

**SHERMAN TOWNSHIP BOARD**  
**MONTHLY MEETING**  
**January 13, 2014**

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

**Guests:** 9 guests.

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

**Public Comment:** Elna Sherman RE: Cemetery and Center Lk Park. Related observing a gentleman trying to get into the cemetery by walking through the middle gate at Christmas. He was old and using a walker and couldn't really make it in. She would like to see the cemetery open so that people can drive up near their loved ones graves all year. Eggle said that he would put discussion of such on the agenda and that we would talk with the Sexton and get his opinion, too. Second, Elna mentioned that she would like to see a changing "room" be created/provided for the Center Lk Park. People have no place to change except they prop up tables or change in the port-a-potty.

Harvey Langworthy RE: Wind Energy/zoning etc. Everybody knows me, I've been around about 7 years fighting on wind turbines coming into the Twp. Talked with a voter today that felt the ordinance is ok. Energy company can ask ZBA for a variance and take out two little things and turbines would go in all over. He reviewed some history. Said that we need restrictive zoning. Let's sit down like ladies and gentlemen and get it over with.

**Agenda diversion:**

**Roads:** Luke Houlton the Osceola Co. Road Manager came to discuss a contract for paving in the Dighton area. There was considerable discussion. Nemish and Akers were concerned that the contract presented was extremely open-ended. Houlton mentioned that there was a loop hole where the State would allow for us to back out if the bids all came back at 10% or more over the estimated cost. Motion was made to accept a rewritten contract with that loop hole in writing between Osceola Co. Road and Sherman Twp. The estimated Twp portion to be \$74,000 for 1½ HMA overlay and related work on 19 Mile Road and 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue east and north to 20 Mile total approx. distance 2.0 miles with the Twp having an option to void the contract if all bids exceed 10% of estimated amount. Payments to be spread over two years with final payment due by September 15, 2016, Eggle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bolduc. Roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no. Houlton will get a revised contract to Eggle who will coordinate with Bolduc for signatures.

**Clerk's Report:** The minutes from the regular meeting on December 9, 2014 were read. Misspelling of waiver on pg 3 under "BOR Dates". Motion to approve minutes as amended, Akers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report for December presented – Checking account: Beginning balance \$58,159.39, Receipts \$14,565.11, Disbursements \$7,979.75, Ending balance \$64,744.75. This

includes \$373.75 for the Picnic Fund. CD: Beginning balance \$98,713.56, Receipts \$2.68 Disbursements \$0, Ending balance \$98,716.24. General Fund Total ending balance \$163,460.99.

Voted Millage Account (Fire and Roads): Beginning balance \$1,842.98 Receipts \$17.18, Disbursements \$0 (bank fee reimbursed.), Ending balance \$1,860.16, Encumbered \$0.

Motion to accept December report as presented, Bolduc, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.

**Bills:** Bills were presented and discussed. Motion by Nemish, 2<sup>nd</sup> Akers. Passed.

**Agenda:** Motion to approve agenda as amended, Black, 2<sup>nd</sup> Akers. Passed.

**Co. Commissioners:** Mark Gregory and Jack Nehmer took over on January 1 as Co. Commissioners representing Sherman Twp. They are welcome to attend and present at our meetings. Neither could make it this evening. Nehmer has indicated to Eggle that he will come to a meeting soon. He was reportedly at Highland Twp meeting this evening. Eggle has not made personal contact with Gregory yet and will continue to try and extend our invitation.

**Fire Board Report:** Akers reviewed minutes from the December Fire Board meeting, see attached. FYI in case of disaster at Pine River school 911 dispatch will tone out LeRoy first then Tustin.

**Plan Commission:** Nemish reported on the PC meeting and Public Hearing on 7.9e which was held on January 6, 2015, see attached *draft* of PC minutes. One permit issued. Not as many attended Public Hearing as we had expected. General consensus was that 7.9e is not restrictive enough. PC motion to table a vote on draft of 7.9e so they can further consider it.

There was general discussion. In reference to one item discussed at the Public Hearing, Eggle suggested that PC contact the Equalization departments of Missawake Co. and Huron Co. and see what land values are doing in areas where turbines are in place.

Eggle asked each board member what their thoughts were:

Akers speaking as board member and as citizen, we get so many ½ truths in the newspaper and on the Internet and many reports are exaggerated.

Eggle, voters have spoken, two times, and the majority of people don't want turbines. Does the minority have rights at all?

Bolduc, thinks that what is driving peoples position (from both sides of the issue) is purely economics.

Black, a company is not going to just stick their toe in the water unless they think they can get someplace.

Discussion of property value protection. The board is comfortable with wider setbacks. People at the Public Hearing mentioned lots of #'s – between turbines, between turbines and un-leased property and each time the numbers were greater than what is in the current draft. So re-evaluate and maybe make our zoning ordinance tighter. Eggle would like the PC to research property value protections

and what that might look like. Review other models from places where it is in place. Nemish asked for specifics to take back to the PC. Eggle replied that given what we discussed it is fair to say that the Twp board would like it to be more restrictive.

- Parks Comm.:** Akers touched base with Bazuin, logger engaged to thin the Grove Hill Park trees. They plan on doing the work yet this winter season. Akers will touch base again before Feb. meeting to see if there are any updates.
- Road Comm.:** No Road Comm. meeting this month. Morton and Johns were not at Twp mtg to report on anything else. Other Road business was already covered.
- Correspondence:** From– MTA official notice of convention in January  
Mid MI Community Action on a program called Step Forward MI to help homeowners facing delinquent mortgage issues.  
Maple Hill cemetery ledger of expenditures for FY to date.  
Chris Mathewson a request for the Twp Board to hold a hearing on 7.9E proposed amendment to our zoning ordinance. Requested it on a weekend so more people could attend.  
Karrie Zeits on behalf of SOS and Mr. Mathewson urging us to re-evaluate our position on emails and the recent FOIA. Bolduc has already spoken with Nathan Piwowarski in reference to these last two items.
- Old Business:**
- EMS Situation:** Eggle gave an update. County has closed on land in Tustin. At next BOC mtg engineer to present building options. Meetings are 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 9:30 AM in Co. building upstairs.
- Twp Roads 2015:** Nothing further.
- Matthewson FOIA:** Bolduc reviewed the status of the recent FOIA. All physical documents have been delivered. Full payment has not been received. Amt owed is \$197.12. An invoice has been generated and will be sent. One of the letters sent to C.M. with delivery confirmation signature required, the one requesting an extension of time to complete the FOIA sent on October 31, 2014, was returned after 3 attempts at delivery were made. Bolduc checked on the tracking of the package containing the documents sent on November 13, 2014, and it was delivered the next day. All documents and copies of letters sent/received are in the FOIA binder.
- BOR Alternate:** Eggle brings to the board in nomination Pat Kochanny for alternate member of our Board of Review, 2<sup>nd</sup> Akers. Passed.
- BOR Training:** Registration and payment has been sent per motion in December for 5 members on February 17<sup>th</sup> and/or February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- New Business:**
- Budget Changes FY14/15:** Bolduc presented a listing of monies moving from one element to another, see attached, total amounting to \$1,900 and the addition of \$3,300 into the account “Delinquent Prop Tax”. Motion to make budget changes as presented, Eggle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Nemish. Passed.

- FY15/16 Budget:** The clerk presented a first draft budget for FY15/16 side by side with where we are year to date on the current FY, see attached. The new FY commences on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Discussion with further review in February building up to passing and presenting budget to the public at the March meeting. Eggle recommended to all board members to send any changes to the Clerk before next month's meeting.
- Annual Mtg:** Annual meeting is set for Tuesday, March 10, 2015, in conjunction with our monthly meeting.
- Pay Raise:** Per State guidelines the board must vote to ask for a pay increase or not prior to the Annual mtg at which point the public MUST vote it up or down. The board discussed the raise of the Cost of Living index by 1.5% per the Social Security web info. None felt that any pay raise was warranted. Motion by Black to NOT give raises FY15/16, 2<sup>nd</sup> Akers. Passed.
- Election update:** Bolduc presented to the board facts regarding the upcoming May 5<sup>th</sup> State wide election. It is hoped that since it is a State proposal and not regular ballot issues pushing this election that the State will pick up the tab.
- Cemetery Access:** Further discussion regarding the citizen request on cemetery access, see above. Eggle would like the sexton's input before finalizing decision, but at this time we are comfortable with the policies that indicate a winter closure.
- Announcements:** None.
- Ext. Pub. Comment:** Harvey Langworthy RE SOS/7.9e/NextEra. Langworthy addressed an item in last month's minutes - SOS is fighting wind turbines at the State level: January 20<sup>th</sup> at a meeting at the Kellogg Center, is part of ICC (Interstate Informed Citizens Coalition), and working to push the Huron Co. moratorium. HL would like property value protection in 7.9e. "NextEra too damn big. SOS is not going to fight NextEra."
- Adjourn:** Motion by Akers to adjourn at 9:23 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Black. Passed.