

Approved MINUTES

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**Wednesday January 7, 2015, 6:00 p.m.**  
**Saugatuck Township Hall**  
**3461 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453**

**MINUTES**

Supervisor Bill Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the pledge of allegiance.

**Members Present:** Bill Wester, Lori Babinski, Brad Rudich, Roy McIlwaine, Jonathon Phillips.

**Also Present:** Manager Aaron Sheridan.

**Public Comment:** Wester asked for public comments. Jon Helmrich commented on the proposed Michigan Religious Freedom Act, and asked the Township to adopt a resolution against act. No further comment.

**Approval of Agenda:** Wester asked for changes to the agenda. Wester asked to add an item for naming a Deputy Supervisor. Rudich asked to add the MRFA discussion. McIlwaine asked to move the Laketown closed session to the final item. Agenda approved.

**Consent Agenda:** Wester asked for questions regarding the consent agenda. No comments on consent agenda. McIlwaine made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Rudich seconded. Consent Agenda passes 5-0.

**Correspondence:** Jim Hanson, Wester explained that the correspondence asked the Township to oppose the MRFA. Saugatuck Douglas Business Association asked the Township to join in opposition to the MRFA.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. Board Appointment Discussion. Wester asked Sheridan to explain the memo he wrote describing the procedure for appointments. A committee of consisting of the Manager, Supervisor or his designee and the Chair of the Board needing appointment, would be put together ad hoc. Board agreed to write a more formal procedure concerning deadlines and reviewing procedures. Sheridan would revise the procedures for discussion in February. Wester asked to table, second by Phillips. Motion passes 5-0.

**New Business:**

- A. Outdoor Discovery Center, Pottawatomie Marsh Prescribed Burn. Dougg Wright explained that the Fragmites invasive species would need to be burned to control in the Pottawatomie Marsh. Outdoor Discovery Center works on the Kalamazoo River all the way to Plainwell. Wester asked if the burns were advertised. Wright explained there were advertisements and fliers mailed to nearby homes, as well as notifying the Fire Department. ODC was working with the DNR and Fire Departments on getting the public informed of the problem and solution. Wester thanked Wright for the presentation.
- B. Appointments to the Board of Review. Wester asked for clarification. Rudich stated that the Assessor Sherry Mason had asked the BOR members to serve another 2 year term and all members had agreed. Mason stated there was no need for an alternate, as none had been used in the last 10 years. Two members would still be a quorum to conduct business. Babinski stated she was an alternate for several years and was never used. McIlwaine stated an alternate would be good. Phillips asked to appoint the current three members and wait to hear from Dorothy Hanson as alternate. Wester made the motion to appoint Don Maeder, Chris Lozano and Jan Shashaguay to the Board of Review, and wait on possible

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Alternate until next month. Motion seconded by Phillips. Motion passes 4-1 with McIlwaine dissenting.

- C. Hazard Mitigation Resolution. Wester asked for an explanation. Sheridan stated that Allegan County asked that the Township agree to Hazard Mitigation which would make the Township eligible for FEMA funds in case of an emergency. Rudich stated that the Township had approved the plan previously and this was the Resolution to adopt the plan. McIlwaine asked if this included erosion on the Lakeshore. Sheridan stated it did. Rudich made the motion to adopt the Allegan County Hazard Mitigation plan by Resolution, Wester seconded. Roll call vote: Phillips, yes; Babinski, yes; Wester, yes; McIlwaine, yes; Rudich, yes. Resolution passes 5-0.
- D. Riverside Dr., Dugout Rd. Maintenance. McIlwaine asked to explain to the board. McIlwaine walked the road with the Fire Department and County engineer, and the road was not wide enough in several sections. The county would like a minimum standard of 22' wide. The county engineer recommended the road be paved. Wester asked who would pay for paving. McIlwaine stated that the first thing to do was to survey the road. Sheridan mentioned that the water line was also in need of an upgrade. Wester asked if McIlwaine knew what other residents thought of the road. McIlwaine was unsure. Wester asked Fire Chief Janik his thoughts on the subject. Janik said there was risk in the area. The homes on the road are incurring a liability by not having proper access, and proper water access. McIlwaine stated he believed the cost was a road maintenance issue to be paid by the road fund. Wester asked Sheridan to request a work order for a survey from the county.
- E. Saugatuck Township Fire Chief Greg Janik, Comments to the Board. Wester stated that there was an issue with fire access in the Township. Janik explained that thanks to Zoning Administrator Steve Kushion, Manager Sheridan and Supervisor Wester, the Township has elevated the level of safety in the Township by revising building permits to give the fire department a sign off on final building permits. Janik gave several examples of safety issues pertaining to long, narrow driveways that were recently corrected with thanks to the Zoning Administrator, Fire Chief and the individual residents.
- F. 2015 Summer Tax Collection, Saugatuck Public Schools. Wester asked Sheridan to explain. Sheridan stated it was an agreement for Babinski to collect tax for Saugatuck Schools. McIlwaine asked Babinski about the rate of \$3.28 per parcel. Babinski thought it was fair. Wester made the motion to approve the Saugatuck summer tax collection agreement, Babinski seconded. Motion passes 5-0.
- G. Township Manager Salary. Wester stated according to the comparable salaries, the increase to \$50,000 that Sheridan was asking for was modest. McIlwaine stated that comparable salaries with the current staff should consider that Sheridan doesn't have health insurance with the Township. McIlwaine stated that \$52,000, would be a better offer, Rudich agreed. Wester stated that the raise should be the \$50,000 that Sheridan asked for. Discussion on salary and benefits. McIlwaine made the motion to raise Sheridan's salary to \$52,000, second by Rudich. Discussion on why Sheridan chose the salary figure. Motion passes 3-2, Wester and Phillips dissenting.
- H. Deputy Supervisor. Wester stated has chosen Shawn Powers as his Deputy Supervisor.
- I. Michigan Religious Freedom Act. Wester asked Rudich to start the discussion. Rudich stated that he opposed the proposed Michigan House Bill and thought the Township should join the City of Saugatuck, and others to show their opposition to the Bill. Wester stated that the board should take time to consider the facts before making a decision. Rudich agreed and asked that Manager Sheridan draft a resolution to consider for the next meeting. Sheridan discussed analysis that should be included. Wester asked to wait until the bill came out of committee.
- J. Laketown Township Utilities. Wester made the motion to go into closed session, Rudich seconded. Motion passed 5-0. Board went into closed session to discuss legal matters.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Planning Commission. No report.
- B. Road Commission. No report.

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- C. Interurban. Babinski reported that the board made Phil Quade the Director Emeritus.
- D. Fire Board. McIlwaine reported that medical response call were way up. Trucks were now all DOT compliant for lighting. Department has a new emergency generator. Chief Janik now has a new assistant.
- E. Ambulance Committee. No update.
- F. Harbor Authority. Jon Helmrich submitted a written report.
- G. Open Board Report. No comments.
- H. County Commissioner. No report.

**Public Comments:** Wester asked for public comments. There were none.

There being no further business, Wester declared the meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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Brad Rudich, Clerk