

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 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: None.

Wester opened the regular meeting and asked for public comments. Stephen Neumer spoke regarding the SDLLC tax tribunal lawsuits and asked to meet with the Board to attempt to settle out of court. Wester suggested waiting until a 5th board member has been appointed. Dayle Harrison stated his interest in an appointment to the ZBA. Terry Burns related support for the Board in the SDLLC lawsuits. David Swan stated there is a clear pattern with McClendon and SDLLC asking for large tax breaks. Carol McIlwaine asked if you can recover litigation costs in tax tribunal lawsuits and Board verified you can not. Fritz Royce stated it is wise to negotiate with a petitioner but to do so in a transparent way. Sandra Randolph relayed her experience with property assessment disputes and stated everyone needs to be treated the same. Randy Brink voiced concern over the assessment surveys currently being performed. Hearing no further public comment, Wester closed that portion of the meeting at 6:40.

Approval of Agenda: Wester asked for any additions, deletions, or removal of items from the consent agenda. Wright presented additional bills for a total amount of \$16,665.61. Roerig requested to delete under *New Business: Item B. ZBA Vacancy, i. Chris Roerig*, stating in light of other individuals now interested in the appointment he would withdraw his name. Hearing no further changes, Wester brought the consent agenda to the floor for approval.

- A. Accounts Payable
 - i. ALLEGAN CO TREASURER through QWEST BUSINESS SERVICES
Total to be paid \$16,665.61
 - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited
(check register attached)
- B. Payroll (check register attached)
- C. Approval of Minutes
 - i. March 28, 2009 Special Board Meeting
 - ii. April 1, 2009 Special Joint Meeting with Planning Commission
 - iii. April 1, 2009 Regular Board Meeting
 - iv. April 10, 2009 Special Board Meeting
 - v. April 22, 2009 Special Board Meeting

Motion by Wright, seconded by Wester, to approve the agenda as amended. Carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

- A. None.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Cemetery Recapture Project. Wright stated there needs to be more time to inform the public of the intent to recapture unused graves and there was a **Motion by Wright, seconded by Knikelbine to table further action on the project until the next meeting.** Carried unanimously.
- B. Single Waste Hauler Update. Board discussed the experience Laketown Township had with adopting a single waste hauler for their township. Wester then opened the meeting to public comment on the subject and the majority of comments were against the proposal. Board acknowledged opposition was 2 to 1 against a single waste hauler and agreed to no longer pursue the idea at this time.
- C. Lakeshore Drive Emergency Access Update. Roerig stated a land owner is generously offering property that would allow right of way access for emergency vehicles only, to the south side of the washout. He added more work needs to be done to make the access happen, but the township is facilitating the effort.

New Business:

- A. Board Trustee Vacancy. Wester stated the procedure to follow is to take interested individuals, review their credentials, and hold a special meeting to appoint a new Trustee to the Board before the 25th of the month. He added there are 3 people interested in the position, Larry Edris, Maggie Conklin, and Jim Hanson. Board set a tentative date of May 20th at 6:00 p.m. for the special meeting to appoint a new Trustee to the Board.
- B. ZBA Vacancy. Wester stated there are 3 interested applicants for the open seat on the ZBA, Mark Putnam, Dayle Harrison, and Jonathan Phillips. Mark Putnam introduced himself and spoke regarding his attributes. Jonathan Phillips introduced himself and spoke as well. Wester verified the Board will address the ZBA appointment at the special meeting on the 20th.
- C. Cemetery Maintenance Agreement with City of Saugatuck. Wright stated the agreement was drawn up by the City of Saugatuck Attorney and has the Township Manager's approval. She added it is a legally binding agreement where the city would pay a portion of cemetery maintenance costs. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Knikelbine to approve the Cemetery Services Agreement with the City of Saugatuck and authorize the Clerk and Supervisor to sign.** Wester asked if the Township Attorney had reviewed the agreement and Wright stated no. Roerig amended the motion to add **subject to legal review.** Roerig commended the City of Saugatuck Council for recognizing the obligation to their citizen's state of rest in an appropriate fashion and hoped the City of Douglas would do so as well. Motion carried unanimously.
- D. Proposed Water Access Zoning Ordinance. Wester called on Planning Commission Chair Jim Hanson to briefly describe the proposed ordinance. Hanson presented the language which would add a sliding scale to regulate boat docks and slips and require the Zoning Administrator to authorize the installation of any dock. He stated the Commission worked hard in preparing the ordinance and asked the Board to approve it. **Ordinance 2009-03 Waterfront Access was offered by Roerig and supported by Wester.** Knikelbine verified dock setbacks are addressed under section 8. Roll call vote: Knikelbine-yes, Wright-yes, Roerig-yes, Wester-yes. Ordinance declared adopted.
- E. 2009 Road Projects and Acceptance of Low Bid. Roerig presented the bid tabulation results for the 2 road projects slated for this summer, 64th Street from 134th Ave to 135th Ave and Clearbrook from 64th St to 65th St. He recommended the Board accept the low bid of \$175,383.70 from Michigan Paving & Materials. **Motion by Wright, seconded by Roerig to accept the bid from Michigan Paving in the amount of \$175,383.70 as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.
- F. Regular Board Meeting Start Time. Board discussion took place regarding the new start time of 6:00 p.m. as opposed to 7:00 p.m. and it was agreed the 6:00 p.m. start time works well. **Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Wester to permanently change the regular meeting time to 6:00**

p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Roerig commented the important thing is to remain consistent with the start time. Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- A. Planning Commission. No report.
- B. Road Commission. No report.
- C. Interurban. Knikelbine reported an increase in ridership of 3.9% for March. She added they approved several seminars, and a lawn maintenance contract.
- D. Fire Authority. Wright stated they are going to be approving the 2009/2010 budget with a reduced millage rate of 1.1, down from 1.2932, adding the board recognized the difficult economic times and wanted to do what they could to ease some tax burden. She stated the public hearing on the budget will be held on June 8th.
- E. Supervisors Report. No report.
- F. County Commissioner Report. Terry Burns discussed recent activity with the County Jail, State budget issues, and the County's decline to help the Township financially.

Public comment was offered. Bonnie Wilkins asked the Board to fill the Trustee position, vacated by Damien Jarzembowski, with a like minded individual. Andrew Leach suggested filling the Trustee position with Jim Hanson, and applauded the Board for not proceeding with a single trash hauler. Leach also stated he does not believe Neumer's statement that the Board has given him a lot of opposition, but rather the opposition comes from community members that want no development in the Denison. Garret Sturris and John Philippus both stated their desire to choose their own waste hauler. RJ Peterson suggested the Township contact the Army Corp of Engineers to ensure they replace section G when they repair the pier. Fritz Royce stated his continued support for the Township and suggested requesting Neumer put some kind of offer in writing. Judith Schneider stated her desire to preserve the community. 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 8:10 p.m.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date