

**OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING (admended)
AND PUBLIC HEARING
OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL
FEBRUARY 7, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Joseph Daller.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Row Call of Members Present: Ben Oatley, Trustee; Dan Zeigler, Trustee;
Cara Johnson, Treasurer; Joseph Daller, Supervisor; Lynda Sower, Clerk.

Approval of Agenda: Daller wanted to remove the newsletter and County Commissioner. Johnson moved that we approve the agenda with these removals and Sower supported. 5-0 approved

There were no comments at this time.

Approval of Minutes: January 10, 2017 – Daller moved to approve the minutes and Zeigler supported. 5-0 approved

January 17, 2017 – Daller had one correction to these minute, under New Business a.; the word lime should be line. Johnson moved to approve these minutes with the correction and Daller supported. 5-0 approved.

Approval of Payables & Payroll – Johnson moved that we approve the bills and pay them and Daller supported. 5-0 approved

Payroll	\$ 6,599.04
Acct's Payable	<u>\$29,031.25</u>
TOTAL	\$35,630.29

Communications: A letter from Planner, Gregory Ransford, came to the board about a new Associate he is going to hire to work with Otisco Township. The fees will not be changed. After some discussion, Daller moved that we not modify our contract and he would like to meet the Associate before we do anything about the contract, and Johnson supported. 5-0 approved

Reports:

- a. Township Deputy: Officer Veenstra reported that it was a busy January. There were a couple of slide offs and drug complaints. He had to attend training on legal matters and there was an Ionia all around training. He has been assigned another duty but will be back to full time in the summer.
- b. Cemetery Committee: Laura Staats reported the next meeting March 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.
- c. Planning Committee: Johnson reported that they discussed the matter of the house behind the barn on Ellis Rd. It was approved by them; it has to go to the Zoning

Board of Appeals. The other discussion was about 9100 Ellis Rd. changing from residential to commercial. This was put on hold until next month. The Lehman Trucking is up for a new special use permit. Some verbiage is being changed in that agreement.

- d. ZBA : Zeigler reported that they are having their meeting next week. They will be looking at a variance for the barn in front of house at that time.
- e. Zoning Administrator: Daller had a report from Marc Larabel for each of the board members.

Daller announced that the regular meeting would be suspended at this time for the Public Hearing.

The Public Hearing began – 2017-2018 Fiscal Year Wages and Fees.

Sower read the notice for the Public Hearing.

Daller began by reading

Resolution 2017-01 Supervisor Wages	\$14,000 per fiscal year
Resolution 2017-02 Clerk Wages	\$16,000 per fiscal year
Resolution 2017-03 Treasurer Wages	\$16,000 per fiscal year
Resolution 2017-04 Trustee Wages	\$3,500 per fiscal year per Trustee
Resolution 2017-05 Wages & Fee	
Deputy Treasurer	\$14.00 Hourly – cap \$4,816
Deputy Clerk	\$14.00 Hourly – cap \$2,408
Deputy Supervisor	\$14.00 Hourly – cap \$2,000
Assessor	\$19,500 per fiscal year
Zoning Administrator	\$16,800 per fiscal year
Planning Commission	
Member & Alternates	\$70 per meeting
Chairperson	\$80 per meeting
Secretary	\$100 per meeting
Zoning Board of Appeals	
Member & Alternates	\$70 per meeting
Chairperson	\$80 per meeting
Secretary	\$100 per meeting
Board Of Review	
Members & Alternates	\$100 per meeting
Election Workers	
Chairperson	\$14.00 Hourly
Inspectors	\$12.00 Hourly

Daller stated that all other fees are the same as the previous year.

There was a public comment time at the end of this Public Hearing: Desmond Pike stated that he thought the elected officials should be able to work at home sometimes, as this is not a full time job. John Feuerstein did not agree with Mr. Pike, he thought we should try and have someone at the hall to greet people and answer questions for them. Howard Uiterdyk stated that he thought the cap on the deputy clerk was ridiculous. Gerard Brown wanted to know

about the salaries for the Assessor and Zoning Administrator. Daller explained how those salaries worked.

Close Public Hearing

Reopen Regular Meeting

The voting on resolutions began:

Resolution 2017-01 – Johnson moved and Zeigler supported. Roll Call 5-0 approved

Resolution 2017-02 – Johnson moved and Zeigler supported. Roll Call 5-0 approved

Resolution 2017-03 – Zeigler moved and Sower supported. Roll Call 5-0 approved

Resolution 2017-04 – Zeigler moved and Johnson supported. Roll Call 5-0 approved

Resolution 2017-05 – Daller moved and Zeigler supported. Roll Call 4-1 approved

Only no vote-Sower

b. Township Hall Addition: There was discussion about the addition, Sower had a floor plan that she and others had made up after taping out the dimensions at Ashley Baptist Church. A video was also made. Sower answered questions about the lay out and she also stated that in 2018 we will be getting new equipment and she has no idea about the size or regulations the state will have at that time. Johnson stated that we have talked last month about the addition and she feels it would be an injustice to the residents to spend \$250,000 for this project and not know if it would or could be used at election. She stated that we have a venue that we go to now that is large enough and people do not have to be outside, and it's free. She also stated that we went with the high contractor for this and do not know why, and that we could have used the extra money for something else for the community. Johnson stated that she did not think that the papers that were signed by the previous two board members were a contract because of language that was not present. Such as bonds, starting date and ending date, pay schedule, canceling agreements. Johnson moved that we cancel the contract with Scheid ~~to~~ and not complete the addition project and Sower supported. Daller questioned Sower about the fact that at last month's meeting she was asked to come back with a floor plan for the board. Sower answered yes. Daller then ask if she did this, her answer was yes. Daller stated you said it is not ideal but feasible, is this correct, her answer was yes. Daller than read a statement from the MTA handbook which states that the Clerk is responsible and in charge of the elections, is this correct, Sower's answer was yes. Johnson asks Sower if at the time that they were talking about the addition, did anyone asked you about the size or dimensions of the addition, Sower answered no. Oatley than directed a question to Sower. He stated didn't you call Paul when you were out west and tell him that you did not think the addition was going to be large enough, Sower answered yes. Oatley stated than you were consulted about this. Sower stated no, I was not consulted; I called him, because a resident had gotten ahold of me and told me what was happening. Oatley than ask Joe if he had consulted the lawyer about this. Daller went to his office to get the letter. Daller read parts of the letter from Mr. Dozeman. There was more discussion about the subject. Daller stated that he did not contact the attorney to see about canceling this contract but some other issues that he saw. No Bond, Insurances, etc. Daller also stated that he had a hard time justifying this addition if we don't even know if elections will be able to be held in it. Daller than ask Sower if it was her duty to provide a venue for elections in Otisco Township, and she answered yes. And had she done this, her answer was yes. Daller than ask Sower point blank if only for elections do we need this addition and she answered no.

Daller than opened the floor to the public because of the importance of this issue. Instructions were that everyone would be able to speak only once and to take in consideration the amount of time they use because of the size of the audience. All comments must be directed to Daller and no other board member.

Laura Staats: She stated that Scheid had talked with her and said he had no problem supplying the bonds, but none were requested at the time of the bid. She stated that this room will hold 73 and the addition seated in the same fashion would exceed 200. She stated that she felt as part of the committee she should talk to someone else that would know about the elections, so she went to Janae Cooper, Ionia County Clerk, and she stated that there was more than adequate room for elections and as far as the issue of people standing outside, that it is not a Michigan law that they have to be able to be inside.

Joana Johnson: From the beginning I have been for this addition, my biggest problem was the manner in which it was handled. The first drawing was not by an architect and not drawn to size, from then on it was decided that we were going to do this. I believe that the first thing that should have been done was looked at what we have and maximus the space we have. I don't think everyone needs their own office. I believe with the board that we had it was a lack of trust, and there were verbal confutations with the board and the audience, all from a lack of trust. The process was unethical from the start. I for one would like to see voting back here at the hall as a business owner; it would help the business at the time of voting.

Janet Breimayer: The attorney was not advised on this, because he was not the attorney when we started this project. Mr. Scheid's bid was more thorough then the other bid that we received.

Jeff Hunter: The whole process was a joke. It wasn't an ethical process to start with. The two builders were hand picked out of a township with about ten builders in it. I hope the township does not waste my tax dollars on something that is not needed. We have a place to vote, it doesn't matter what it is, and it's a place to vote. Just to remind you of a couple of things that Mr. Reeves said, one if you do rent the hall, you will never get your money back for the cost of the hall. It is not the government's job to compete with local businesses.

Howard Uiterdyk: Nothing has been done right from the beginning – not a good process. Haste Makes Waste.

Regina Trann: She read a portion of the April 12, 2017 regular meeting. After which she stated the board was put in place by the people of the township when they voted, just like I did, with that we have entrusted the board to make decision and they have. I think it would be a waste of money to hold a special election to have the voters cast a vote on this issue.

Gerard Brown: I believe if I am correct the contractor Scheid gave a bid on a non-architectural drawing, is that right? Does that not nullify the signed contract? Daller stated that he believed that the builder did give bids on non- architectural drawing and after that the board realized it was going to be able to go on with the project, so than the builders bid on the new drawings from the architect. Brown also, stated that a friend of his on another township board said that three bids should be compared and not just two bids.

There was more discussion from the board. Daller gave some explanations about how he felt as the supervisor of the township and how he felt the previous board had come up with their reasons for the addition. Daller than stated that we have a motion on the floor and a support.

Roll Call Vote 3-2 approved Oatley and Zeigler were the no votes.

Daller proposed that we have a Special Meeting to discuss this matter further, that it deserves to be looked at some more. Special Meeting on February 16, 2017 @ 6:30 p.m.

c. Zoning Administrator: Sower reported that she had received three resumes for the position of Zoning Administrator. It was decided to look over the resumes for the new Zoning Administrator at the Special Meeting next Thursday.

New Business:

- a. Bank and Investment Accounts: Johnson reported that she had a meeting with Mercantile bank. She will know better how to handle some of the CD's after the budget. There was a CD for \$152,000, which was cashed in and put in the savings account for now. She got a good rate and doubled what we were getting at Choice One.
- b. Lawn Care: Sower will get ads in the papers for lawn care bids for 2017 and will have the bids for the next regular meeting.
- c. Personal Identification Protection: Oatley would like to see the documents with social security numbers be handled in a different way. Oatley stated that he thinks they should be in a locked container and in the vault. At this time they are in a locked drawer in the Clerk's office. Oatley will work with Sower and Johnson on this.
- d. 2017 ICTC Gradall and Brine Agreements: We are going to put this on hold until the next meeting.

Public Comment:

Jeff Hunter: He suggested that the township give \$20,000 to the Belding Fire Department to purchase an ORV to be used for emergency rescue on the trail. He would like the board to consider doing this.

Joana Johnson: She would like to see us invest in a laptop and projector for meetings. Maybe some sidewalks for the residents to use to get to the trails and etc

Maryann Reeves: She would like to see more street lights in Smyrna.

Laura Staats: She announced that St. Patricks day dinner is March 11, 2017 from 11:00-2:00p. m. And serving food from 5:00-7:00 p.m. also. There will be a band and cash bar later in the evening. The Social Club is selling Cookbooks for \$10.00; they can be purchased at the store and at the township hall.

Gerard Brown: He had some questions about his tax bill and what some of the things that we pay for. Daller thanked him for assisting Sower with the floor plan and video. Brown wanted to know if the township had ever thought about having their own Fire Dept. He also, stated that he knows in one township they have hired a Marshall which only cost around \$20,000 yearly instead of the \$43,000 we pay at the present time.

Our April Regular Board Meeting is changed to April 4, 2017 & 7:00 p.m.

March 8, 2017 will be the Joint Workshop at 7:00 p.m.

Zeigler moved that we adjourn at 9:08 p.m. and Johnson supported, 5-0 approved

Minutes submitted by: Lynda Sower Otisco Township Clerk