

WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 6:30PM
WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP LIBRARY
www.watersmeet.us

The regular meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 6:30pm by supervisor Rogers. All board members were present. There were 13 citizens in attendance.

There was a motion by B. Neumann to accept the minutes of the 8/20/2014 meeting with a second by R. Henriksen. Motion carried. A motion to accept the minutes of the 8/27/2014 special meeting was made by P. Kempainen with a second by R. Henriksen. Motion carried.

There were no special appearances.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Arnie Domanus wanted to thank Rich Henriksen for keeping people informed of the 535 road closure during repairs. Ruth Bozdech of Langford Lake read a letter to be entered into the minutes. She emphasized that we live in a democratic society and decisions need to be made in a democratic manner. The full letter is available for viewing on the township website, www.watersmeet.us

Elaine Branch of Langford Lake spoke to the board about a good set up for the members to be seen and heard by the attendees. She also stated that she reviewed the Planning Commission By-Laws and they appear to be good if maybe not practiced.

Julie Mathiesen offered comment on the changing of cost of Special Use Permits. Instead of lowering all permits to one price, it should be looked into to develop a matrix for pricing for the type of permit being sought. She also stated that there are some people frustrated over how the Planning Commission has acted for the last couple of years and feels that the structure of the PC needs to be looked at. Her bigger concern is that contributors to the township are upset and that help financially or otherwise may suffer. Greg Clark of Long Lake and his wife purchased property here in 2011 and have been part time residents but will be retiring here soon. They researched many areas before choosing our township. They come from an area that they feel has suffered by the PC downsizing home sizes.

Pat Walsh wants to know why the votes come up in late fall or winter when many people have left for the remainder of the seasons. The PC has been working on many items for many months and it happens that at times, things don't go as quickly as one would like and decisions aren't reached until later in the year. It is not the intention of the board(s) to shut out anyone.

It was brought to the attention of the board by Elaine Branch that there seem to be bad perceptions by some people of how the board(s) are handling items and timing.

OLD BUSINESS:

The existing Cemetery Ordinance was gone over by the board with some changes introduced by Sexton B. Neumann. He also brought up adding lighting for the cemetery flag and a future memorial for unmarked graves. A motion was offered by R. Henriksen with a 2nd from P. Kempainen to table further discussion until a later meeting. Motion carried. Elaine Branch commended the township on the upkeep of the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS:

Dave Neumann, Zoning Administrator presented the possibility of reducing the cost of a Special Use Permit from \$400 to \$100, and have an additional \$20 charge per year if they wish to retain the permit. Joe LoMastro stated that when the cost of the permit was set, the public hearing for the permits was held at a special meeting. Having a special meeting involves incurring additional costs of commission member wages as well as the standard postings beforehand.

Rich Henriksen agreed with Julie Mathiesen as to taking a closer look at developing a matrix for Special Use Permit costs. A motion was offered by P. Kemppainen to table this item until the October meeting with support from B. Neumann. Motion carried.

Motions were offered and supported to write off 12 Water/Sewer accounts totaling \$4001.44. All motions were carried with roll call votes of 5 Yeas, 0 Nays. Reasons ranged from old inactive accounts, resident moved, owner deceased or not able to lien taxes.

There was a revised Water Ordinance passed on August 15, 2012 but it was never posted so never legally passed. There was a motion offered to accept the ordinance with a change to a new signature page offered by B. Neumann and supported by R. Henriksen. Motion carried.

There was discussion of a plaque being placed at Bass Lake Park to commemorate Bud Wilbur for donating the land for the park. A motion was offered by R. Henriksen to purchase a plaque and supported by B. Neumann. After some discussion, the motion was amended by R. Henriksen to limit the cost to \$300 and was supported by P. Kemppainen. Motion carried. P. Kemppainen took the opportunity to again thank everyone especially Dan Kline, Mike Rogers and LVD for all their help on the Bass Lake project.

There was a motion offered by B. Neumann with support from R. Henriksen, to accept the 2013 – 2014 completed audit. Roll call vote: 5 yeas, 0 nays. Carried.

There was a motion by R. Henriksen to amend the budget to deposit \$135,000 received from the Tribe for 2% police protection/communications into account 101539 (2% Police Contract) and \$2000 into #101542 (2% Police Communication) rather than put it all into unallocated 2% funds #101537. A second was offered by S. Mansfield. Roll Call Vote: 5 yeas, 0 nays. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: A motion to pay the bills as presented was made by B. Neumann with support from R. Henriksen. Motion carried.

REPORTS:

Supervisor: We are still dealing with the removal of the old church, but it should be coming down soon.

Treasurer: Monthly report was read and accepted.

Clerk: There are a few journal entries that need to be made now that the audit is finished and this should be done by next week's end.

Other: B. Neumann reports that the township's share of veteran costs will be going up by about \$100, but last year they went down about \$300. He has also been appointed vice chair of the Veteran's Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk reported that letters have been received from Elaine Branch regarding a request for a Public Hearing before the Township Board votes on the square footage reduction proposed by the Planning commission. There was also a FOIA letter received from Arnie Domanus regarding information from the last PC meeting.

A motion was made by B. Neumann to adjourn the meeting with a second from R. Henriksen. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk
Watersmeet Township

Approved: 10/15/2014