

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, April 2nd, 2014, 6:00p.m.
3461 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453

MINUTES

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Brad Rudich, Trustee Jonathan Phillips and Trustee Roy McIlwaine

Members Absent: Treasure Lori Babinski

Also Present: Acting Township Manager Aaron Sheridan

Public Comments

Wester opened to public comment.

Jon Helmrich – Updated the board on the “My Place Training Initiative”. There are over 30 people invited over 7 communities and he would like to start the program by end of April or early May. There are (6) modules involved, each dealing with different areas (Tourism, Economic Dev, etc). The official names of attendees from Saugatuck Township currently are Maggie Conklin, Shawn Powers, Bill Wester & Aaron Sheridan. McIlwaine requested a copy of the material. Jon said ideally this program should be completed by Memorial Day.

Pat Knickelbine – former treasurer of 21 years, wanted to voice her support for AMR. She stated that she was one of the people who was responsible for getting ambulances in this district. Her husband has a heart condition and AMR’s response time is fabulous, and they are very personable and know what they were doing. She questioned the files that Sheridan referred to (large file in regards to complaints), Knickelbine wanted to know if board has seen this file. Sheridan stated he has shared this file with the board, although Wester said he has not yet seen this file. Wester said we (the board) are not saying AMR will be removed, but the contract needs to be more updated, and the board is not head hunting AMR, they know they have done a good job. Rudich said he has reviewed the file, and while it is thick, the complaints within the file are not (and Rudich would like to update the previous minutes to clarify Sheridan’s statement in regards to the AMR file). Knickelbine also asked if Phillips has seen the file, and he has not. Sheridan clarified that there is a large file on AMR, because it goes back so many years, and there is a complaint in that file, as he feels it’s an important complaint as it’s in reference to how the contract is constructed. Sheridan has also had multiple complaints about AMR that he has received in his office that has been put in front of multiple board members that would warrant a review of the contract. It’s been more than 23 years since it has last been reviewed; he (Sheridan) feels contracts need to be reviewed on regular period as standard procedure. Sheridan cannot recommend this contract its current form how it’s written without review. Sheridan is going to review this contract honesty and fairly. Knickelbine said as 21 years as treasurer she never received a complaint about AMR. Wester interjected and said he can honestly say he did not ever look at this contract in the last 6 years; there is just a lot of updating that needs to be done; if AMR had issues, Wester heard little of it. The bottom line is the contract needs to be structured in a business fashion that has parameters that they have to meet, whoever they may be. Knickelbine wants to see the board do this instead of just Sheridan. Wester stated that is how it’s being handled (And with guidance from our attorney). Wester invited Knickelbine to attend the ambulance meeting on the 17th with him if she would like.

Dick Whipple GM of AMR. For clarity sake he wanted to make a few comments. The file that was alluded to in the previous meeting, people walked away with the perception that there was a large file full of complaints, which is not the reality. Whipple also wanted to clarify that the issue with the contract had nothing to do with AMR, but about Saugatuck Townships share of an expense and how that was being calculated based upon how the assessment to each of the townships was given, and it appears to Whipple that they had assessed an equal share to everyone as opposed to a half share to Saugatuck Township. Whipple did review the entire file (freedom of information request was submitted) and he did not find a single complaint within that file.

Approval of Agenda (additions, deletions, removal of items from consent)

Wester asked for any additions or deletions to the agenda, or changes to the consent agenda.

Rudich has some information in regards to the interurban. It was mailed with no return address and was not signed, so will not be added to correspondence. Also "New Business-A" is to review a motion to approve – not a resolution.

Rudich requested to correct the minutes from the March meeting on page (3) to state "*Sheridan stated that there is a complaint in a large file on AMR, and that is enough that he has considered calling other services and feels it warrants a legitimate bid.*"

Mcllwaine moved to approve the suggested change that Rudich made to page 3 of the minutes and the changes to consent agenda. Phillips second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.

Consent Agenda

- A. Accounts Payable Invoice Register
 - i. Al Ellingsen through Scholten & Fant
 - Total to be paid \$7,245.61
 - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited (check register attached)
- B. Bills by Fund – see Invoice Register
- C. Payroll (check register attached)
- D. Approval of Minutes –
 - i. March 5, 2014 Regular Meeting
 - ii. March 19, 2014 Special Meeting
 - iii. March 27, 2014 Special Meeting

Phillips motioned to approve the consent agenda as written, Rudich second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.

Correspondence

- A. None

Unfinished Business

- A. Ambulance District AMR Response.

Mcllwaine motions to table the whole issue until after April 17th ambulance board meeting. Phillips second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.

Wester also asked Sheridan to send a memo to Mr. Whipple to clarify any misunderstanding.

New Business

- A. Motion to approve ¼ of K.L.S.W.A. Legal Expenses Related to Water Agreement.

Motion by Rudich, support by Mcllwaine that the Township of Saugatuck hereby (1) acknowledges that Mika Meyers Beckett & Jones PLC ("Mika Meyers"), shall represent the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority (the "Authority") as a general legal counsel, including without limitation the preparation of a new Water System Operations Contract between the Authority, the City of Saugatuck, the City of the Village of Douglas and the Township of Saugatuck, (2) consents to such representation by Mika Meyers, (3) agrees to reimburse the Authority for 25% of the legal fees up to a ceiling of \$2500 incurred by the Authority for the preparation of a new Water System Operations Contract, and (4) waives any potential conflict of interest that might otherwise be presented by such legal representation by Mike Meyers of the Authority. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.

- B. Cunningham Cemetery Transfer.

Sheridan recommended to the board that they accept the Cunningham Cemetery Transfer. Wester motions to instruct Sheridan to consummate the Cunningham cemetery transfer. Rudich second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0

C. MERS 457 Resolution.

Rudich reviewed. This is another layer of retirement that employees can take advantage of. There is no cost to township; it would be tax free deferral of income if employees wanted to do that (although no required to). MERS would come in and give presentation to all who are eligible at no cost. Wester thinks this is a good idea. MERS needs a signed copy of the resolution to put program into place.

Wester motions to adopt and/or administer the MERS Uniform 457 supplemental retirement program. Rudich second. Roll call Vote: Wester-yes, Phillips – yes, McIlwaine-yes, Rudich-yes

D. Health Insurance Renewal.

Wester says the Township expends close to \$48,000 a year in premiums. Wester does not want to take anyone's health care away although he wants the board to look at different plans down the road. He feels the board needs to due diligence with this and research the cost of getting on board with the Affordable Care Act plans for small business because it's much cheaper than what Township is currently paying. Since it's too late to make the change this year, Wester asked that come Aug/Sept we are out there shopping for insurance.

Rudich motions to approve Health Care Insurance approval at 5%. McIlwaine second. Motion is at stand still 2-2 (Phillip-no, Wester-no). Will revisit when 5th board member is present.

E. Road Plan.

McIlwaine mentioned a typo on "2016 Resurfacing 66th from Cemetery Street to 134th he thinks they mean 135th". McIlwaine was correct and that will be updated. His other question is back on 2018, items 3 & 4 – one of them is 2100 feet and its only \$63,000 and the 1500-1600 feet is \$72,000, he wanted to know why less feet costs more money. Sheridan stated there is more asphalt in the cultasack and Phillips said there are more driveways that need to be blended in. This plan can be amended and will most likely not last 5 years, as Sheridan has yet to see one last that long.

Phillips motioned to adopt the Saugatuck Township 5-year road plan, Rudich second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.

F. Aaron Sheridan Review

Wester said Sheridan has done a good job the last year. He would like to know who wrote the memo to McIlwaine and Wester (it was Phil Quade). Wester would like to recommend that this should be tabled until Babinski is present and a full board is present.

Wester motioned to table until full board is present, Phillips second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.

Committee Reports

A. Planning Commission

Will have a public hearing on the grammatical corrections of current zoning code in the next meeting (April). They are also going to have a public hearing on the reversal on the R-4 district reverting back to original zone (also in April)

B. Road Commission

No report

C. Interurban

Babinski absent, no report

D. Fire Board-Correspondence.

Update at next meeting

E. Harbor Authority Liaison

Last two meetings have been primarily about the Ship 'n Shore filling with the DNR for permission to allow rafting of boats into the Kalamazoo River on special occasions such as Venetian Festival weekend. Agreement was made to submit a letter to the DNR requesting they consider keeping the boat stream lane open enough for all boaters. Great Lakes Small Harbors Coalition presented at the meeting and there is still some hope for dredging money for harbors once the Water Resource Development Act is passed. They are urging governments to contact US Rep. Candace Miller to help pass the law; which then gives Great Lakes Harbors a share of federal funds. Helmrich suggested the Township reach out to South Haven & New Buffalo to lobby together as they are also non-commercial and need dredging relief.

Committee Reports (continued)

F. Supervisor's Report

No Report

G. County Commissioner Dean Kapinga

No Report

Public Comments

Wester opened to public comment.

Terry Shippa – Requested a change in her statement in March minutes to state “Shippa says unless there are many complaints in their 30 years of service, things should not change” (previously said “should change”). Shippa went on to say she is confused because if the contract was just to review and update it, why were Life & Pride contacted. The other comment she had is that she noticed they (the Township staff) were very careful with their own health care plan; and that they said they want to look at this and save money, let's take time to review this, but yet this contract that was due to be signed in April all the sudden needs to be changed, why not just take the tie to review that instead of change it. . Wants to know why Wester said this is not a head hunt, because nobody said it was. Shippa wants to know why Sheridan is so passionate about AMR. Shippa is passionate because her husband could lose his job from this, he's put his own life into AMR and he loves it. She thinks if this was publicly announced there would be a lot more people at the board meeting asking wants going on. She feels like it's a rushed decision. She does not like how this sounds. Wester did want to clarify that Sheridan is not on the current health care plan.

Dick Whipple – AMR will continue to operate as they are without the contract (as there is no current contract)

Pat Knickelbine – wanted to clarify that the \$7000 for ambulance service only shows on tax bills for township residents on the south side of the river

Mcllwaine move that Shippa request be approved in the minutes, Rudich second. Motion passes unanimously 4-0

Adjourn

Wester stated after having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10p.

Elizabeth "Birdie" Holley, Recording Secretary