

Claybanks Township

September 10, 2018
MEETING MINUTES

The regular meeting of Claybanks Township was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Supervisor Smith with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Smith, Eilers, Lombard, Rabe and Freye.

Agenda Additions – New Business F) Need Wifi Antenna for Town Hall; G) New Vacuum for Town Hall; H) South Bathrooms at Park; I) More Trees for Park

Minutes

- (A) Approval of August 13, 2018 regular meeting minutes** - Two spelling errors were pointed out in the Public Comment section of the minutes and were noted for correction by the Clerk. David Rabe made a motion to approve the August 13, 2018 regular meeting minutes as corrected. Second by Dan Lombard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable

- (A) Approve September Payables** – Dan Lombard made a motion to pay the general fund payables in the amount of \$15,250.21 and the Park payables in the amount of \$8,035.14. Second by David Rabe. Rabe, yes; Freye, yes; Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Smith, yes. Motion carried.

Correspondence – Miscellaneous correspondence was reviewed.

Public Comment – Dave Borgeson wanted to speak more to the proposed solar energy ordinance. He and his wife took a 6,000 mile trip to California, going through Montana and Idaho, keeping an eye out for solar farms. They didn't see any big solar farms, except one in the midst of oil wells to power the pumps. Most California homes have rooftop panels. He spoke with an expert who agreed some provisions must be made for solar energy and he suggested we open it up to rooftop. Mr. Borgeson researched UK policy, which he felt made sense. A copy of this was provided to the clerk. He recommends that the board take plenty of time with an ordinance to be sure it is well researched and thought out. He also made mention of a letter from Homer Azar regarding this, and spoke of Mr. Azar's credentials.

A women in the audience asked if there was an approval of a concrete wind farm in the township. We advised her there was not. It was noted that some area residents, along with some in Montague Township, were receiving questionnaires.

Reports

- (A) Financial** – General Fund \$189,544.29; Fire Fund \$66,566.86; Road Improvement Fund \$10,054.20, Park Fund \$81,608.35.
- (B) Zoning Administrator** – Report given by Sara Bizon. Issued no permits. Did one inspection on the Marsh property. Did two splits off one parcel. She is working on assessing studies and will take the test in October. Dick asked how much Sara had into expenses for assessing. She stated about \$200. We advised her we would reimburse her, as we have previous assessors for like expenses.
- (C) Planning Commission** – Report given by Art Grumm. Art reiterated there is a class many on the board and Planning Commission will attend on October 4. They have a meeting on October 16. Things discussed at the last meeting were an agreement that prime farm land should not be used for solar farms. Marginal land could be used, but a definition of marginal land would have to be determined. Decommissioning of a solar farm would also need to be addressed in an ordinance. They looked at other townships' ordinances. Art put all those ordinances in order by topic for reference in discussion. We have not heard from the county in regards to their solar energy ordinance. It was suggested we invite Comm. Larry Byl to attend a meeting to bring us up to date.

- (D) **Cemetery Committee** – Report given by Carol Royalty. Both cemeteries were mowed last week. All flags have been picked up by Carol. A big tree is down in Flower Creek. Tree Hugger has been contacted. Art Grumm stated a limb on a cherry tree should also be removed as it is going to fall down on some tombstones. David Rabe called Denny Omness to fix the pump at Flower Creek Cemetery.
- (E) **Park** - Report given by Jesse Cisneros. Labor Day weekend was full. Jesse will be closing the park on Sunday, which is the last camping day for the season. Everything is scheduled to be off on Tuesday. The clerk needs to call the phone company to put the phone on vacation status. Dick asked for contact information of the people from the jet ski group who were using obscene language at a camper across from them. The other camper notified the township of the situation and stated they will not be back. Jesse will give Dick contact information. Dick will contact them about expected behavior and consequences if things do not improve.
- (F) **Clerk**- All clerks in the State of Michigan have received a Freedom of Information Request from "Emily" from United Group, LLC asking for photocopies of all voted ballots, duplicated ballots, spoiled ballots, provisional ballots, absentee voter return envelopes and an absentee voter information list from the November, 2016 Presidential Election. This has resulted in much work for clerks just trying to come up with a way to copy the ballots as they are bigger than a copy machine can handle. Mary Freye has been in contact with the township attorney for assistance in replying to this request, as recommended by the Bureau of Election. Many hours have been spent on this in the past two weeks. Ultimately Election Source, who prints our ballots, has offered to come to municipalities for a \$500 service fee and then charge fifty cents per ballot and scan them so we have a digital copy we can then load onto a computer and print at a reduced size. A 50% deposit from this group has been requested before any work begins. If we receive this down payment, work will begin on fulfilling the request after the November, 2018 election, subject to Election Source's schedule.

Unfinished Business

- (A) **Municipal Civil Infraction Ordinance** - Dick Smith sent MTA a request to get their policy on civil infractions and how to write a ticket. When he gets that information he will get it to the Planning Commission Chair and Zoning Administrator for their review.
- (B) **Solar Energy Draft Ordinance** - David Rabe made a motion to table any action until the November regular meeting, when many will have attended the class on this subject, and the Planning Commission will have had a meeting to discuss what they learned and can contact Oceana County for an update on their end. Second by Dan Lombard. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business

- (A) **Approve Proposed Millage from September 10, 2018 Truth-in-Taxation Hearing** - David Rabe made a motion to approve the following proposed millages: Allocated Operating - 1.2219, Voted Fire -0.7331 and Voted Road - 2.000. Second by Brenda Eilers. Smith, yes; Rabe, yes; Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Freye, yes. Motion carried.
- (B) **Park Manager & Help End of Season Compensation** - David Rabe made a motion to give Park manager \$3,000 for year-end compensation. Second by Mary Freye. Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Smith, no; Rabe, yes; Freye, yes. Motion carried. David Rabe made a motion to give the park help \$500 for end of season compensation. Second by Brenda. Lombard, yes; Rabe, yes; Freye, yes; Smith, abstained; Eilers, yes. Motion carried. David Rabe made a motion to pay the federal and state taxes from this compensation. Second by Dan Lombard. Rabe, yes; Freye, yes; Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Smith, yes. Motion carried.
- (C) **Camping Reservation Refund** - A camper paid with cash for two sites for two days and then cancelled all with one day notice. Technically there is a \$25 (one day) forfeiture due to last minute cancellation. This was done on two sites for a \$100 camping fee. He is expecting a refund of \$80 for the cancellation. A refund check should be for \$50.00. The board was in agreement that the refund should be \$50, not \$80. Brenda Eilers made a motion to issue a refund check for \$50 for the cancellation to Gabe Barco. Freye, yes; Rabe, yes; Smith, no; Lombard, yes; Eilers, yes. Motion carried.

- (D) 2019 Township Road Work Request from Oceana County Road Commission** - The board was in agreement that 48th Avenue from Skeels to Webster Rd. should be the project for 2019. The Road Commission form will be completed and sent to them.
- (E) FOIA Coordinator Compensation** - This has not been updated since 2002 and is \$7.50/hr which does not meet minimum wage. David Rabe made a motion to increase the FOIA Coordinator compensation to \$10/hr. Second by Brenda Eilers. Rabe, yes; Freye, yes; Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Smith, yes. Motion carried.
- (F) Wifi Antenna for Town Hall** - We have a hot spot, but need an antenna is needed for improved reception. David Rabe suggested calling Verizon and they will get us what we need. Brenda Eilers will take care of it.
- (G) New Vacuum for Town Hall** - The vacuum we presently have is very old and falling apart. David Rabe made a motion to approve up to \$200 for a new vacuum for the town hall. Second by Dan Lombard. Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Smith, yes; Rabe, yes; Freye, yes. Motion carried.
- (H) South Bathrooms at Park** - Dan Lombard advised the south bathroom is very bad odor-wise and the blocks are cracked. Dan would like to see if there is grant money for a flush bathroom with showers available. Dan will check with Dean Twiss on what it would take to tear down the existing structure. He will also contact the DEQ to see what they require to tear down and rebuild.
- (I) Trees for the Park** - There are four smaller Ash trees that Dan can take down. He would like to get more trees for next year to replace them. Dan will contact Montague Tree Farms and Weesies to get prices. He would like to get six trees. Mary Freye made a motion to approve up to \$700 for six new trees in the park. Second by Brenda Eilers. Lombard, yes; Rabe, yes; Freye, yes; Smith, yes; Eilers, yes. Motion carried.

6. Supervisor Comments - None

Adjournment - 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Freye