

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

At Otisco Township Hall

June 14, 2016 @ 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Paul Reeves.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a short Prayer was given by Supervisor Reeves.

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

Approval of Agenda: Reeves stated that he was going to add policies at the end of the Agenda. Breimayer moved that the agenda be approved with the above addition and Zeiger supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Minutes: Reeves stated that the date on the top was not correct; the date should be May 10th. Reeves also referred to page three, the wording needs to be changed on the vote on expansion ordinance. Breimayer wanted the Supervisor Reeves to be changed on page one, second sentence in place of the Reeves. Reeves moved to approve the minutes with these corrections and Oatley supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Bills: There was a question about Richard Ostrander and his pay amount. Sower explained that she did not receive his paperwork and he had not been paid for all the meetings he attended since the first of this year. Reeves moved that we approve the bills and Breimayer supported. Roll Call 5-0 approved

Payroll -	\$5,510.18
Acct. Payable -	<u>\$21,617.85</u> Total -
Total	- \$27,128.03

Public Comment: Reeves stated that this was the time for the public to speak and maybe if any candidates that would like to introduce themselves to feel free to do so at this time. Walt Downes introduced himself and that he is running for Ionia County Prosecutor. Brittany Dillion is the Director of the Library in Belding and she told about the Millage that will be on the Aug. 2 ballot. The Millage will be raised to 1.2339 mills per year; it was .9339; so this is only a .3 mill raise from what we already pay. Brittany would appreciate people voting for this, to keep the Libraries running in the county for the next 10 Years.

Correspondence: Sower had correspondences; US Postal Dept., International League of Cities, State of Michigan. Sower also stated that The Secretary of State was offering State ID cards for children as young as infants at the cost of \$10.

Reeves stated that one of our farmers had met the requirements of the state for MAEAP Farmstead; people should congratulate Don Hopkins, because it takes a lot to get that approval.

Committee Reports

Township Deputy Report: Deputy Lavato presented a report for the month of May. There were 3 complaints, 14 patrol complaints, 2 motor assists, assisted the Belding Police, business contacts and citizen contacts.

Reeves ask Deputy Lavato if he patrols the cemeteries, as there has been vandalism at the Smyrna Cemetery; 3 stones have been broken and people have been putting household trash in the dumpsters. Lavato stated that he does go through the cemeteries at different times of the day. Reeves also stated that there had been some breaking and entering in the township and that unlocked cars have had things stolen from them.

Planning Commission: Oatley reported that at the last meeting they discussed a PUD on Belding Rd., Wedding Venue on Belding Rd. and C3 CNC Expansion on Whites Bridge Rd. If there is no agenda, the meeting in July will be canceled.

ZBA: Zeigler reported that the ZBA variance was awarded to Mr. Bignall to build a pole barn on Gold Lake Rd.

If nothing comes in for July, the meeting will be canceled.

New Land Splits & Combination: Anderson property on Coyote Trail, Liza Anderson came in to split the last eleven parcels that are left. These were cleared by the Assessor and Zoning Administrator. Breimayer moved that we grant the splits and Zeigler supported 5-0 approved A land split for Margaret Hawley, who has passed away and her daughter wants to split some of the property. Parcel D was done some time ago. We are talking about A, B, and C, Zeigler moved that we allow this split and Oatley supported. 5-0 approved

Zoning Administrator: Marc Larabel, Zoning Administrator, reported that he would be going out Wednesday morning with an Ionia County Deputy on the corner of Hawley and Palmer and River St. to talk to some people about illegal burning (garbage). Larabel also told the board that Tony from Addorio was here last Friday to update our security on the server and they discussed moving the server into the storage room, so it would be locked up and secure. Betsy will be bringing the software for the record management for us to try.

Cemetery Committee: Paul reported that brush is being removed from the Otisco Township Cemetery. Maryanne Reeves was thanked for getting barrels for Smyrna Cemetery. The next meeting will be June 21, 2016.

County Commission – David Hodges: Ionia County Commissioner David Hodges, gave the board an overview of things discussed at their meeting; the crew of people that work at the courthouse came to meet the commissioners; L4029 report, there is going to be a change from 4.638 to 4.634; County Pension is sitting around 8.6 Million dollars and is 100% invested; Central Dispatch reported about millage on cell phones, they are going to use this millage to get new equipment; Health Dept., hired a nurse; resolution on Credit Cards.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Tree Removal at Hall: Reeves reported that John Raymond was doing this work.

Lawyer – James Doezema: There was a discussion about whether we were going to stay with our lawyer Cliff Bloom or hire a new lawyer that came to the meeting last month. Breimayer moved that we accept the bid from Mr. James Doezema of Foster Swift Collins & Smith and Sower supported. Roll Call 4-1 approved Reeves was the only no vote.

Hall Addition: Laura Staats reported for the committee that is working on this project. The drawings that would be needed would cost approximately \$2,500 and the total of the expansion was quoted by Scheid Construction of \$255,482.16. There was some discussion, and Sower stated that she did not feel that this board should be making any decisions about adding on to the hall, in November there is a possibility of having four new board members. She also stated that the new board should be the ones to make the decision. There are only five more meetings for this board to attend, and this project would not be done and would be left for the new board. She also stated that they will be the ones that will hear all the repercussions about this matter. Breimayer stated that it would be for the betterment of the township. Breimayer moved that we proceed to get bids on the addition and Oatley support. Roll Call 5-0 approved

NEW BUSINESS:

Newsletter: Reeves is going to take over the newsletter. It will be placed on the website and there will be letters that people can pick up at the hall and possibly the local store and Mercantile Bank. Reeves moved that we handle the newsletter in this manner and Zeigler supported. 5-0 approved

Changing Financial Institutions: Supervisor Reeves reported that the Treasurer would like to move the Township bank accounts to Mercantile Bank, which is in the Township.

Otisco Township will be moving five accounts to Mercantile Bank of Belding:

General Fund Checking

Road Fund Checking

Fire Fund Checking

Tax Account Checking

General Savings Account

The Signers of checks for the General Fund, Road Fund and Fire Fund are Clerk, Lynda Sower and Deputy Clerk, Kendra Bailey; Treasurer, Janet Breimayer and Deputy Treasurer, Cindy Zahm. The Treasurer is the signer of the Tax Account.

Treasurer, Jan Breimayer, moved to approve Mercantile Bank to be the Township's banking authority and Lynda Sower Supported. Supervisor Reeves, yes; Trustee Oatley, yes; Trustee Zeigler, yes; Clerk Sower, yes; and Treasurer Breimayer, yes.

It was moved and supported that Otisco Township moves their monies from Choice One Bank to Mercantile Bank.

L4034 and L4029: There was some discussion about the Milages that need to be renewed this year. The Board decided on 2 mil for roads, 1 mil for fire, and .5 mil for the deputy. Oatley moved that we put these on the Nov. Ballot and Zeigler supported. Roll Call 5-0 approved

Flags at cemetery – Fence at Smyrna Cemetery: Reeves stated that he had a letter from Karlene Johnson and that each board member also received that same letter. Reeves read the letter in its entirety to the audience. (a copy of the letter is attached to the minutes) the letter contains complaints about the rusty trash can with Christmas wreaths in it, finding township records and household trash in the large receptacle, fencing removed from Smyrna cemetery, no flags on the poles in the cemetery, the flag on the corner at the 4-way stop not being maintained. Reeve reported that there was a barrel in Smyrna that was rusty, but there have been 4 new barrels placed there recently. There has been household trash in the receptacles and Reeves has tried to go through some of the bags to see if he could find something to identify whose it is. Reeves stated that he was the one that put old tax records in the receptacle; these were all something the public could see. The receptacle was going to be emptied in a couple of days, perhaps this was not the place to put the old records, but I put them there. The fence came down and was not voted on with this board, but it made the mowing much easier and the poles are going to be removed. The flag poles were put up and flags were put on them in lieu of putting flag on all the veteran's graves, then the law changed and we had to put flags on all the veteran's graves. There were complaints that there was no

light on them at night. Reeves then removed them from the flag poles. Reeves stated that he would respond to Karlene's letter.

October Audit: Reeves stated that we should have an audit in October before the new Board takes office. Sower is going to contact of the auditor.

Brine on Roads: Reeves reported that he has had complaints on the Brine that was put on the roads in the township. Reeves has talked with the county. We are waiting for the bill to see if we got as much brine as we have in past years.

Reeves gave the board copies of policies from another Chester Township in Ottawa County to look over, and he feels that maybe we should have a workshop and work on policies to help the next board. This will be on the agenda for next month.

Public Comments: Maryann Reeves stated that she had gone to Montcalm Township and they have recycling there all the time and maybe it would cut down on cost if we did this too.

P. Reeves stated that Ionia County was still working on something for the county; they are trying to get a grant.

Adjournment: Zeigler moved that we adjourn at 8:55 p.m. and Breimayer supported.

Minutes Submitted By:

Lynda Sower
Otisco Township Clerk

Karlene Johnson
10023 Gold Lake Road
Belding, Michigan 48809
May 31, 2016

RECEIVED

JUN 7 2016

OTISCO TWP TREAS

Otisco Township
Paul Reeves - Supervisor
Janet Breimayer - Treasurer
Lynda Sower - Clerk
Ben Oatley - Trustee
Dan Zeigler - Trustee
9663 W. Button Road
Belding, Michigan 48809

Dear Members of the Otisco Township Board:

This past weekend I spent a few hours working at the cemetery in Smyrna. While I found the condition of the cemetery to be better than some years, I wish to make a formal complaint.

There is still an unsightly rusty barrel overflowing with trash that has been there for some time. It still has Christmas wreaths. I thought that the board had stated that they were going to remove all of these barrels at a previous meeting. There is a large receptacle for trash, and it is apparent that the general public is using it for their household refuse. I noticed on another occasion that the township office was putting their trash in the cemetery receptacle. A quick observation indicated to me that there were numerous bags of tax records in the dumpster. I did take a careful look and noticed that some of these bags contained records that are not public. It should also be noted that the garbage bags full of the tax bills were all marked with a postage stamp. The Township should be responsible enough to properly dispose of records and not discarding it in the cemetery dumpster. The Township went to the bother of placing gates at the cemetery for security purposes and then removed the fencing this year, without removing the posts. I would like to be advised as to the reasoning and voting behind this and the future plans. In recent history the board thought it respectful and necessary to place flagpoles in the cemeteries, yet there is no flag in the Smyrna Cemetery and I have not checked the Otisco Cemetery. The township also voted to maintain the flag at the corner in Smyrna, but has totally neglected that. I have personally put up the last two new flags and taken the old flags to the VFW in Belding for proper disposal.

I also took care of graves at Lake Odessa Cemetery and Rest Haven Memorial Garden recently. I did not see any commercial dumpsters or rusty barrels. Both cemeteries had flagpoles and flags and were, in general, maintained much better than Smyrna Cemetery.

I would expect the Board to have a greater respect for our cemeteries and flags especially on Memorial Weekend.

Sincerely,
Karlene Johnson

