

Regular Meeting
February 18, 2015

Approved 3.18.15

The regular meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Niederstadt. Board members present were: Niederstadt, Seaman, Beland, and Crambell. Vance was absent. Deputy Clerk, Gray recorded minutes in the absence of Vance. Also present were 15 guests.

Supervisor Niederstadt opened meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Moved by Beland, seconded by Seaman to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of January 21, 2015 as presented. All in favor – motion passed.

Moved by Beland, seconded by Niederstadt to approve the minutes from the special meeting of January 29, 2015 as presented. All in favor – motion passed.

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Crambell to approve the minutes from the special meeting of February 7, 2015 as presented. All in favor – motion passed.

Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Crambell to approve the minutes from the budget workshop meeting of February 7, 2015 as presented. All in favor – motion passed.

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

Public Comment:

Dale Gaylord spoke and reiterated again on what an important piece of property the Old Iron Bridge is to the community and that it may be one of the oldest bridges in America. She feels it is very important that we keep its historical value.

The real estate broker who represents the Stevens, potential buyers of the Fahl property, spoke on their behalf. He thanked the board for the time and extra meetings they have had in attempting to approve a contract with the Stevens for \$18,000.00 in improvements to the Old Iron Bridge. With all of the changes that have occurred since the initial contract was presented, he feels the whole process has become very convoluted. The Stevens have only wanted to upgrade the bridge to a 10 ton limit to allow emergency vehicles, etc. and done according to the township's engineer. They do not understand the concerns.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Beland, seconded by Seaman to approve the agenda as presented. All in favor-motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund, all accounts, \$296,843.00; Public Improvement Fund, \$13,130.96; Road Improvement Fund, \$52,387.57; Fire Fund, all accounts, \$84,879.75; Fire Equipment Fund, \$37,273.20; Tax Fund, \$42,405.69.

Moved by Crambell, seconded by Beland to accept the agreement for collection of summer school property taxes between Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District and Clearwater Township, July 1, 2015. Roll call vote: Seaman, yes; Beland, yes; Niederstadt, yes; Crambell, yes. Motion passed.

The treasurer balanced with the bank and with the clerk.

Clerk's Report: Moved by Crambell, seconded by Beland to approve paying bills from the General Fund as presented. Voucher #21187 through 21224. Roll call vote: Seaman, yes; Crambell, yes; Beland, yes; Niederstadt, yes. Motion passed.

Moved by Crambell, seconded by Beland to approve paying bills from the fire fund as presented, voucher #7376 through 7393. Discussion from fire chief indicated that vouchers 7391, 7392, and 7393 were already paid under voucher #7386, 7387, & 7388.

Moved by Crambell, seconded by Beland to rescind the previous motion. Approved.

Moved by Crambell, seconded by Beland to approve paying bills from the fire fund, voucher #7376 through 7390. Roll call vote: Beland, yes; Crambell, yes; Seaman, yes; Niederstadt, yes. Motion passed.

Fire Department Report: West stated that our insurance company is going to readdress the Fellows Claim. Bradley is still looking into fire suppression systems and will bring recommendations to the next meeting. The garage doors have been repaired so they open properly. West advised that if the department is approached about people needing to do community service, he is going to direct them to the township officials.

Parks & Recreation: The committee held a public meeting February 10th on the 5 year Parks and Recreation Plan and has scheduled a second final public meeting for February 24th. This will allow the public 30 days to examine the document. It was published in the papers on January 21st. Niederstadt moved and Beland seconded to have a special meeting at 6:00 p.m. on "February 25th to vote on approval of the 5 year Parks and Recreation Plan. All in favor-approved.

Planning Commission Report: A public hearing will be held on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the proposed revision of Article XXVI of the Zoning Ordinance.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Niederstadt read Guy Molby's report for the month of January.

Assessor's Report: Dawn Kuhns reported that assessment change notices have gone out to residents. She will be having an Assessor's Board of Review on Monday, February 23rd from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. prior to the scheduled Board of Review meetings on March 11th & 12th. She will be taking appointments for questions at the Board of Review on the 11th & 12th of March.

Moved by Niederstadt seconded by Seaman to accept Resolution #1 of 2015 which allowed an alternative starting date for Board of Review from March 9th to March 11th, 2015. All in favor – motion passed.

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Sheriff Abe Devol introduced Regan Foester who will be the new deputy in our township. He has been a deputy for the past two years. He genuinely cares about people and is anxious to get to the school and work with the kids. Foester gave his monthly report and answered questions. Devol also reported that the new contract with the sheriff's department has been sent back to the Kankaska County Commissioners for their review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Glade Valley Bridge: The board discussed the latest revision in the resolution and agreement between Clearwater Township and the Stevens which was done on February 16th. Beland outlined several items which were still a concern to her, and still feels the wording "10 tons or

more” should be changed. The township had requested that item #9 in the agreement be deleted, and it is still in the latest version.

Moved by Crambell and seconded by Niederstadt to approve the resolution to grant authority to enter into an agreement regarding the Old Iron Bridge. Discussion – Beland feels it is a mistake to accept the agreement as it is written. Seaman has a problem with so much wording being changed. Roll call vote: Crambell-yes; Beland-no; Niederstadt-yes; Seaman-no. Motion is not approved.

Personnel Policy: Beland stated she and Vance were working on the policy and will present it to the board.

FOIA Policy: Moved by Beland and seconded by Seaman to accept the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) policy. This will be resolution #2 of 2015. Roll call vote: Niederstadt-yes; Crambell-yes; Beland-yes; Seaman-yes. Motion passed.

Road Patrol Contract: Niederstadt reported that five townships who have the same attorney came together to work on this contract. They have agreed on a contract and it is now going to the Board of Commissioners in Kankakee. It will come back to the township after they have reviewed it.

Cemetery Land: Discussion on the report prepared by Gray on the number of burial lots still available in the cemetery. Beland is checking with a forester regarding the value of timber or clear cutting on the properties. Tabled until next meeting.

Rental Agreement for Township Facilities: Niederstadt and Gray have worked on changing some of the wording in the document supplied by the attorney so that it can apply to both facilities. It will be submitted to the board for review before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

2015 Budget: The proposed budget is available for the public. It will be adopted in March.

Board of Review Appointment: Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Crambell to reappoint Kathy Eldridge to the Board of Review. Roll call vote: Crambell-yes; Seaman-yes; Beland-yes; Niederstadt-yes. Motion approved.

Julie Vance Resignation: Moved by Crambell, seconded by Seaman to accept the resignation of clerk, Julie Vance as of June 1, 2015. Roll call vote: Beland-yes; Crambell-yes; Seaman-yes; Niederstadt-yes. Motion passed. Niederstadt will check with our attorney on exact procedures for filling the position.

Appointment to Zoning Board of Appeals: Moved by Beland, seconded by Crambell to appoint Mike Gaylord to the ZBA. Roll call vote: Seaman-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Beland-yes; Crambell-yes. Motion passed.

Jeff West-Constable Information: West will present at next meeting.

Pete Edmonds: Edmonds spoke to the board regarding an issue last year involving signs when he had attempted to get the zoning ordinance enforced. He explained circumstances about his complaint against the zoning administrator and planning commission chairperson. He feels the planning commission person should be removed from his position because he acted out of his authority. He feels an apology is in order from both persons. Crambell expressed an apology from

the board for the actions of the township officials and recommended the board look at revamping the zoning administrator position.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Par Gray, Deputy Clerk