

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012, 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, Trustee Chris Roerig and Trustee Jim Hanson.

Members Absent: None.

Approval of Agenda: Wester asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda, or changes to the consent agenda. Hearing none he brought the consent agenda to the floor for approval.

- A. Accounts Payable
 - i. ACCIDENT FUND through VAN DRAGT LAND IMPROVEMENT
Total to be paid \$28,405.28
 - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited
(check register attached)
- B. Payroll (check register attached)
- C. Approval of Minutes
 - i. June 62012 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Wright seconded by Knikelbine to approve the agenda as presented. Carried 5 to 0.

Correspondence:

- A. Inspector's Request for Fee Increase. Wester reported the Electrical, Mechanical, and Plumbing Inspectors have requested an increase in the amount they are paid per inspection from \$40 to \$45. Hanson verified they are asking the same increase to other municipalities they work for. Discussion took place and it was understood if the increase is approved the amount we would charge residents for the inspections would have to be increased from \$45 to \$50. **Motion by Knikelbine, seconded by Wester to grant a \$5 increase for inspection fees.** Carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

- A. Commission Term Expirations/Appointments. Wester stated the commissioners with term expirations and presented several resumes of individuals interested in an appointment. Discussion took place and questions were asked of the individuals who were present. **Wester nominated Ed Welk to the Planning Commission with Wright supporting the nomination.** Roll call vote: Hanson-yes, Wright-yes, Roerig-yes, Wester-yes, Knikelbine-yes. Carried 5 to 0. **Wester nominated Sandra Rausch for a reappointment to the Planning Commission with Hanson supporting the nomination.** Hanson stated she has been on the commission since the late 90's and she brings a level of continuity to it. Roll call vote: Wright-yes, Knikelbine-yes, Roerig-yes, Hanson-yes, Wester-yes. Carried 5 to 0. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Knikelbine to reappoint Mark Putnam to the Zoning Board of Appeals.** Board agreed he is an excellent member of the ZBA. Roll call vote: Knikelbine-yes, Wester-yes, Wright-yes, Hanson-yes, Roerig-yes. Carried 5 to 0. **Motion by Wright, seconded by Wester to reappoint Eric Beckman to the Saugatuck Township Fire District Fire Board.** Roerig stated he is impressed with how the Fire Board has reacted to some difficult situations and has talked with several of

the department members who report moral is very high now. Roll call vote: Hanson-yes, Knikelbine-yes, Roerig-yes, Wester-yes, Wright-yes. Carried 5 to 0. Hanson thanked all the applicants for their interest and stated it makes the Board's job easier when we have so many qualified individuals willing to give their time. Roerig noted retiring PC Chairman Larry Edris gave exemplary service while serving on the commission.

- B. STFD Proposed Restated Rules & Bylaws. Wester stated the number of representatives that make up the Board is being questioned as the Township has more residents and taxable value than both the Cities combined and yet we each have one representative. Representative Beckman responded that keeping the board small has an advantage. Hanson noted recent changes to the KLSWA contract and the fact the two cities were adamant about having more representation on the Board than the township based on number of users. Hanson also stated he did not agree with six year terms as that is too long and would not allow for a newly elected township board member to have any say on the representative as that term would go beyond the board members term. Wright stated she wanted to meet in joint session with the three municipalities to discuss these points but the two cities voted to approve the restated rules without discussion. Beckman stated there is some frustration that no board member attended a fire meeting to voice these concerns. Discussion took place and there was a **Motion by Wester, seconded by Hanson to table the issue to the next meeting.** Wester will contact Chairman Kaye and representatives from the two cities to discuss the township's concerns. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of Possible Insurance Lawsuit to Recover Funds. Discussion took place regarding involving an attorney to further investigate recovering funds from the insurance carrier for attorney fees. **Motion by Wester, seconded by Hanson to table the issue indefinitely until more information becomes available.** Carried 5 to 0.
- B. Proposed Resolution 2012-09 for Poverty Exemption. Wright stated this is an annual resolution required by the Assessing Department to adopt the federal guidelines for poverty exemption from property taxes. **Motion by Hanson, seconded by Wester to adopt Resolution 2012-09 as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

- A. Planning Commission. Hanson reported meeting and discussing several issues but no action was required.
- B. Road Commission. 128th Ave is a federal aid project and taking longer to get necessary easements.
- C. Interurban. No report.
- D. Fire Authority. Changed the way bills are being paid so Board is more active in the approval process.
- E. Supervisor's Report. SDLLC has been given all materials to file a plan with the ZBA and they have announced a "by right" plan to develop under the current zoning without need ZBA variances.
- F. County Commissioner's Report. No report.

Public Comment: Wester opened the meeting to public comment at 6:50 and comments were taken until 6:55. Hearing no further public comment **Wester stated having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned.** Meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.