

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

MINUTES

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Jane Wright, Treasurer Pat Knikelbine, and Trustee Chris Roerig.

Members absent: Trustee Damien Jarzembowski.

Wester opened the regular meeting and asked for public comments. Wayne Kidder, representing the Douglas Lakeshore Association, read a letter requesting the Township consider a single waste hauler citing a potential 50% rate reduction from normal fees, reduction of traffic on local roads, and reduction of noise. Board agreed to add the agenda item and address the issue. Hearing no further public comment, Wester closed that portion of the meeting at 6:10.

Approval of Agenda: Wester asked for any additions, deletions, or removal of items from the consent agenda. Roerig requested to add under *New Business: Item D. Road work order, 2009 dust control, and Item E. Consolidated waste hauler discussion.* Wright presented additional bills in the amount of \$2,095.26. Hearing no further changes, Wester brought the consent agenda to the floor for approval.

- A. Accounts Payable
 - i. ALLEGAN CO TREASURER through XTREME CLEANING
Total to be paid \$3,316.75
 - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited
(check register attached)
- B. Payroll (check register attached)
- C. Approval of Minutes
 - i. March 4, 2009 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Wright, seconded by Knikelbine, to approve the agenda with the additional agenda items and bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

- A. W. Tedd Oyler, ZBA Resignation Request. Wester stated Oyler has submitted a written letter of resignation as Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals. **Motion by Wright, seconded by Knikelbine to accept Tedd Oyler's letter of resignation to the ZBA.** Knikelbine stated her regret in the resignation. Wright stated Oyler has done an outstanding job on the ZBA for 9 years and suggested recognizing his years of service in some fashion. Wester stated he is trying to create a tradition to give a token of appreciation to individuals who have served the community and suggested a windbreaker with the township logo on it. Board discussion took place and Roerig stated he is sorry to see Oyler go and requested the Township run an advertisement in the paper soliciting interested individuals for an appointment to the vacancy. Motion carried 4-0.
- B. S/D Historical Society, Heritage Preservation Award. Wester stated the township has been nominated to receive the award for the non-motorized trail and he would be happy to attend the

presentation and accept the award, however he noted Manager Phil Quade was instrumental in the establishment of the non-motorized trail.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Lake Shore Drive Emergency Access Update. Roerig stated he received a number of inquiries from the LSD residents in regard to what might be done to improve access to the road south of the washout. He stated the County Road Commission has been looking at alternatives and Township Manager Phil Quade has been talking with land owners to see if easements could be gained for emergency access to the area. Roerig noted he has requested the Road Commission inquire as to the availability of federal stimulus funds to reconnect the road at the washout and another meeting will be scheduled in April.

New Business:

- A. MSP Proposed Rental Agreement. Wester presented the rental agreement for the Michigan State Police to officially occupy office space within the Township's building on a month to month basis for \$1 annually. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Knikelbine to approve the rental agreement as submitted and to authorize the Clerk or Supervisor to execute the agreement.** Motion carried 4-0.
- B. Proposed Resolution to Reclaim Neglected (Unused) Cemetery Burial Rights. Wester called upon Township Cemetery Sexton Aaron Sheridan who was present in the audience to explain the proposed process. Sheridan stated there are 435 unused burial spaces whose rights to interment were sold, but no activity has taken place in their regard for more than 50 years. He added the proposed resolution is the first step to reclaim those rights to interment. Board discussion took place at great length and it was agreed additional communication with the community is appropriate before the process is started. **Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Wester to postpone the agenda item to the next regular meeting.** Carried 4-0.
- C. Township E-Mail List, Informative Mailings to Begin. Wright stated we are creating a list of e-mail addresses of individuals interested in receiving ongoing township information. She added the intent is to create a newsletter style e-mail and send it out at the beginning of each month, noting anyone interested in receiving the e-mail should contact the office or send an e-mail request to clerk@saugatucktownship.org. Roerig recommended the Board review each e-mail before it is sent.
- D. Road Work Order, 2009 Dust Control. Roerig presented the proposed work order listing the 7 remaining dirt roads within the township which would approve one application of liquid calcium chloride. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Wright to approve the dust control work order as presented.** Carried 4-0.
- E. Consolidated Waste Hauler. Roerig stated there are a lot of reasons to consider the proposal; citing savings to the residents, reduction in traffic, reduction of noise pollution, but noted some disadvantages. He added some people just might not want the service and we would be imposing it upon them. Wright stated she would be concerned over mandating use of the service, but would consider it if voluntary. Wester stated he has seen what the City pays, but concerned about curtailing free enterprise. Board discussion took place and it was agreed to have Wright contact Laketown Township and inquire as to the contract terms they adopted the service with, then bring the information to the next regular meeting as an agenda item.

Committee Reports:

- A. Planning Commission. Wester stated Jarzembowski has verbally tendered his resignation and the Board will receive a formal resignation very soon.
- B. Road Commission. No report.

- C. Interurban. Knikelbine reported an increase in ridership of 11.7% for January, but a decrease of .7% in February. She added they approved the federal contract for operating assistance.
- D. Fire Authority. Wright stated they sold the Chief's Explorer vehicle for \$3,500 and bought a 2004 Expedition for \$10,995. She added they are reviewing the new fiscal year budget which may include replacement of the Fire Inspector's Jeep and the Maintenance Officer's Pickup. She added they are investigating the possibility of reducing the millage for the new fiscal year.
- E. Supervisors Report. Wester stated Steven Neumer, attorney for SLLC, asked him to address the Board and affirm that Neumer is still prepared to meet with the Board and make a good faith effort to resolve the tax tribunal lawsuit out of court. Wester explained the comment is in regard to the percentage of total value assessed on the north and south parcels. Board agreed it is prudent to stay the course and continue with the tax tribunal lawsuit as brought upon by SLLC.
- F. County Commissioner Report. Terry Burns discussed possible General Fund contributions from the County, drainage issues from the Douglas ball field, and his victim's advocacy activity.

Public comment was offered. Joe Milaukas verified the MSP rental agreement was for \$1/year and then relayed the activity to date of the Saugatuck Harbor Committee of which he is a member. Hearing no further comments, public comment was closed.

Wester stated having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date