

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
MARCH 15, 2016

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

Guests: 12 people.

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

Public Comment: Tom Winarski RE running for State Rep (Republican): gave a presentation and took comments/questions.

Harvey Langworthy RE Wind Energy and 7.9e: two handouts “Permit for Clinton County wind farm expires” Lansing State Journal 3/01/16, “Wind turbine tumbles to ground in Thumb” by Bet LeBlanc Port Huron Times Herald 2/25/16 printed from the web. Harvey stated that he doesn’t see any problem with solar energy generation. “It was right to go for restrictions on Wind Turbines 8 years ago it is even more right now.”

Kimberly Leonard RE Wind Energy: Thumb area residents have formed FaceBook pages where lots of info is posted. Recent vote in Bad Axe went against the turbines.

Clerk’s Report: The minutes from the regular meeting on February 9, 2016, were reviewed. Nemish requested amending quote of his statement page 2 to read “I don’t agree with requesting opinion.” Motion to approve minutes as amended Eggle, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Treasurer’s Report: Report for February was presented – Checking account: Beginning balance \$70,059.51, Receipts \$13,169.42, Disbursements \$6,480.14, Ending balance \$76,748.79. This includes \$308.75 for the Picnic Fund. CD: Beginning balance \$98,948.93, Receipts \$2.78, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$98,951.71. General Fund Total ending balance \$175,700.50.

Voted Millage Account (Fire and Roads): Beginning balance \$501.70, Receipts \$.06, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$501.76. Encumbered \$25,406.00 billed through 9/2016.

Motion to accept February report as presented, Nemish, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Tax settlement done. 88% of summer and 86% of winter taxes paid.

Bills: Bills were presented and discussed. Motion to pay bills totaling \$4,705.05 from General Fund Nemish, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Report that we can continue with our current garbage company but go inactive during months when we have low garbage volume with no extra charges. Also presented the

idea of requiring hall renters to take their own trash or pay. We will revisit this next month.

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda as amended, Eggle, 2nd Black. Passed.

Co. Commissioners: Commissioner Gregory reviewed Marion Council on Aging building issue, and Veteran's Services Director position filled. Commissioner Nehmer has not be coming to Twp meetings due to his wife being ill. Commissioners are favorable to the Grove Hill Height project and would like to be kept informed. They would like to see some official recognition once project is completed.

Fire Board Report: Akers presented both January and February Fire Board minutes, see attached. Wednesday, March 16, 2016, at 6 PM the Fire Board meeting followed by their Annual meeting. All are invited to attend.

Plan Commission: Nemish report the PC had no agenda items and 1 permit.

Parks Comm.: Discussion. Center Lake – All agreements are signed. Voluntary contributions from Lake Residents have started coming. Request to double check with county road crew chief (either Luke Houlton or Jerry Nelson or both) before any final plans are set in motion on the round-about and parking.
Grove Hill – Akers described his plan to place dirt and/or rock in a berm of about 9 feet in height. Signs to indicate that it is not for climbing. Plant vegetation on it so as to limit erosion.

Request made for visuals and charts for both Center Lake park parking lot changes and Grove Hill height berm.

Road Comm.: Met first Monday. Discussed verbiage for ballot. Morton went to the County meeting where they are still discussing cost sharing model changes based on funding from the State. County underlining the need for Twps to request millage for roads. Next week County to have annual 30 minute meeting with each Twp. Luke Houlton also presented at the recent OCTA meeting. The County continues to look for a gravel pit in the North part of the county.

Correspondence: None.

Old Business:

Center Lake Issues: Covered previously.

Zoning 7.9e: Nothing new.

PVP AG Opinion: Attorney General Opinion Letter received today, see attached. AG will NOT give any determination or opinion on the matter. Eggle read the letter. It is up to us to formulate a path forward. There was discussion around the table.

New Business:

Ballot Wording: Bolduc provided a copy to board members of our Attorney's suggested wording based on "new" millage, "renewal" millage at the Headlee reduced rate or hybrid wording

using the word renewal but putting us back at a full 2 mills. Since this info arrived to Eggle and Bolduc late in the day today, the board will discuss and decide at the April meeting. Deadline to get ballot wording to the county is May 10, 2016.

Wind Moratorium: Bolduc reviewed resolution 20160315 a Moratorium on Wind Energy systems, see attached. Discussion. Nemish and Akers are not in favor of continuing moratoriums on wind energy and would like to see 7.9e voted asap. Nemish wants the board to consider at their next meeting a motion on 7.9e. Following round table discussion, motion to enact Resolution 20160315, a moratorium on wind energy systems, roll call vote was 3 yes, 2 no. Passed.

Assessor Position: Eggle advised the board that we have published the position opening for Assessor. We hope to receive resumes and do interviews in late April. Black interested, due to treasurer work being done more closely with assessor's work, in being part of the team who interviews potential new assessors. Eggle will also see if the County Equalization Dept can help us.

Tire Clean-up 2016: Suggested date of June 16, 2016, first time slot of the day, for our Twp people to volunteer to load tires. New this year, citizens from any Twp can BRING tires on ANY DAY, not just the day that their Twp is volunteering to load!

Computers: Bolduc explained that to use the Microsoft suite of programs (Word, PowerPoint, Excel), the Supervisor's lap top and the Twp Hall desk top need to get hooked up to the Internet every so often. There is not a good way to manage this without spending way to much (Internet only used for one purpose) or using someone's personal hot spot (or cell phone turned into hot spot). Bolduc presented some info on how to work around this. Nemish motioned to purchase two computer license for the Microsoft suite spending up to \$400, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Adjust FY15/16: Bolduc presented changes (see attached) which need to be made to the current FY. Those were reviewed. Motion to shift and add funds as presented Eggle, 2nd Black. Passed.

Announcements: Bolduc thanked her husband David for fixing the microphone floor connection which was broken off where cord and connector meet.

Pictures of Shanks School and picture from the old Grove Hill Fire Tower of TV 9&10 tower being built circa 1952/53, provided by Mark Schmidt. Eggle proposed to make copies and place on the wall similar to other pictures.

ZBA Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, May 17, 2016.

Ext. Pub Comment: Harvey Langworthy RE 7.9e: Confused. Asked for enlightenment. Board employed by citizens of Twp. Legislator made promises - they didn't do what they promised, so we have a maverick named Trump running for President. I'm dumbfounded.

Ed Morton RE 7.9e: I think the ordinance is quite prohibitive. I've heard Harvey reference a referendum. To me it seems like a threat. Adopt 7.9e as written. Keep researching PVP. At least we would be protected. I think the Board has been diligent

to stay out of legal trouble AND listen to the people.

Keith Calkins RE PVP: Did a web search and Centerville Twp has PVP.

Ron Moesta RE 7.9e: Examine the whole process, in answer to Harvey, and the charge that the Board and PC have not listened. I think we are virtually prohibiting Wind Turbines from coming in. What more can you do to send a letter to the AG? Only non-rational person thinks you have not done all to listen to the people. It is a show of strength to say – “you will do one more thing or we’ll bring referendum!” PC and Board have compromised over and over again.

Eggle replied that no one should impugn someone’s motives. Everyone has opinions. Let’s leave the personal attacks on the Internet.

Nemish commented about the extremes and compromises.

Moesta, “Eggle you are an eternal optimist!”

Adjourn: Motion by Bolduc to adjourn into Annual Meeting at 8:55 PM, 2nd Akers. Passed.