

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

MINUTES

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

Members present: Clerk Jane Wright, Treasurer Pat Knikelbine, Trustee Chris Roerig, and Trustee Jim Hanson.

Members absent excused: Supervisor Bill Wester.

Also Present: Manager Phil Quade.

Public Hearing: Wright opened the public hearing for the purpose of reviewing the 2009/2010 proposed budget and read the notice from the paper. She asked for any questions or comments from the public. Hearing none, she closed the public hearing portion of the meeting and opened the regular meeting.

Public Comment: Wright asked for public comment and hearing none, closed that portion of the meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Wright asked for any additions, deletions, or removal of items from the consent agenda, and presented additional bills for a total amount of \$26,408.35. Roerig requested to add under *New Business: Item I. Allegan County Local Officials Conference*. Hearing no further changes, Wright brought the consent agenda to the floor for approval.

- A. Accounts Payable
 - i. ALLEGAN CO CLERK through WESTERN INSURANCE. Total to be paid \$26,408.35
 - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited (check register attached)
- B. Payroll (check register attached)
- C. Approval of Minutes
 - i. May 6, 2009 Regular Township Board Meeting
 - ii. May 16, 2009 Special Township Board Meeting
 - iii. May 20, 2009 Special Township Board Meeting

Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Roerig, to approve the agenda as amended. Carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

- A. None.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Cemetery Recapture Project. Wright presented a resolution to reclaim unused and neglected cemetery burial space and asked Quade to explain the resolution further. Quade stated the procedure requires publishing the unused burial spaces several times and concludes with a court decision. He added this project will enable the use of abandoned unused space. **Resolution 2009-02, a resolution to reclaim and forfeit neglected cemetery burial space within Riverside and Douglas cemeteries was offered by Wright and supported by Knikelbine.** Voice vote carried 4 to 0 and the resolution was declared adopted.

New Business:

- A. Review and approve 2009/2010 Fire District budget. Township Representative Eric Beckman was present in the audience and presented the Board with the proposed budget. He stated some of the key principles on which the budget was developed and that it is being supported by a 1.1000 millage rate representing a decrease in millage. Wright commended the department and Fire Board for proposing a budget on a lower millage rate from last year, noting it is a huge accomplishment and very well received by the community during these difficult economic times. Beckman acknowledged it is in large part due to the success of the grant writers within the department. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Hanson to approve the 2009/2010 Fire District Budget as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.
- B. 2008/2009 Budget Amendments. Quade presented the proposed budget amendments noting the overall increase in expenditures is \$1,255. He stated the biggest problems are the reduced revenues from building permits and State revenue sharing. Roerig echoed the concern from reduced State revenues noting it is forecasted to continue at reduced levels. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Knikelbine to adopt the 2008/2009 budget amendments as presented.** Carried unanimously.
- C. Review and Adopt 2009/2010 Budget. Wright stated the Board has held two workshop sessions to review the proposed budget and ask questions. Roerig stated it is important to note all salaries have been frozen due to the tough economic times and commended the Board for taking that action. Knikelbine noted expenses have been eliminated where possible including office cleaning as the staff now performs those duties. **Motion by Wright, seconded by Roerig to adopt the 2009/2010 Saugatuck Township Budget as presented.** Motion carried unanimously. **Resolution to adopt the 2009/2010 Elected Officials Salaries as presented was offered by Wright and supported by Hanson.** Roll call vote: Roerig-yes, Hanson-yes, Wright-yes, Knikelbine-yes. Resolution declared adopted.
- D. Annual Audit Proposal. Wright submitted the proposal from Siegfried Crandall to perform the annual audit of the Township's records for a price not to exceed \$9,250. Roerig noted the increase over last year is \$250. Knikelbine stated the firm is extremely professional and thorough. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Knikelbine to accept the proposal from Siegfried Crandall for auditing services for the current fiscal year.** Motion carried unanimously.
- E. Cemetery Agreement with City of Douglas. Quade updated the Board with progress to date in coming to an agreement for cemetery maintenance with the City of Douglas. He stated his is optimistic we will be able to reach the same agreement with Douglas that we have with Saugatuck.
- F. Joint Planning Committee Appointment. Hanson stated there are three township representatives on the committee, himself as Planning Commission Chair, Joe Milaukas as Planning Commissioner, and Jane Wright as Board Member. He made the proposal to replace Wright as Board Member with himself and replace his position as PC Chair with Larry Edris the current PC Vice-Chair, and presumably the one to take over the Chair position as first order of business at the next PC meeting. **Motion by Hanson, seconded by Wright to approve the Joint Planning Committee appointments as proposed.** Motion carried unanimously.
- G. Township Planning Commissioner Vacancy. Hanson verified the Supervisor nominates planning commission members with township board approval for the appointment. Knikelbine suggested we table the appointment until the Supervisor is present at the next meeting. Herb Bills was present in the audience and spoke regarding his interest in the appointment, his attributes, and willingness to serve on the commission. Hanson thanked him and verified there may be other individuals also interested. **Motion by Hanson, seconded by Knikelbine to postpone the appointment until the July meeting.** Carried unanimously.
- H. MTA Principles of Governance Pledge. Wright stated we have received from the Michigan Township Association a "Principles of Governance Pledge" and read the best practices to

“maintain the highest standards and commitments to safeguard our community’s health, safety, and general welfare”. Board members signed the pledge.

- I. Allegan County Local Officials Conference. Roerig reported his attendance at the conference that was hosted by State Representative Bob Genetski adding it was one of the most informative conferences he has attended. He stated they heard from the State Fiscal Agency Director with very sobering news regarding the fiscal future of the State.

Committee Reports:

- A. Planning Commission. Hanson reported approval of Pine Trail Camp’s chapel expansion and the start of discussions on duplexes.
- B. Road Commission. Roerig reported with the passing of the road maintenance millage we will be able to construct and pave 134th East of 196 and Gleason Road.
- C. Interurban. Knikelbine reported ridership is up.
- D. Fire Authority. No report.
- E. Supervisors Report. No report.
- F. County Commissioner Report. Terry Burns updated Board on the County jail proceedings to date.

Public comment was offered. Bob Genetski gave a legislative update from Lansing. Hearing no further comments, public comment was closed.

Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Roerig to adjourn the regular meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date