stated that probably that Lynda is not the only one who has done this, at my residence I have opened mail that belonged to the neighbors. Andy Lehman stated she didn't have to tell anyone, she could have stuck it in a drawer. Paul stated that she did the right thing by telling. Paul Reeves stated that we have a motion on the floor, to get bids for snow plowing and shoveling next month. Approved 4-0

Sheriff Contact: Paul reported that the contract would start sometime around November 1st. Jan Breimayer moved that we adopt the contract from Ionia County Sheriff Office for extra protection and Dan Zeigler supported. Approved 4-0

Supervisor's Resignation: Paul Reeves stated that he has had some of the public and several board members that would like him to stay. If he does stay he is going to need a Deputy, paid at the same rate as the Deputy Clerk & Treasurer. What is the boards wishes? Dan Zeigler stated he thought Paul should stay. Lynda Sower wanted to know what the duties of the deputy would be. Because some of the duties that you have, your deputy will not be able to do. Paul stated, how do you know that? Lynda responded, because I know that the deputy would not be able to moderate meetings. That is the law. Paul stated that they would be the legs and eyes for him, when he is not here. If things come up here, I can instruct them or handle it from there. They will attend certain meeting for me but they cannot vote, that is state law. Lynda stated that if we put in a deputy, this township will be stuck with it for a long time, because in the future , supervisors will say that they want one because Paul Reeves had one. Paul Stated that the only way he will stay is if we do this and his Deputy will be his daughter, Paula. Jan Breimayer moved that we have a Deputy Supervisor, Paula, with the same pay as the other deputy's, and Dan Zeigler supported. Approved 2-1 Lynda Sower voted no and Paul Reeves abstained.

Public Comment: Delbert Linebaugh commented that Paul has served the public very well for many years. I think it is a good deal and you deserve a break.

Marc Larabel said that we have our zoning map and the township that he also works has these books, it is an aerial view of every parcel that you have. It helps out with land splits, the assessor and such. He does not know the cost of this. (the book was present for people to look at) Paul Reeves said that John Bush had worked on the Ionia County Maps and did a good job and he is retiring, and the supervisors are going to have to talk to the County Commissioners. David Hodges interjected that John is still going to do the maps after his retirement.

Paul Reeves said the only thing he has, he has been trying to get a copy of our ordinance books. I ask for these three years ago and still do not have it. Lynda Sower stated that she does not have any ordinance book from the past, just ordinances in the file in the office. Paul Reeves stated that it was one of Lynda's duties. Lynda asks if she could see an ordinance book, so she can see what it is. Paul stated it is nothing more than a note book like you have for all your minutes. Lynda said that she had never seen an ordinance book. Paul stated that is one of your duties, to maintain the ordinance book. Lynda said she just figured they were in the files before and that must be the way that they were kept in the past. Paul stated that he thought it would be a good idea to have a policy book, because we do have policies. Lynda stated we do, where? Paul stated we passed policies since you have been on the board. Lynda said we passed a FO IA policies and Paul responded there were more somewhere. Paul would also like a book with the resolutions in them. Paul stated what I mean, there is a ton of ordinances and they have been missing for some time. Paul's goal is to at least get an ordinance book. Delbert Linebaugh than stated just another example of her not knowing

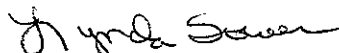
her job. Paul stated I'm not sure they all left while under her care. Paul stated he has a pile of papers but there are no signatures, so this is not really a legal document. Lynda stated that she signs the ones that she has done. Paul Reeves stated that we passed a cemetery ordinance and I see nowhere for you to sign this. Laura Staats stated that she did the ordinance and did not include that on it. Lynda stated that she will fix it.

Paul asks if anyone else had anything. Lynda Sower said she did. You are talking about ordinance from years ago; you have done this in the past several meetings. You are also questioning me about a noise ordinance; I do not have a noise ordinance. I don't know anything about a noise ordinance, but everyone seems so upset because they don't have it. I can't produce something I do not have. Paul stated that Laura and he are looking for them for me. If what we find is not signed, we will have to look them over to see if they are something we should have. Then adopt them again. So we have a book that is legal. Lynda stated that all the ordinances she has were in the drawer when she came into office and are still there. Paul wants copies of what I have and hopefully when we get done we'll have a book for the office. Dan Zeigler asks Paul if you have found minutes where ordinances were approved but were signed would that be enough. Paul did not think that would work, because they would be from past clerk.

There is something that was not on the agenda that needs the board's attention. Paul Reeves stated that we have been taken to the Tax Tribunal by Extruded Aluminum, they have an appraiser and they are challenging every one of the IFT assessments. The last assessment was the new building that they put up and Judy has pictures of what was there January 1, 2015 and they have down zero and she has \$30,000. We have hired a tax attorney to help represent us. They have looked this over and think we need our own appraiser. They have a cost of \$6,500 from a commercial appraiser out of Grand Rapids. Paul stated that it would take us quite a few years to recover from this, if we win. Matt Frain, owner of Frain and Associates, has told Paul this is about the only way to ever win in this situation. Paul stated that it amounted to a sizeable amount of money and he is disappointed in Extruded Aluminum, since we have given them tax exemptions for twelve years, four different times. Paul's recommendation is that Otisco Township does not do this again for them. The figures that they gave us, we went with them and now they say they weren't accurate. Jan Breimayer moved that we approve Jeff Genzink to appraise the Extruded Aluminum property in the amount of \$6500, or Paul will try to get more bids on the job and make a decision by Friday, and it was supported by Dan Zeigler. Approved 4-0

Adjournment: at 9:00 p.m. Dan Zeigler moved that we adjourn and Jan Breimayer supported.

Minutes Submitted by:


Lynda Sower - Clerk