

**SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**JUNE 9, 2020**

- Members Present:** Sharon Black, Bethany Bolduc, David Eggle, Dave Johns, Pete Nemish.
- Guests:** 3 citizens and Sheriff Williams joined for a few minutes.
- Opening:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Eggle with prayer and the Pledge.
- Public Comment:** Eggle opened the floor for public comment at 7:02 PM. There were two comments and public comment closed at 7:03 PM.
- Guest Presentation:** None this month.
- Clerk's Report:** The minutes from the regular meeting on May 12, 2020 were reviewed. During the reading the Clerk noticed a typo under Treasurer's report; change motion to accept the March report to April report. Wording change requested under Cem. Lawn Care final sentence; change approval to consideration. Motion to approve minutes as amended Black 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.
- Treasurer's Report:** Report for May was presented by the Treasurer – Checking account: Beginning balance \$124,731.13, Receipts \$3,277.48, Disbursements \$11,659.52, Ending balance \$116,349.09. Picnic Fund donated by citizens balance of \$0. CDs: Beginning balance \$131,216.54, Receipts \$162.03, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$131,378.57. General Fund Total ending balance \$247,727.66. Voted Millage Account (Fire and Roads): Beginning balance \$93,955.47, Receipts \$7.71, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$93,963.18. Encumbered \$64,125. Motion to accept the May report as presented, Bolduc, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns. Passed.
- Bills:** Bills were presented and discussed. Motion by Johns to pay monthly bills totaling \$4,899.75 as listed by the Clerk from General Fund, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed. Discussion of portable toilet at Center Lake Park. Nemish to contact VanPolen and add second toilet if they feel one is not meeting the needs.
- Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda as amended, Black, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.
- Co. Commissioners:** Neither Commissioner attended.
- Fire Board Report:** Johns read the Fire Board minutes, see attached, and discussed the Fire Tower & Radio. Joshua Salisbury is in the process of purchasing Franke Septic Tank business. Which may have been part of why and how the Tustin Area Fire Dept. Radio ended up being installed there by two fire fighters without approval from the Fire Board or Chief Rose. The Chief is looking into this, and it will be a topic of discussion at the Fire Board meeting(s).
- Plan Commission:** Nemish reported no June meeting, but they are planning on one in July at the usual day/time. Request for the PC to decide about August since the normal PC meeting date

is also the day of the Primary Election. Bolduc received by way of Grugal an application for a Special Use Permit for a one chair in home hair salon at a home on Center Lake. Bolduc has passed the copies on to the acting PC secretary, Tasha Lapinski, and the permit fee check to the Treasurer.

- Parks Comm.:** **Grove Hill** – mowing discussed along with cemetery mowing.  
**Center Lake** – Travis G. indicated in several conversations that the number of visitors to Center Lake park has really picked up, concern over speed on Center Lake Road, and a need for refreshing the sandy beachy area of the park. Eggle has emailed the Sheriff and asked for Center Lake Road/Park to be added to the patrols.
- Road Comm.:** No meeting due to Covid-19. We are still a couple weeks out on our brine application. They are currently working on our gravel projects.
- Sheriff Williams:** Sheriff Williams stopped into our meeting for a few minutes. He just wanted to touch base and is making his rounds of various township meetings. He reported on some changes to the way officers make their reports which has lessened the reporting time and given them more field/patrol time. He is also working a situation in Highland Twp where a woman was shot earlier today. He indicated that yes they would cruise the Center Lake Park from time to time.
- Cemetery:** Bolduc and Calkins mentioned cemetery is flowing smoothly this summer. Question about changing our cremains burial charges for next year. Seems that the standard cremains vault size is 16x16 inches. That size is nearly double what we used to dig for a non vault cremains. Also we have been charging per person even when two people are buried at the same time in the same hole. Bolduc recommends for next year changing that to one price up to 16x16 size and another price if larger. The 16x16 vault could hold two sets of cremains.
- Correspondence:** Bolduc reported receiving the following: 1) MTA “Red” Books, 2) Annual spread sheet of financial info from Rose Lake on the Maple Hill Cemetery, 3) Dividend from MI Twp Participating Plan \$387.07, 4) Metro Act Fee Sharing Pmt \$3,927.87 (all for general fund), 5) Local Comm. Stabilization funds to distribute between General fund \$82.82 and Roads \$181.23 (Fire did not get any in this payment), 6) notice for chemical treatment on Center Lake from PLM Lake and Land Management Corp, 7) info on retirement funds from Brighthouse Financial, 8) notice from Pontem our cemetery software annual fee is going up to \$400 per year, 9) thank you from Tustin Community Library for our annual donation, and 10) letter to the board from Ruthie Calkins regarding why she would like us to use ground penetrating radar to assess the cemetery.
- Old Business:**
- Area Fire Radio:** Covered during Fire Board report.
- Risk Mitigation:** Discussion and review of recommendations from the lawyer regarding our cemetery ordinance. Cindy Wotilla indicated that we could go one of two directions, a ordinance as a whole with very specific language on what is done when by whom and what we allow (which is what we presented for her to review), or a more generic general cemetery ordinance with addendums covering the what, when, and whom. We discussed and decided by consensus to go with the more specific whole ordinance approach. Bolduc will bring the suggestions by Wotilla into the document and present it next month.

- Records Retention:** No update.
- Open Seats:** Eggle is discussing the PC position with someone. If they indicate they are willing to serve, he will bring their name for consideration next meeting. Nothing on the Road Comm. vacancy.
- Hall Internet:** Nothing further at this time.
- Election 2020:** Bolduc presented some needs for “Personal Protective Equipment” (PPE) and other updates including painting the ramp floor and 3 to 4 feet up the walls. Don Akers attended the meeting and discussed what he is willing to do to help build the plexiglass shielding segments. Recommend that we keep notes on the changes to protocols as we go along. The State has indicated that they are reimbursing for some maybe all PPE and sanitation equipment/supply needs.
- Twp Clean-up:** Nemish restated Fair Salvage prices to provide 40 yard containers which would be \$640 each. Each dumpster would be limited to 6 ton and they would charge \$60 per ton for additional weight. Fair Salvage recommended for a township our size 2 dumpsters. Jessy a resident of Dighton does scrap metal and would come and work with us on that end. Concern with the Covid-19 should we do this? Discussion. Eggle will contact the County Health Dept and find out what they recommend.
- Cem. Lawn Care:** Reviewed past discussion. Reviewed meeting between Johns, Calkins, Nemish, and Kater rep. John A. Eggle moved for lawn care contract to go to Kater for \$3,000 annual charge (aprox. 8 mows) and authorize that in two payments one now and one mid September, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns, Eggle amended the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment by Johns to include an additional \$200 for parks mowing (aprox. 4 mows), amended motion carried.
- Cem. Grd Radar:** Ground radar discussion continued with additional info. Calkins described who he has gotten info from and why each was useful in their own way. Eggle commented on a conversation he had with someone from Cadillac Maple Hill Cem., their experiences with GAR (Grand Army of the Republic), and the finding of 20-25 graves they didn’t know they had when ground radar was used. Suggested that Calkins contact GAR in Grand Rapids. It was the Traverse City branch that had worked in Cadillac several years ago. Eggle thought that the GAR chapter in Grand Rapids might be larger and have better equipment or access to such. Doing the ground radar is still considered a worthy project. Recently former Sexton John Langworthy was talking with current Sexton Keith Calkins and related that once when he (John) was digging a grave he found a body! We do not want anything like that to happen again.
- Center Lake:** Reviewed email from John Iler. Re-affirmed that we voted last month to spend up to \$3,000 on milfoil treatment this summer. Sent return email to move forward.
- Tire Clean-up:** Mention was made that there are additional tire drop off dates July 28/29.
- New Business:**
- ZBA Annual Mtg:** DeVries is still coordinating this meeting. Once date is set Bolduc will publish.
- Annual Picnic:** Discussion, and sadly due to Covid-19 and lack of funding the recommendation is to cancel the annual picnic this summer.

**Treasurer Work:** Black reported that the court house is open by appointment. She generally works over the tax bills to group together those going to the same person where they own multiple parcels thus saving the Twp postage costs. She is considering using the county metered envelope rate which is 50¢ vs the stamped rate of 55¢ per envelope. The draw back is that the court house will not combine parcels. Board supports Blacks work and decision is somewhat based on what the county will allow as far as visitors in the building since Black would do the sorting there.

**Re visit Twp Clean-up:**

Because of the voter postcard Bolduc is preparing and the wish to get the word out about a Twp Clean-up Nemish motioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns, to hold a Twp Clean-up dependant on what the health dept. recommends on a date in August (which will be provided to the Clerk in time to include on the Postcards) up to 3 dumpsters at \$1,920 total cost, motion carried.

**Upcoming Dates:** Reviewed slide of upcoming dates. All meetings scheduled are tentative pending the State and Federal stay home guidelines for protecting against the spread of Covid-19.

**Announcements:** Kettunen Center is closing for good and the property will be sold. The sad end of an era!

**Ext. Pub Comment:** Eggle opened the floor for extended public comment at 9:51 PM. There was one comment, and public comment closed at 9:51 PM.

**Adjourn:** Black motioned to adjourn at 9:53 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Johns. Passed.