

SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD
MONTHLY MEETING
MAY 9, 2017

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

Guests: 6 people.

Opening: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Eggle with a Memorial Day tribute to those who have fallen then prayer by Akers followed by the Pledge.

Public Comment: Eggle opened the floor for public comment at 7:09 PM. There were no comments and public comment closed at 7:09 PM.

Divert to Report on Cemetery Trees:

Bolduc read the report from Paul Drysdale regarding the review of the cemetery trees done by Drysdale on April 26, 2017, see attached. Identified two large maple trees which need to be removed. Bolduc showed pictures from the computer on the large screen of which trees and what their issues are. Tim Simmerson of Aspen Outdoors attended the meeting and spoke about his recommendations. He will get estimates from tree services. He won't do the work himself, but will plan to work with and oversee the removal. It will require bucket trucks and lots of safety precautions.

Clerk's Report: The minutes from the meeting on April 11, 2017, were reviewed. Motion to approve minutes as presented Eggle, 2nd Akers. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Report for April was presented – Checking account: Beginning balance \$81,504.53, Receipts \$5,108.54, Disbursements \$12,550.47, Ending balance \$74,062.60. This includes \$188.75 for the Picnic Fund as donated by citizens. CD: Beginning balance \$129,332.71, Receipts \$5.29, Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$129,338.00. General Fund Total ending balance \$203,400.60.

Voted Millage Account (Fire and Roads): Beginning balance \$67,190.19, Receipts \$12,017.66, Disbursements \$5,968.77, Ending balance \$73,239.08. Encumbered \$21,425.00.

Motion to accept April report as presented, Bolduc, 2nd Nemish. Passed.

Bills: Bills were presented and discussed. Motion to pay monthly bills totaling \$8,320.28 from General Fund, Akers, 2nd Nemish. Passed.

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda as presented, Akers, 2nd Nemish. Passed.

Co. Commissioners: Commissioner Gregory attended and spoke on several county wide issues: COA building in Marion, Co. Parks, Hazmat clean-up October 14 North county road garage, emergency radio 800 MHz system, and WestMichiganDashboard.org.

Fire Board Report: Akers presented the minutes of the April Fire Board meeting, see attached.

Plan Commission: Nemish reported on the PC meeting. The April 4, 2017, Public Hearing happened as planned. Two permits were issued. Board raised a couple of questions regarding a couple other signs and buildings which they wondered if the owners had gotten permits for. Also, Fitzgerald's Adult Foster Care home on 20 Mile Rd. has requested a zoning permit to up their number of clients. Since this changes their category, there is a Public Hearing being scheduled during the June 6, 2017, PC meeting. Also an additional change to the Zoning Ordinance: dropping a sentence which is a near duplicate of another sentence and 4.6A dropping 7. The Public Hearing for the Verizon proposed monopole tower on Holmes property will also be on June 6, 2017.

Parks Comm.: Akers reported that the parking lot project at Center Lake Park is basically completed with the exception of some donated plants which will be placed between the yews. The project on Grove Hill has been pushed forward by a lot including donation of black dirt for the top of the mound, so grass will grow nicely on it. Many thanks for all the help from the community. One citizen was displeased that the footings from the old fire tower are partially covered up. Iler is donating grass seed.

Bolduc reported that we need to pay an extra bill for the portable toilet at Center Lake. The invoice will be arriving later this week. Somehow the bills from December 2016 and January 2017 didn't get sent, due to a computer mix-up. Per phone consultation with Van Polen it will be \$170 for the two months. Motion by Eggle to pay Dec 2016/Jan 2017 Van Polen bill as soon as it arrives for \$170, 2nd Black. Passed.

Garbage service starts up again for the summer season next week.

Road Comm.: Morton reported on the Road Committee meeting. Gravel Road assessment is about half done. There are questions as to the why's of the cost sharing between the county and the townships on the gravel road maintenance especially ditching. It would cost \$19,000 to lay gravel 4 inches deep along 1 mile of road! Thursday, May 11, 2017, the remaining roads will be reviewed. The plan is to lay gravel by previously identified spots rather than by the mile.

Correspondence: Bolduc had 5 items 1) FCC re: proposed Verizon tower on Holmes property, 2) Center Lake weed control notice of chemicals to be used, 3) State Dept of Treasury re: AMAR scheduling process started (no firm date yet), 4) State Pub Service Comm. Hearing for customers of Consumers Energy Co., 5) State Dept. Licensing and Reg on video franchise issues.

Old Business:

Park Projects 2017: Grove Hill – see above.
Center Lake – no issues.

Cemetery Sign: Still working this issue. Eggle recommended to check out other cemetery signs. Reviewed cemetery contract with Aspen Outdoors. Motion by Eggle to renew with minor changes, see attached, contract with Aspen Outdoors for season 2017 into early 2018 as per the last two years, 2nd Black. Passed.

- Kettunen Lumber:** Nothing to report.
- AMAR:** Two letters affirming that we are on the schedule for review this year, but no specific dates.
- Zoning Ordinance:** More minor editorial type changes are needed, so this is currently on hold.
- Tire Clean-up:** Sherman Twp will once again participate with the multi-township Tire clean-up headed up by Peggy Hoard from Middle Branch Twp. Our date to help is June 28 from 8 - 9:30 AM. See attached power point slides for other dates when drop offs can occur. Eggle requested that we place a notice on our website. The event has similar parameters to last year for size of tires and them being cleaned and dry.
- Audit:** Bolduc and Black have received word that the Audit is scheduled for May 30 and 31, 2017, (Tuesday and Wednesday). They will coordinate with opening the hall and providing items as requested.
- New Business:**
- Cemetery:** Bolduc briefly reviewed that we are currently discussing with a family issues related to their loved one's headstone. It appears to them that it was moved during a recent near by burial. Bolduc has investigated and thinks the evidence points to it being a cosmetic issue where dirt was placed for holding between digging the new grave and filling the same, so there was dirt mussed over an older grave. She will continue to work with this until the families are content that we have done what we needed to do.
- Upcoming Dates:** Eggle reviewed on a power point slide upcoming meetings and important dates.
- Misc. Items:** Bolduc moved to follow a Post-Audit method of bill payment where bills not payed by a specific date outside the normal township meeting cycle would incur a late fee or cause other hardship to the township. Bills paid in this manner will be limited to regularly occurring utility bills, invoices with penalties, and grave openings once the payment from the funeral home or family has been received, all bills will remain subject to review either before or post payment by the Trustees and Board as normal, 2nd Akers. Passed.
- Announcements:** None.
- Ext. Pub Comment:** Eggle opened the floor for extended public comment at 8:53 PM. There was one comment, and public comment closed at 8:53 PM.
- Adjourn:** Motion by Akers to adjourn at 8:53 PM, 2nd Black. Passed.