

Approved MINUTES

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD**

**Wednesday February 4, 2015, 6:00 p.m.  
Saugatuck Township Hall  
3461 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453**

**MINUTES**

Supervisor Bill Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the pledge of allegiance.

**Members Present:** Bill Wester, Lori Babinski, Brad Rudich, Roy McIlwaine, Jonathon Phillips.

**Also Present:** Manager Aaron Sheridan.

**Public Comment:** Wester asked for public comments. Jon Helmrich thanked the board for discussing the proposed Michigan Religious Freedom Act, and asked the Township to adopt a resolution against the MRFA. Jane Dickie asked the Township to oppose the MRFA. Larry Dickie asked the Township to oppose the MRFA. Shawn Powers thank the board and Supervisor Wester, for making appointing him Deputy Supervisor. No further comment.

**Approval of Agenda:** Wester asked for changes to the agenda. Rudich asked to add correspondence from Janie & Jim Fleming regarding the MRFA. Agenda approved.

**Consent Agenda:** Wester asked for questions regarding the consent agenda. McIlwaine asked about payment to KLSWA for water operation contract. Sheridan explained that each Govenmental unit and KLSWA paid a fifth of the cost for the new contract agreement. Phillips asked about payment to Allegan County about the Gaslight Deed. Sheridan explained this was the charge to record the easement at Gaslight Estates. McIlwaine asked about Supplies Expenses and Inspector Expenses that were over budget. Rudich commented that he reviewed Supplies expenses and made adjustments on several items that were posted to the wrong account, and Inspector Expenses correspond directly to revenue. Wester noted that the attorney bills were lower for the year. Phillips made the motion to approve the consent agenda, Wester seconded. Consent Agenda passes 5-0.

**Correspondence:** Mark LaChey, Jon Helmrich, Jane Dickie all wrote to the Township asking the Township to oppose the MRFA.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. Board Appointment Discussion. Wester asked Sheridan to explain the memo he revised describing the procedure for appointments. A committee of consisting of the Manager, Supervisor or his designee and the Chair of the Board needing appointment, would be put together ad hoc. McIlwaine asked if 1 week was enough time to review. Sheridan stated there was enough time. Wester made the motion to approve the policy, second by Rudich. Motion passes 5-0.
- B. Board of Review Alternate. Board agreed that no action needed to be taken.

**New Business:**

- A. Emergency Services Committee Bylaws and Draft Request for Proposal. Wester stated the Bylaws and the RFP were not in the packet, and asked to table the discussion until they could be brought to the next meeting. Sheridan stated he was pleased with what had been done, which was much more than what was done previously. McIlwaine was glad with the progress.

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- B. Resolution In Opposition of SB No.4 (Michigan Religious Freedom Act). Wester stated he wondered why the law was proposed. Phillips asked if we needed to amend the Township Ordinance. Sheridan stated that he didn't think it was necessary. McIlwaine made the motion to Adopt the Resolution to Oppose the Michigan Religious Freedom Act, second by Wester. Wester asked for discussion. McIlwaine found a few typos. Roll call vote: Rudich, yes; Wester, yes; Babinski, yes; Mcilwaine, yes; Phillips, yes. Resolution passes 5-0. McIlwaine commented that Jane Dickie wrote the best explanation of the issue.
- C. Cemetery RFP. Wester stated that GMS was included in the packet. Sheridan stated that only two bids came back. GMS was the low bidder of the two. McIlwaine asked what the increase amount was. Sheridan stated it was \$1000 over the previous three year contract. Rudich made the motion to accept the GMS bid for the cemetery maintenance for three years, second by Phillips. Motion passes 5-0.
- D. Road Work Orders 2015. Wester asked Sheridan to explain. Sheridan stated the road work was for planned work on Indian Point Road and the preliminary surveying on Riverside and Dugout. McIlwaine asked about guardrails on 131<sup>st</sup> Ave. turn. Phillips stated that the County was not putting in additional guardrails. Sheridan stated the Township could pay for this instead. Motion to approve the road work orders for 2015 made by Wester, second by Rudich. Motion passes 5-0.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Planning Commission. The Tri-Community Master Plan was almost finished. Rudich reported that the Planning Commission held a Public Hearing on January 26<sup>th</sup>, to discuss reverting the remaining R-4 district to R-3b. Rudich stated that due to improper notice, Township attorney Ron Bultje advised the Deam property and the Smalley property be treated as never having their zoning changed. Commission advised on holding another Public Hearing to incorporate all the changes and discuss Critical Dunes overlay. Temporary sign's ordinance was discussed. Rudich asked to increase the ZBA meeting per diem from \$25.00 to \$35.
- B. Road Commission. Phillips stated he and Sheridan attended the County road committee meeting. Sheridan stated that the work on Blue Star was to begin this year. The amount of work on Blue Star the County would work on in 2015 would depend on asphalt cost. Discussion on third summer mowing.
- C. Interurban. Babinski reported that she and Director Yff, and Tarue Pullen went over changes to bylaws. A committee will go over the employment policy. Valentine's day will not have extended hours.
- D. Fire Board. McIlwaine reported that incident reports increased for the month. Fire Department is running 5.6 minutes response time. A thank you letter went to R J Petersen to thank him for heated boat storage. Grace of Douglas is meeting with the Fire Department and AMR ambulance. Fire Department would like to address the Elementary school door locks.
- E. Ambulance Committee. No update other than bylaws and RFP.
- F. Harbor Authority. Jon Helmrich reported that there were new members and that Bob Sapita resigned. Nominations to replace Sapita were tabled. City of Saugatuck completed their changes to the Edgewater proposal. City of Douglas must approve then. DNR did a presentation on sturgeon, and how they might be affected by proposed dredging.
- G. Open Board Report. Wester was going to ask Deputy Supervisor Powers to chair the meeting in March.
- H. County Commissioner. Dean Kapinga reported that the County was working on a capital improvement plan, including the 911 project update. A compensation study was to be done for all jobs in the County. Parks were being updated as part of the capital improvement plan. \$320,000 per year was being spent on annual parks maintenance. Smart committee meeting in St. Joseph was helpful. Kapinga is on a livestock committee looking at an antiquated livestock law. Kapinga thanked Fire Chief Janik.

**Public Comments:** Wester asked for public comments. Larry Dickie asked about the noticing error that the Planning Commission had. Rudich responded that there were a couple of changes made to the noticing. It was a clerical error, and that new software was purchased and another review of notices would be done to remedy

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the problem. Patrick Stewart would like to thank Chief Janik on fire prevention work. Stewart also wanted to thank the Township for working with the Fire Department on the fire prevention issue.

There being no further business, Wester declared the meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.

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Brad Rudich, Clerk