

Regular Meeting
January 21, 2015

Minutes approved 2/18/2015

The regular meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Supervisor Niederstadt. Board members present were: Niederstadt, Beland, and Seaman. Board members absent: Crambell and Vance. Deputy Clerk, Gray recorded minutes in the absence of Vance. Also present were approximately 35 guests.

Supervisor Niederstadt opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call vote of board members: Seaman, yes; Beland, yes; Niederstadt, yes.

Moved by Seaman, seconded by Beland to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of December 17, 2014 as presented. All in favor – motion passed.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest: Seaman, none; Beland, none; Niederstadt, none.

Approval of Agenda: Beland requested that several items be added to the agenda under old business. 1. Cemetery property. 2. Rental agreement for township hall. 3. Alleyways. Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Seaman to approve agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: None

Clerk's Report: Moved by Beland, seconded by Seaman to approve paying bills from the General Fund as presented, voucher #21143 through #21186. Roll call vote: Seaman, yes; Beland, yes; Niederstadt, yes. Motion passed.

Moved by Beland, seconded by Seaman to approve paying bills from the fire fund as presented, voucher #7361 through #7375. Beland, yes; Niederstadt, yes; Seaman, yes. Motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: In the absence of Deputy Hoenicke, Niederstadt read her report for the month of December. Deputy Sheriff, Abe Devol, reported that Deputy Hoenicke will no longer be assigned to our township as she is moving into another position. Our new deputy will be Regan Forrester. Devol felt he will be a good fit and very well liked by our township. Deputy Hoenicke was praised and thanked for her work in the township when she arrived at the meeting and concluded her report.

Fire Department Report: Greg Bradley presented two quotes he had received for a fire suppression system. One was \$3750.00 from Northern Fire & Safety. The other from Tyco which was considerably higher. He recommended going with Northern Fire & Safety, however, this was put on hold when Mark Urbin offered to provide the fire department with information he has on a free system with the same type of coverage. Bradley reported the department had made 308 runs last year.

Hospital Report: Mary Ann Ewald reported on several issues with Kalkaska Memorial Health Center. She explained the Medicare and Medicaid criteria for admittance to a long

term care nursing facility. The hospital board and new CEO Kevin Rogels, are still very focused on their strategic planning. The long term care and ER are being expanded. She left copies of her report for our residents.

The representative in charge of the hospital's ambulance service spoke on plans being made to improve service. Since a lot of time is spent doing transfers, a new transfer unit will be available that is equipped for pre-hospital. He gave a special thanks to Clearwater Fire and Rescue.

Public Comment: Reatha Cochran spoke on behalf of Aarwood Trail residents. She requested that the board vote to apply the 2015 tax millage for roads to Aarwood Trail. She presented facts, figures and pictures on conditions of the road. Further discussion by various members of the audience regarding Aarwood Trl. followed. One section of the road has actually failed and will need extensive repairs. Much of this is due to poor drainage. Several other residents of Aarwood Trail expressed their concern with safety issues and the condition of the road and asked the board to consider some resurfacing of Aarwood Trail instead of Morrison Rd.

Parks & Recreation: Pat Gray reported that the Parks & Recreation committee had completed the final draft of the Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan. The committee consisted of Pat Gray, Chair, Norma Mariage, Jeanne Newman, Dale Gaylord, Reatha Cochran, Joy Ginter, Paula Larson, Joe Gaylord, Trevor Darnell, and Tina Norris Fields. A public hearing has been scheduled for February 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Township Community Center. The draft of the plan will be available in the township office and also on the township website.

Planning Commission: No meeting was held this month.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Niederstadt read Guy Molby's report for the past month, and reported on complaints.

Assessors Report: Dates for Board of Review will be available next month.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glade Valley Road Bridge: Niederstadt has had contact with the potential buyers of Sam Faul's property and also received a report from HH engineering company who recently inspected the bridge. They have indicated the bridge can be upgraded from its current 3 ton limit to a 10 ton limit with the addition of four I beams. They are able to do the necessary engineering work and get all permits for a cost of \$1900.00. Sam Faul had agreed to pay this expense at a previous township meeting. However there is now a tentative offer for the purchase of Fahl's property. A resolution is being prepared by our attorney and the prospective buyer's attorney whereby the new owners would reinforce the bridge structurally without taking away the historic value of the bridge entirely at their cost. The estimate to do the bridge work is approximately \$18,000.00. There were still concerns to be addressed in the resolution and brokers for the buyer who were present at the meeting stated that those conditions have been addressed.

Since the board has not had an opportunity to fully address the wording of the resolution, it was moved by Niederstadt and seconded by Seaman to hold a special meeting of the

Clearwater Township Board on January 29, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Clearwater Township Hall to act on the proposed resolution.

Motion passed.

Road Commission Lease Agreement: Niederstadt reported that the signed lease agreement for the property at the Aarwood Road Bridge has been recorded with the county. The \$1.00 fee will be paid to the Road Commission.

Personnel Policy: Clerk Vance will be working on that.

FOIA Policy: The matter will be taken up next month.

Budget Workshop Meeting Date: Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Beland to hold the budget workshop meeting on Saturday, February 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clearwater Township Community Center. All in favor. Motion passed.

Sheriff's Road Patrol Contract: The amount of the contract remains the same. Niederstadt will send it to our attorney for his opinion prior to the board accepting the contract.

Additional Items:

Cemetery Lots: Beland presented information on property that is for sale adjacent to our cemetery. The owner has stated he will sell 25 acres to the township for \$50,000.00. There is substantial wood on the property that could be logged to offset the cost. She feels we need to think about future generations.

Rental Agreement for Township Facilities: Niederstadt and Gray will discuss changes which need to be made to the sample agreement provided by our attorney.

Alleyways: Beland questioned whether the township was willing to abandon any of the alleyways and Niederstadt stated "yes". However we need in writing a formal request that states the intentions of the individuals requesting the abandonment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reappointment of various board members

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Seaman to reappoint David Lawicki and Lucy Gerlach to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a three year term. All in favor. Motion passed.

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Beland to reappoint Tom Backers to the Planning Commission for a three year term. All in favor. Motion passed.

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Seaman to reappoint Bob Bergman and Truman Bicum to the Board of Review as permanent members for a two year term. Also reappoint Carol Backers as an alternate member to the Board of Review for a two year term. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of revised "Notice of Public Hearing "

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Seaman to approve the revised "Notice of Public Hearing Form" to be used by the Zoning Board of Appeals in their mailings. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of amended article XXVI.

It has been over a year since the amended version of article XXVI was first brought to the Township Board for approval. It was not acted on at that time. In the past year some "housekeeping items have been done on the article. On the recommendation of our attorney, another public hearing should be held on the changes prior to board approval. Therefore, it was put on hold at this time.

Morrison Rd. or Aarwood Trl. to Pave in 2015?

There was considerable further discussion on which road should be addressed with the millage funds from 2015. In a previous meeting the board had voted to finish the 8/10^{ths} of a mile on Morrison Rd. in 2015. The Kaskaska County Road Commission needs a decision soon as they will be soliciting bids in February for the road work.

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Seaman to include as part of the Special Meeting on January 29, 2015 a decision on which road will be paved in 2015. All in favor. Motion passed.

Iron Bridge

Dale Gaylord requested that a historical marker sign be placed on Valley road indicating the site of the Old Iron Bridge. Beland requested that we see a design with information prior to ordering a sign. Niederstadt hesitates to put a sign up pointing out the site due to the condition of Glade Valley Rd. and the bridge. It was agreed to wait until spring for a sign. Gaylord further explained the Clearwater Conservancy was formed for the purpose of raising funds to restore the bridge. Since they do not have a 501C classification for donations, she asked if the township could set up a special fund for the collection of donations. Niederstadt will check with MTA to see if this is possible. He will also request a Seasonal Road sign for Glade Valley Rd.

Niederstadt read a note from an area resident who praised our assessor, Dawn Kuhns for the time Dawn had spent helping the individual complete paperwork.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Gray, Deputy Clerk