

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010, 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 Jim Hanson.

Members absent excused: Trustee Chris Roerig.

Public Comment: None.

Approval of Agenda: Wester asked for any additions, deletions, or removal of items from the consent agenda. Wright presented additional bills for a total to be approved of \$101,177.89. Knikelbine asked to remove the Scholten Fant invoice from the Consent Agenda and discuss the item under *New Business, Item B*. 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 \$100,527.89

ii. Checks issued to be post-audited
(check register attached)

B. Payroll (check register attached)

C. Approval of Minutes

i. February 3, 2010 Regular Board Meeting

ii. February 15, 2010 Special Board Meeting

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

Correspondence:

A. Jack Helder, Request to Waive PC Fees. Hanson stated given the fact it is unclear as to how much the fees could be, he would not be able to support the waiver request. Wester submitted a letter from Randy Schipper, attorney in opposition to the waiver, urging payment of applicable fees. Board discussion took place and there was a **Motion by Hanson, seconded by Wester to deny the request to waive planning fees.** Carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

A. Cemetery Maintenance Contract. Knikelbine stated she participated in the selection committee that included a City of Saugatuck Councilperson, and they reviewed 14 proposals. She added that based on the proposals the committee is recommending either Sessions Lawn Care or Grounds Management Solutions to be awarded the contract for services from April 1st 2010 to March 31st 2011. Board discussion took place and there was a **Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Hanson to award the 2010/2011 Cemetery Maintenance Contract to Sessions Lawn Care.** Wester stated he would not vote in favor of the motion as he felt Sessions failed to provide suitable snowplowing service for the township. Motion carried 3 to 1 with Wester voting against the motion.

New Business:

- A. Joint Transfer Agreement to Separate STFD MERS Account. Wright stated the Saugatuck Township Fire District (STFD) is asking to create a separate retirement account with the Michigan Employee Retirement System (MERS). She added when the Fire District first started their MERS account, it was as a division under the township's existing account and now they would like to separate their assets and liabilities. Wright noted there would be no change to the township's assets and liabilities. **Motion by Wright, seconded by Wester to adopt by resolution the Joint Transfer Agreement concerning the Saugatuck Township Fire District's MERS assets and liabilities to a new and separate municipal account.** Motion carried unanimously.
- B. Scholten & Fant Invoice. Knikelbine asked Wester why he would take it upon himself to talk to the attorney about health insurance before consulting with the Township Manager who has extensive knowledge of health insurance matters. Wester stated he has several questions and is not done yet. Knikelbine replied Wester is only one of five voices and does not have the authority to consult the attorney without the Board's knowledge. Board discussion took place and there was a **Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Wright to approve the payment of the Scholten & Fant Invoice less \$650 that was charged for health insurance questions by the Supervisor.** Motion carried 3 to 1 with Wester voting against the motion.

Committee Reports:

- A. Planning Commission. Hanson reported the wind energy ordinance draft is ready for preliminary review. He also voiced the commission's disappointment with a letter the Zoning Administrator sent to Jack Helder regarding his new SAU permit review.
- B. Road Commission. No report.
- C. Interurban. No report.
- D. Fire Authority. No report.
- E. Supervisors Report. Wester stated he has no comment on the new lawsuits filed by McClendon.
- F. County Commissioner Report. Terry Burns reported they have hired a jail architect. He added medical prescription discount cards are available to anyone without insurance.

Public comment was offered. RJ Peterson stated the township should look favorably on developing the north side of the Denison by McClendon. Gerrit Sturrs stated the best thing for the community is to continue the current route. Marcia Perry stated she would like to keep the north side the way it is, but is not opposed to appropriate development that benefits the whole community. Andrew Geurink of Laketown stated he didn't understand why the township would not want the north side developed. Wright stated the township has never opposed appropriate development and has simply asked to see a plan, which has never been offered for a public meeting. Open discussion regarding the possible development took place. 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 6:57 p.m.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date