

Regular Meeting
November 18, 2015

Minutes Approved 12/16/2015

The regular meeting of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at the Clearwater Township Community Center by Supervisor Niederstadt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of board members: Seaman-present; Beland-present; Crambell-present; Niederstadt-present; Eldridge-present. Also present, Pat Gray, Recording Secretary and 15 guests.

Moved by Crambell seconded by Seaman to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of October 21, 2015. All in favor. Motion approved.

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

Public Comment: Paul Olson from Municipal Underwriters briefly outlined the current year's insurance coverage. We have had two small insurance claims in the past year. The new premium is \$15,750.00. There is Terrorism coverage available for an extra \$65.00 per year. Moved by Beland, seconded by Crambell to purchase the Terrorism coverage for an additional \$65.00. Roll call vote: Beland-yes; Crambell-yes; Seaman-no; Niederstadt-no; Eldridge-no. Motion not approved.

Moved by Eldridge, seconded by Crambell to approve the payment \$15,750.00 for the renewal of the township insurance policy with the Par Plan. Roll call vote: Crambell-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Seaman-yes; Beland-yes; Eldridge-yes. Motion approved.

Greg Payne outlined a resolution to be presented to the Department of Natural Resources requesting that the "Slow-No Wake" distance from the mouth of Torch River into Torch Lake be increased from 300 feet to 900 feet. He will be presenting resolutions from both Milton Twp. and Clearwater Twp. to the DNR for their approval. Moved by Beland, seconded by Seaman to adopt the Resolution for the Rule Modification to the Department of Natural Resources to extend the Slow-No Wake distance from 300' to 900'. All in favor. Motion approved.

Rich Gillessee from the Kalkaska County Sheriff's Dept. introduced himself.

Approval of Agenda: The Intergovernmental Agreement from the Register of Deeds office was added under new business to the agenda. All were in favor of adding item to the agenda. Agenda approved.

Treasurer's Report: General Fund, all accounts, \$216,108.63; Public Improvement Fund, \$3,088.73; Road Improvement Fund, \$27,209.72; Fire Fund, \$143,697.29; Fire Equipment Fund, \$39,469.32; Tax Fund, \$7,825.93.

Clerk's Report: Moved by Eldridge, seconded by Beland to approve paying bills from the General Fund as presented, voucher #21656 through #21708. Roll call vote: Beland-yes; Seaman-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Crambell-yes; Eldridge-yes. Motion approved. Moved by Eldridge, seconded by Crambell to approve paying bills from the Fire Fund as presented, voucher #7553 through 7565. Roll call vote: Seaman-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Beland-yes; Crambell-yes; Eldridge-yes. Motion approved.

Accountability Statement: The treasurer balanced with the bank, and the clerk balanced with the treasurer.

Fire Department Report: Greg Bradley discussed a feasibility study he has done for an addition to the fire department building to provide sleeping quarters for two persons. This would enable EMS to be at the station 24 hours a day instead of the current 12 hours. The board will have copies of the study to review prior to the next meeting.

Hospital Report: Daniel Conklin reported for Mary Ann Ewald, and stated that the Long Term Care facility is almost complete and will open January 1st with 104 beds.

Planning Commission: Eldridge reported that a Public Hearing is scheduled for the next regular meeting of the Planning Commission on December 7th regarding a proposed amendment dealing with the use of rental property.

Zoning Administrator's Report: Niederstadt reviewed various complaints that have been handled by the Zoning Administrator in the past month.

Sheriff's Report: Deputy Foerster submitted his monthly report and addressed two complaints he had received. One with a situation at Heritage Park concerning young people gathering there and another involving the use of ORV's on township roads and particularly on Main St. He distributed copies of the Kalkaska County ordinance regulating ORV's.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bid on Damaged Trees: Moved by Eldridge, seconded by Crambell to approve the bid of \$1275.00 from Unlimited Outdoors for the removal of two trees at the Little Red Schoolhouse (Community Center). Roll call vote: Crambell-yes; Seaman-yes; Beland-yes; Niederstadt-yes; Eldridge-yes. Motion approved.

Spending Resolution: Eldridge and Beland will meet in the next two weeks and bring back a draft of a Spending Resolution for the board to consider at the December meeting.

Physicals-Fire Department-Guidelines: An revision to the fire department policies regarding physicals was presented.. The board will review and act on this next month.

Article 26 Approval: Moved by Beland, seconded by Seaman to accept Amendment #3 to Clearwater Township Ordinance #22. All in favor. Motion approved.

Sandbar Committee Report: Niederstadt stated that a copy of the proposed ordinance or resolution regarding parking issues during the 4th of July weekend have been forwarded to the sheriff, the road commission and our attorney as well as the State Police for their review and recommendations. There was discussion on the role of the DNR regarding activities on the sandbar.

NEW BUSINESS:

Update on McNulty Hill Trees: Niederstadt has contacted a forester, Mike Merriweather. He will walk the property and bring a proposal to the board concerning clearing and cutting on McNulty Hill. He would obtain bids on the work and oversee the entire operation.

Heritage Foundation Information: The Lease Agreement with the Heritage and Research Foundation was discussed. Their status as a non-profit has expired, however, Jerry Cannon explained to Gray that it was being updated. The board requested that a letter be sent to Cannon asking him or Dave Isreal to attend the December meeting and explain their future plans for the foundation.

Umlor Property-Problem-Paved Patio: Niederstadt explained that a patio has been installed on the property and it comes very close to the edge of the water on Torch Lake. Article 4.03 in the township zoning ordinance references "River and Stream Protection" but does not mention "lake". The ordinance does require a 50' natural vegetative strip along a river or waters edge. No permit is required for driveways or sidewalks. Niederstadt has requested an opinion from our attorney on this matter.

Situation on Fire Hall Rental: It has come to board's attention that the fire hall was rented by an individual for a one day CPL course. There was money exchange involved with the class. Niederstadt feels it is the responsibility of the township board to decide if someone should be using a township facility. The board will ask for clarification from the fire chief and bring this up at the next meeting.

Planning Commission and Board Joint Meeting: A joint meeting of the two boards has not been held for some time. After discussion, Eldridge stated she will suggest to the Planning Commission a joint meeting be held at 6 p.m. prior to the next township board meeting on December 16th.

Assessor Agreement: An Intergovernmental Agreement from JoAnn DeGraaf, County Register of Deeds, would give assessors direct access to the Register of Deed's records. Moved by Eldridge, seconded by Niederstadt to allow our assessor the use of the technology that is available. All in favor, motion approved.

Public Comment: Question on the update of the gymnasium. An architect has not been hired to go forward with plans at this point.

A thank you to the Fire Dept. was expressed for having the "Trunk or Treat" on Halloween with about 200 kids attending.

Motion to adjourn at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Gray, Recording Secretary