

Claybanks Township

July 13, 2020

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 D) Park Garbage Service; E) Eady Property Taxes

Minutes

(A) Approval of June 8, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes - David Rabe made a motion to approve the June 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Second by Dan Lombard. All in favor. Motion carried.

Accounts Payable

(A) Approve July Payables - Dan Lombard made a motion to pay the general fund payables in the amount of \$16,312.36 and the park fund payables in the amount of \$8,875.34. Second by Brenda Eilers. Freye, yes; Rabe, yes; Smith, yes; Lombard, yes; Eilers, yes.

Correspondence – Miscellaneous correspondence was reviewed. We received a letter from the County Administrator about appointing a designated assessor or record. Public Act 660 of 2018 requires that the county appoint someone to this position by December 31, 2020, or the State Tax Commission will appointment someone to serve the county and all local units of government in the county. The County Administrator gave the option of appointing the county's Equalization Director or obtaining bids for the position. Nine townships must sign on to appoint the Equalization Director. The board felt that it would be wise to obtain bids and therefore will not sign the proposed agreement/appointment at this time. We will see if other townships are in agreement.

Public Comment – Tim Beggs is running for the position of County Commissioner for our district. He is a resident of Golden Township and is running as a republican against Larry Byl in the August 4, 2020 primary election. He gave a brief history about himself and why he is running.

Peter Shlagor said that two years ago Great Lakes Energy looked at providing local internet service to rural areas. He said they have chosen to proceed with Claybanks Township as their next area of development. They are in the area doing preliminary work at this time.

An individual stated she has been seeing a lot of speeding around the S-curve on Stony Lake Road and wonders if there is any way to get a "Tractor Crossing" sign, or something similar, posted. She stated drivers are not watching for tractors and she was almost hit by a vehicle last week. She reported this was not an isolated incident and she doesn't want anyone to get hurt. The board thought this would be a county issue, but Dan Lombard will check into what we can do.

Reports

(A) Financial – General Fund - \$289,702.66; Fire Fund - \$104,002.64; Road Improvement - \$128,335.39; Park Fund - \$94,711.23

- (B) **Zoning Administrator** - Completed nine inspections and issued three permits. There are still open permits due to Covid-19 backing up contractors. The DEQ is also holding some things up.
- (C) **Cemetery** - Report given by Art Gramm. Carol Royalty would still like to be involved in contacting the sexton for mowing the cemeteries. Dan Lombard or David Rabe will contact Carol if they note mowing is needed and she will make the call to the sexton.
- (D) **Planning Commission** - The first meeting of the year will be held on August 11. The others were canceled due to Covid-19. He wondered about looking into an ordinance regarding ATV's on township roads. He also asked for details on the upcoming Zoning Board of Appeals hearing, where the property owners wants to put a larger building than allowed on their property.
- (E) **Park** - Report given by Park Manager, Jesse Cisneros. The website needs to be updating, removing the Covid-19 notice about no bathrooms available and the pavilion being closed. All are now open. Reservations have the campground full the next four weekends. There was a power surge on the Fourth of July that did a lot of damage to camping units that did not have a surge protector. The damage came from the power pole on the road and not campground equipment. Great Lakes Energy had the repairs made and power back in a couple of hours. The township's insurance company has been contacted. He is having an issue with getting our dumpster emptied more than once a week. Garbage is piling up and causing an unpleasant odor in this heat. We will discuss this under New Business (D). He states day use is higher than he has seen in the past and they are causing problems by leaving their garbage lay.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

- (A) **Approve Proposed Millage from Truth-in-Taxation Hearing** - David Rabe made a motion approve the proposed allocated operating millage of 1.2098 and the proposed voted fire millage of .07211. Second by Brenda Eilers. Eilers, yes; Lombard, yes; Smith, yes; Rabe, yes; Freye, yes. Motion carried.
- (B) **Park Closing Date** - The Park Manager would like to close the park to camping on September 14 to allow him time to clean up and winterize the campground. His last day of work is officially September 17. This would give him three days to accomplish this. David Rabe made a motion to close the park to camping on September 14, 2020. Second by Dan Lombard. All in favor. Motion carried.
- (C) **Power Surge at Park** - The insurance company has been contacted and advised of the power surge from Great Lake Energy's pole. Clerk Mary Freye spoke with the adjustor and was instructed to forward any claims to them. They will handle all correspondence.
- (D) **Park Garbage Service** - Jesse Cisneros stated the dumpster we have at the present time is not big enough and does not have a top on it. Campers do complain about the odor. He will contact our current service to see if a bigger dumpster can be obtained, or if we can get a second one on site. If they cannot accommodate our need, we will discuss what to do for the next camping season. Republic was suggested.
- (E) **Eady Property Taxes** - The property owner contacted the township supervisor when she was unable to obtain a duplicate copy of her property tax bill. This property is owned by several family members and responsibilities change hands every so often, which was the case this year. In a move, the tax bill was lost and it wasn't realized until May that it hadn't been paid. Several attempts were made to contact the township and county treasurer to obtain a copy without success. Interest and penalties went from around \$300 in May to over \$600 when the supervisor was contacted for assistance.

The supervisor wondered if the board could make any adjustment in the interest and penalties for the time that a duplicate bill was pursued without any success. The board discussed this and was unsure if we could legally do anything. It was decided to contact the township attorney for a legal opinion and act based on his response.

Supervisor Comments - None

Adjournment - 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Freye