

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Members Present: Don Akers, Sharon Black, Bethany Bolduc, David Eggle.

Member Absent: Pete Nemish.

Guests: 20 people including Commissioner Gregory.

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Eggle. Prayer by Akers followed by the Pledge.

Public Comment: Harvey Langworthy RE Wind Turbines: “the majority of voters in Sherman Twp don’t want Wind Turbines in their Twp.” He reviewed some of the history of the two referendums and lawsuit etc.

Will Gasper RE Closed session in Sept: still has questions. He saw that it was somewhat addressed in the October minutes, but he is concerned that the Board went into closed session. Feels that we are inviting the State into our business by requesting the AG opinion on PVP.

Kimberly Leonard RE Wind and votes: asked questions about the time line of past referendum votes regarding wind zoning, and asked what PVP would do?

Rick Leonard RE Wind Turbines: asked questions regarding the Board and wind development.

Wilber Hammond RE Wind development: I’m someone who wants wind development on my land.

Eggle took a few minutes to answer some of the time line questions and the nature of what the votes were on. Black also replied to several questions regarding the closed session.

Clerk’s Report: The minutes from the regular meeting on October 13, 2015, were read. Motion to approve minutes with typo corrections on page 2 Eggle, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Report for October was presented – Checking account: Beginning balance \$73,960.91, Receipts \$15,478.41, Disbursements \$8,022.10, Ending balance \$81,417.22. This includes \$308.75 for the Picnic Fund. CD: Beginning balance \$98,938.01, Receipts \$2.69, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$98,940.70. General Fund Total ending balance \$180,357.92.

Voted Millage Account (Fire and Roads): Beginning balance \$52,352.71, Receipts \$6.45, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$52,359.16, Encumbered \$77,270.00 billed through 9/2016.

Motion to accept October report as presented, Bolduc, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Black reported on a meeting of Twp treasurers at the county and the winter tax bills being ready to mail by December 1, 2015, as required.

Bills: Bills were presented and discussed. Motion to pay bills totaling \$3,289.11 from General Fund Akers, 2nd Black. Passed.

Motion to pay Road bill for \$32,014 from Voted Millage Akers, 2nd Black. Passed.

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda as presented, Bolduc, 2nd Black. Passed.

Co. Commissioners: Commissioner Gregory was present. He discussed: EMS building in Tustin with the Co. set to take possession next week and ambulance staffing will be 3 months 24 hour staffing alternating with 3 months 12 hour staffing rotating with the Marion base. There are some questions about the timing of an open house.

Fire Board Report: Akers reviewed the minutes from the October Fire Board meeting, see attached.

Plan Commission: No report.

Parks Comm.: Iler reviewed the report from Restorative Lakes regarding Center Lake and the invasive species. Recommended to appoint an *ad hoc* committee charged to bring back to the Board a recommendation as to funding and next steps. Committee to contain one representative from each: Twp Board, Kettenen Center, Center Lake Bible Camp (CLBC), and Residents (there are about 12 private property owners). Iler said Chris Gentry from Kettenun Center is willing to participate, Iler is willing to represent residents, Akers volunteered to rep the Twp Board, and Iler will ask Duane Whitley from CLBC if he will represent them.

Motion by Eggle to establish the *ad hoc* committee on Center Lake invasive species issues as recommended and have Akers represent the Board, 2nd Bolduc. Passed.

Road Comm.: Morton reported on the Twp Road Comm. meeting last week. Eggle received a roads assessment from Luke Houlton and will report more on this at another meeting. Twp Road Comm. recommendation to pay down on our encumbered funds amount until we zero balance the account.

Correspondence: From – (1) OCTA announcement of the next meeting 11/16/2015 at 7 PM Richmond Twp hall, (2) Certificate of Ins. For Charter Comm. (3) Request from State of MI Dept Licensing and Reg. Affairs for a survey re: how Twp's handle video/cable complains. (4) Report of Maple Hill's financials from Rose Lake Twp.

Old Business:

EMS Situation: Item covered above.

Twp Roads 2015: Covered above. If anyone has comments, please direct them to the Twp Road Committee care of Ed Morton or David Eggle.

Maple Hill Cem.: Closing on the property purchase is scheduled for Tomorrow (Wed., Nov 11, 2015) at 1 PM. Purchase price is \$4,000.00 per Twp each of the four Twps. Closing costs are being paid from the reserve funds in the Maple Hill Cemetery account which are held and managed by Rose Lake Twp.

Center Lake Issues: Akers reported on his review with Luke Houlton of possible roundabout and re-structure of the parking area. Akers appealed for anyone willing to help on the committee which will review ideas and make recommendations to the Board. Will Gasper volunteered to work with Iler and Akers on Center Lake Park.

Zoning 7.9e: 7.9e is still a draft. Board waiting on PVP opinion from the AG.

New Business:

Newsletter: Winter Tax bills will be mailed by December 1st. Often we have sent newsletters in the same envelop. Not sure that people even open it and read it prior to paying their taxes during Treasurer's office hours. She has watched people open the envelope prior to writing their checks! Discussion if we want to try and push one out by next week? Another option would be to do one later when there is more info about the EMS building open house and PVP etc. Board discussed. Consensus is to wait.

Twp Email: Bolduc presented a synopsis of discussion points between Eggle, her and Piwowarski. Basically, the Twp is not in the email provider business and does not need to provide such for officials and employees even in light of the potential need for access to emails by the FOIA coordinator. Piwowarski's recommendation is to pass a policy resolution, which would include asking officials and employees to have a generic email, such as gmail, which would include the title of their office and the Twp name, that they would use for Twp work exclusively. Bolduc distributed a policy recommendation as provided by Piwowarski. Eggle asked the Board to be prepared to discuss next month. Bolduc noted that she created an account with Google this month for some cemetery work which is osceolaco.shermantwp.clerk@gmail.com and suggested following a similar format for other twp officials. (It is reported by MTA that there are nine Sherman Twp's in MI hence also listing the name of our county is important.)

December BOR: Eggle announced the December BOR will be Monday, December 14, 2015, at 9 AM and will be to correct mutual errors of fact.

Budget Adjust: Bolduc presented a copy of the General Fund Budget FY to date and a list of adjustments totaling \$6,864.00. Motion by Eggle to make adjustments as recommended, 2nd Black. Passed. (See attached for specific line items and amounts.)

Announcements: None.

Ext. Pub Comment: Keith Calkins RE BOR question: asked for clarification if the BOR was accepting petitions at the December meeting? Answer was no, not until the March BOR meeting.

Harvey Langworthy RE AG opinion letter: read from a copy of the letter Piwowarski sent to Sen. Boohar and questioned parts of the letter. Then read from a letter SOS received from their Atty K. Zites refuting the statement referencing her made in the

AG request letter by Piwowarski. In her letter Zites asked Piwowarski for a redaction and complained that he had not gotten back to her. There were several accusations made against the Twp Atty.

Ed Morton RE Road Comm.: had a comment regarding the pay down of encumbered amount.

There were several questions along with some back and forth with the Board and between Rick & Kimberly Leonard, and Wilber Hammond. Eggle, Black, and Bolduc replied to specific questions about the current and past zoning issues around 7.9e.

Adam Hundley RE Wind Zoning: “I don’t have anywhere else to go to live,” in contrast with others who might or do. “I think this is a lovely place to live.” He seemed to infer that he doesn’t want to have this area spoiled by Wind Turbine development.

Rick Leonard RE Wind etc.: “I don’t understand why we can’t come together on this issue.”

Kimberly Leonard RE Wind etc.: read from SOS website on her phone about supposed things the Board members are doing or not doing.

Ken Neuman RE SOS web page: defended the Board. Said he would trust the Board with anything he had.

Will Gasper PVP: Sherman Twp is a lovely place to live. Reiterated that he would like to see PVP included in 7.9e.

Harvey Langworthy continuation of previous comments for an additional minute.

Adjourn:

Motion by Bolduc to adjourn at 8:58 PM, 2nd Akers. Passed.