

**WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING**  
**OCTOBER 15, 2014 6:30PM**  
**WATERSMEET TOWNSHIP LIBRARY**  
[www.watersmeet.us](http://www.watersmeet.us)

The regular monthly meeting of the Watersmeet Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Mike Rogers at 6:30pm.

Members present: Mike Rogers, Bill Neumann, Paul Kempainen, Rich Henriksen and Sandy Mansfield  
Citizens present: 12

The minutes from the Regular meeting of September 27, 2014 and a special meeting for approval of Election Board on October 14, 2014 were unanimously approved with the motion coming from Rich Henriksen and a second by Bill Neumann.

**APPEARANCES:** Jim Loper ; Emergency 911 Manager spoke to the crowd about the 911 emergency system in place. There was a surcharge passed 5 years ago that allows the County to charge up to \$1.65 per phone device for the system. It has remained at \$1.00. This has paid for the 911 office, the contract with Crystal Falls Central Dispatch, updated the communication system for the County Fire Systems, updated the infrastructure with back-up power to the tower site cable, and redid county GPS maps. Future plans are to update the tower lighting system. Questions were asked as to how 911 calls are dispatched. Mr. Loper talked about 2 systems E-Dispatch vs Page Date and offered that there are 3 routing systems in the U.P. for 911 calls.

A motion was offered by Bill Neumann at 6:50pm to enter into the Public Hearing for the Cemetery Ordinance and the size reduction for R&F and L1 & L2 structures. Motion carried.

Bill Neumann (Sexton) presented the changes in wording and additions to the board. Copies were available to the public. These changes will be published.

The square footage reduction was addressed next. Building inspector Dan Kline asked that the R&F square footage be placed at 201 sq. ft. This way there must be a permit pulled and it must be inspected and built to Michigan Code.

Julie Mathiesen wanted to know how 750 square foot was arrived at for the minimum square footage for L1 and L2 structures. She would like there to be more research done to obtain how that number was reached. John Cestkowski, Planning Commission member, said that 600 feet was talked about but that the number seemed too low and 750 seemed to make more sense. It was brought up that 4 other nearby townships do not have a square footage requirement. Julie Mathiesen offered information concerning Bergland. Bergland has a 750 square foot requirement but that is only for a 2 bedroom home and each additional bedroom must have an additional 150 sq. ft. added on. She also believes that a conflict of interest still exists with the Planning Commission and that better documentation of meetings could help to determine how decisions are reached. Attorney Pope has addressed the Conflict of Interest issue several times and these letters are on file. Paul Kempainen brought up the fact that there is a fear of substandard housing with square footage adjustments and discussions were started with Dennis Snyder and then after he left, it was again brought up with the current board. Paul also stated that it is unlikely that people who can afford property on the Chain will build a small home. It is much more likely that this would occur on smaller lakes. Steve Roth stated that he had run into a problem when he originally wanted to build on Dinner Lake. His lot was not conducive to a larger home. Jack Erhart wanted to know why the square footage should be changed if no one would build smaller homes. It was brought up that more research should be done in other townships regarding what their

requirements are. Dave Sherrill questioned whether we are going to kick this back to the Planning Commission for further discussion or dictate to them what we have approved. Steve Roth stated that this ongoing character assignment needs to end. It appears to him that in the past when all these requirements were brought into play, people seemed to want to bring "Big City" to a small "Podunk" town. With economic changes that have and are taking place people are thinking more about a "green" footprint to help the environment. Clerk Mansfield read a letter from Greg and Yvonne Clark against the reduction of the sizes. Mike Rogers read a letter from Arnie Domanus. These documents are posted on the website. A motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Rich Henriksen at 7:32pm. Second by Bill Neumann. Motion carried.

The regular meeting was reentered at 7:33pm.

A motion was made by Rich Henriksen and supported by Bill Neumann to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Rich Henriksen offered a motion to accept the new changes to the Cemetery Ordinance. This was supported by Paul Kempainen. This was carried with a unanimous roll call vote.

A motion to table the reduction of Special Use fees was offered by Rich Henriksen and supported by Paul Kempainen. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A motion made by Rich Henriksen was made to send the proposed square footage reduction of L1 and L2 and R&F structures back to the Planning Commission with the following recommendations: no less than 750 sq. feet for regular dwellings with all sides being 20 feet corner to corner. Irregular home (octagonal etc.) must total 750 Sq. Feet footprint also. R&F dwellings must have a minimum of 201 Sq. Feet. Support was offered by Bill Neumann. Motion carried.

A resolution in support of the Western Upper Peninsula and Development Region Commission (WUPPDR) Application on behalf of the Western Upper Peninsula Regional Prosperity Collaborative was offered by Bill Neumann with support from Rich Henriksen. Carried by Roll Call Vote: 5 yeas, 0 nays. This resolution states that Watersmeet Township supports Western Upper Peninsula Planning and Development Region Commission as the grant applicant for Fiscal Year 2015 funding to continue the Western Upper Peninsula Regional Prosperity Collaborative.

**BILLS:** A motion was offered by Paul Kempainen and supported by Bill Neumann to pay the bills presented to the board. Motion carried.

**REPORTS:** Supervisor Rogers read a letter from Velda Sclafani stating that she has resigned from the Gogebic/Ontonagon Community Action Agency but will still volunteer to work for Watersmeet as far as trying to bring in new businesses.

Correspondence was received from UPSET an Upper Peninsula drug enforcement task force similar to GIANT in our County. They are seeking financial support.

Supervisor Rogers stated that when he came into office he had heard about a rift between 2 factions; (Lake People and Town People). He believes that it is not so much a rift as two different mind sets and life experiences. There has to be a way to find middle ground. He stated that the majority of those who grew up here were not concerned with the amount of square footage of a home, but were happy to just be able to have a roof over their heads. People who moved here could afford larger homes and began to build bigger and better and those who remained here all their lives still should be able to own property on lakes and build a smaller home in line with what they can afford.

Jack Erhart questioned why the PC members do not recuse themselves when an issue to be voted on comes up and it is perceived as a conflict of interest. He said that the Town Board and other commissions have members that recuse themselves in order to present as impartial.

Family Dollar has begun construction.

There was approximately \$500 additional for the removal of the old church as the DEQ required more asbestos testing.

Treasurer Kemppainen presented the treasurer's report and reported that the Wilderness Lakes Trail account is actually less than it shows because the General Fund was reimbursed for construction costs. Bill Neumann donned his "Sexton Hat" and reported that all decorations at the cemetery must be removed by the end of October or the Town Crew members will remove them.

There were also comments about how nice the Cemetery is kept up.

A motion made by Bill Neumann and supported by Rich Henriksen to adjourn the meeting was carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Mansfield, Clerk  
Watersmeet Township

**Approved 11/17/2014**