

## SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 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, Treasurer Lori Babinski, Trustee Jonathan Phillips and Trustee Roy Mcllwaine

**Members Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Acting Township Manager Aaron Sheridan

#### Public Comments

Wester opened to public comment.

Jon Helmrich – one week from Thursday (the 15<sup>th</sup>) 530-730 @ the CVB Welcome Center is the first “MI Place” session.

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

Wester asked to shift New Business item #8 to #7 – and #7 will be the new #8

Rudich would like to add the transfer of the new harbor arena to new business

#### Consent Agenda

- A. Accounts Payable Invoice Register
  - i. Al Ellingsen through Standard Insurance  
Total to be paid \$8795.79
  - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited  
(check register attached)
- B. Bills by Fund – see Invoice Register
- C. Payroll (check register attached)
- D. 2013-2014 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Financial Reports
- E. Approval of Minutes – April 2, 2014 Regular Meeting

Rudich moves to accept consent agenda as amended, Phillips second. Motion passes unanimously 5-0

#### Correspondence

A. None

#### New Business

A. Hazard Mitigation Plan

Sheridan recommended approval of the plan that was provided. No expenditures on the townships behalf as it is a county plan. Wester motioned to adopt the Allegan County Hazard Mitigation Plan, with the number to be named at a later date (in seq). Babinski second. Roll Call Vote: Babinski: Yes, Rudich: Yes, Mcllwaine: Yes, Phillips: Yes, Wester: Yes,

B. Fire Budget

Mcllwaine reviewed, overall it is a .2 mileage increase; the average taxable value of a property is \$84,000, which is a \$17 increase based on that average. This will give the Fire Dept \$100,000 more in their Capital Improvements fund. Douglas has approved. Mcllwaine motions to approve the budget as presented by the Saugatuck Fire District for the year 2014-2015. Wester supports. Rudich would like to confirm the mileage increase would be part of the motion, Mcllwaine said yes. Motion passes unanimously 5-0.

## **New Business (continued)**

### **C. Prescribed Burn**

Chief Janik discussed concerns he had with the current plan on prescribed burns, he felt they are weak and lacking important concerns such as communication plan, media plan and signage plan. In regards to a recent burn plan presented by a company, it was 2.5 pages to burn 615 acres, while Holland burned 130 acres with a 10 page burn plan with the same company. This is private property so it's been tougher to enforce Janik's wishes. Board has instructed Janik to proceed as he feels necessary. Mcllwaine motions the township board leaves it up to the Township Fire Chief when and if the burn permit is proper, and the incident action plan is satisfactory, when those two things are in place, he has the township boards backing. Rudich supports. Motion passes unanimously 5-0

### **D. Deep Harbor Condo**

The county has asked the Township Board to take ownership of this. Wester recommends the board reject the transfer of title and let it revert back to the county. Mcllwaine second. Roll Call Vote: Babinski: Yes, Rudich: Yes, Wester: Yes, Phillips: Yes, Mcllwaine: Yes.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **A. Ambulance District**

Wester met w/the Ambulance Board in Fennville City Hall, AMR has been extended for a year and next year and it will be bid out at the end of the year. Wester motioned the board adopt what the committee majority concluding – the township will adopt a one year extension for AMR, however in a timely fashion, that new RFP's be put together in front of them and give them a 6-month window to develop their tactics and strategy in regards to pricing and then the board will be presented that as a committee. Phillips second. Motion passes unanimously 5-0

### **B. Aaron Sheridan Review**

Wester said Sheridan has done an exceptional job although he feels there should be a committee put together and take interviews for potential candidates. Rudich and Mcllwaine feel it should have been done last year and do not think the committee is necessary. Mcllwaine feels he (Sheridan) has done a great job – and is everything he expects of a manager. Mcllwaine motions to approve Sheridan as full time Saugatuck Township Manager. Rudich second. Rudich stated that there will be some future budgeting to discuss a possible pay raise if motion passes. Wester feels we should interview all candidates. Phillips feels it should be a closed door meeting. Motion passes 3-2 (Phillips & Wester no).

### **C. Health Insurance Renewal**

Wester would like more attention paid to this topic next year. He believes while healthcare is expensive, and everyone should have it, the system within in the Township needs to change. The Township has been paying for a retiree's healthcare of 8 years now, and he feels this is not acceptable. Wester has asked Sheridan to really focus on healthcare and research costs. Sheridan mentioned how the employees (Babinski & Rudich) – they saved the township board over \$68,000 (not from healthcare, a different area) and they voluntarily decreased their healthcare benefits to save costs this upcoming year. Phillips said what he requested is that the public knows the township went out, did their due diligence and get the 3 bids on healthcare. Wester's big issue is that its \$70,000-\$80,000 a year out of a \$500,000 budget, which is nearly 20% of the budget money, is going to healthcare. Wester stated that the board needs to make sure they are shopping healthcare. Rudich motions to approve to adopt to the Priority Health HMO Silver 2000 plan for 2014-2015 budget year. Phillips second. Motion passes 4-1 (Wester-no)

### **D. Zoning Administrator Job Update**

Rudich said there are (7) applications so far. Sheridan suggest having himself, Babinski and Rudich do initial interviews and then pass off final considerations to the board. Wester recommended asking a member of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals to be a part of this preliminary process as well.

## **Committee Reports**

### **A. Planning Commission**

Public hearing reverting most of R-4 back to what it was to be held later this month. PC is also working on minor changes to get fracking ordinances on board.

### **B. Road Commission**

Mileage passes.

### **C. Interurban**

Looking into Sunday runs and the free shuttle for the summer is still up in the air (needs businesses to donate to make it happen)

## **Committee Reports (continued)**

### **D. Fire Board**

Fire department is getting Kawasaki Mule down at the beach for events, no cost to township. The 102 foot ladder truck was purchased. Will be upgrade pumping capacity on the fire boat.

### **E. Ambulance Committee**

Discussed previously in meeting

### **F. Harbor Authority Liaison – No Report**

### **G. Supervisor's Report / Manager Report**

Sheridan said there was an error on the water assessment district, it's been caught and will be corrected. Sheridan compliments Babinski and Rudich for the hard work in helping discover this error.

### **H. County Commissioner Dean Kapinga**

Chief Janik has been a fresh asset in bringing people together and creating good ideas. He is a huge asset in helping people work together, he is a big help to the county. 2 proclamations the commission has made – Older American month in May – urges citizens to take time this month to honor their older adults. May 9<sup>th</sup> is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in Allegan County – urges people to unite that day in observance. Tomorrow, May 8<sup>th</sup> – two different proposals will be voted on – the senior mileage (levied 2.40 in the past), because of the need and backlog of people on it that cannot be served they are looking for an increase by 1.196 to increase it to .436mil – which after 4 years it will raise an estimate \$1, 119,446 for services to senior citizens. The 911 system is about shot, parts cannot be purchases to fix it, and they are looking at a fix, either the state system or the system similar to what they current have which will cost about \$8-10 million dollars. Right now the commissioners can raise up to \$3 a levee (already at \$2.80) on all cell phones and regular phones (even you computer), and they figure about 90,000 units in the area will be charged which will help bank money to buy the new 900 system. Also looking for feedback in regards to a petition with ATV's in their township. A legislator changed the law in the lower area of the state, Kapinga wants to know if this is a good topic to be brought up to boards, also should this be a county wide thing, or based on township/city to decide on their own.

## **Public Comments**

Wester opened to public comment.

No comments at this time.

## **Adjourn**

Wester stated after having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.

***Elizabeth "Birdie" Holley, Recording Secretary***