

Regular Meeting
March 18, 2015

Minutes approved 4/15/2015

The regular meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor Niederstadt who opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call of board members present: Crambell, Seaman, Beland and Niederstadt. Vance was absent. Deputy Clerk, Gray recorded minutes in the absence of Vance. Also present were 11 guests.

Moved by Seaman, seconded by Crambell to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 18, 2015 as presented. All in favor-motion passed.

Moved by Crambell, seconded by Niederstadt to approve the minutes the special meeting of February 28, 2015 as presented. All in favor-motion passed.

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

Public Comment: David Lawicki advised that improvements are being made to the boat launch on the Torch River to allow additional parking. He suggested the township board might consider a parking ordinance to eliminate parking on Crystal Beach Rd. and Aarwood Trl. Signs could be posted and while it would have to be enforced, fines from enforcement could benefit the township. Sheriff Devol commented that according to the State Police, it is legal to park on a roadway as long as vehicle is entirely off the pavement.

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

Treasurer's Report: General Fund, all accounts, \$257,370.75; Public Improvement Fund, \$13,132.85; Road Improvement Fund, \$100,351.67; Fire Fund, all accounts, \$162,718.18; Fire Equipment Fund, \$78,114.52; Tax Fund, \$75,106.17.

Clerk's Report: Two additional bills were added to General Fund checking. Moved by Crambell, seconded by Niederstadt to approve paying bills from the General Fund as presented. Voucher #21225 through #21273. Roll call vote: Beland-yes; Seaman-yes; Crambell-yes; Niederstadt-yes. Motion passed.

Three additional bills were added to the Fire Fund checking. Moved by Crambell, seconded by Seaman to approve paying bills from the fire fund as presented, voucher #7391 through #7410. Roll call vote: Crambell-yes; Beland-yes; Seaman-yes; Niederstadt-yes. Motion passed.

The treasurer balanced with the bank and the clerk balanced with the treasurer.

Sheriff's Report: Sheriff Devol reported that the new contract with the sheriff department has been approved by the Kalkaska County Commission. One small change is being made and it will then be e-mailed to the township for review. Deputy Regan Forester gave his monthly report. There was discussion on the parking situation at the school when students are being dropped off & picked up. Deputy Forester is proposing changes to the school officials to help alleviate the situation.

Fire Department Report: Discussion on the contact with Rapid River, which has not been signed.

Niederstadt will follow up with Rapid River officials to determine the reason. The fire department is running ads in the Elk Rapids News for several weeks to solicit for additional volunteers.

The department would like to install a warning siren system to be tested on the 1st Monday of each month. The warning siren would alert residents to potential disasters. Information will be provided in the upcoming newsletter before it becomes effective.

The department wants to create a 30'x 40' cement pad with fencing to be used for training of extrication from vehicles. Cost would be approximately \$3,000. West will bring specific numbers to the next meeting.

Moved by Beland, seconded by Crambell to approve \$3750.00 for an alarm system for the fire department from Northern Fire & Safety with an annual maintenance cost of \$300.00 per year after the first year. Roll call vote: Beland-yes; Seaman-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Crambell-yes. Motion passed.

The department is proposing to place a memorial plaque on the bridge at Freedom Park to honor Jim Fellows. The board had no objections and agreed it is a good idea.

Hospital Report: Mary Ann Ewald reviewed "Talking Points" from the past two hospital board meetings and distributed copies. She also explained a new policy at the hospital of applying taxpayer millage payments to patient's accounts, and distributed information on that program.

Parks & Recreation: The final public hearing on the Five Year Parks & Recreation Plan had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Therefore the plan was not submitted to the DNR by March 1st. Another hearing will be scheduled shortly for public input and the plan submitted after that.

Planning Commission: No report.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Niederstadt read Guy Molby's report.

Assessor's Report: Niederstadt reported the Board of Review was held last week. They reviewed approximately 31 appeals and will meet one more time to complete the last two appeals.

OLD BUSINESS:

Constable Information: Jeff West reported that he had done extensive research on the issue of having a constable employed by the township. He feels it could be a huge benefit to the township, however, at this time he doesn't think the township board is receptive to pursuing the idea since they have so many other issues they are dealing with. He will no longer pursue the issue at this time.

Update on filling clerk vacancy: Niderstadt stated that a notice will be run in the local papers stating applications are being taken for the clerk position. Deadline to return an application will be April 15th. After review of the applications, the board will appoint a new clerk 30 days prior to the resignation of Julie Vance on June 1st.

Committee Meeting on Building Improvement: Niederstadt will call a committee meeting within the next couple weeks to discuss building improvements.

Personnel Policy: Niederstadt will contact Vance regarding this issue.

Rental Agreement: Two separate agreements for the township hall and community center have been reviewed by Niederstadt and Gray. Board members will further review and act on next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Floor Covering for gym: Niederstadt has one bid at this time, however, he intends to look into other options and costs and bring to the next meeting. It was suggested that we look into another type of finish for the gym floor versus a covering.

Newsletter: Articles should be submitted to Gray by April 6th so the newsletter can be in the mail to residents before by the third week in April.

Clean Up Date: Moved by Seaman, seconded by Crambell to accept the contract with American Waste at \$36.00 per compacted yard for the township clean up on May 2, 2015. Roll call vote: Seaman-yes; Beland-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Crambell-yes. Motion passed.

Township Meeting Dates: Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Crambell to accept the dates for the township meetings as presented. All in favor – motion passed.

Copier Bid: Information on a new copier for the township office was presented. Moved by Crambell, seconded by Niederstadt to approve the contract with Dunn's Business Solutions for a new copier in the amount of \$3,456.00. Roll call vote: Seaman-yes; Beland-yes; Crambell-yes; Niederstadt-yes. Motion passed.

New Computer Program for Treasurer: Crambell reported that the county is going to a new program with BS&A and other township treasurers are changing to this also. We are currently using Pontem software and it appears they are slowly moving away from support they offer to the treasurer.

Cost for the software is \$4255.00 which includes training. Moved by Niederstadt, seconded by Crambell to approve agreement to purchase BS&A software for the treasurer at a cost of \$4255.00.

Roll call vote: Niederstadt-yes; Beland-yes; Seaman-yes; Crambell-yes. Motion passed.

Zoning Violation: A violation was received for "no permit" which Niederstadt has turned over to the Zoning Administrator.

Opinion on Language Changes-ZBA: Niederstadt reviewed our attorney's concerns on ZBA language changes.

Discussion on providing the deputy treasurer with the new laptop computer which was purchased for the use of trustees in researching issues. Her old computer could be used by the trustees. Beland will look into the feasibility of this.

Public Comment: West would like to see the township pursue the issue of installing a path to Heritage Park. He also asked that the township make plans to have an ice skating rink for the community next winter. After discussion, it was agreed the best place for this would be at the fire department.

Moved to adjourn meeting at 9:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Gray, Deputy Clerk