

**LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 8, 2017**

**Purpose of the meeting:** Regular monthly meeting of the Lockport Township Board.

**Members Present:** Mark Major, Melissa Major, Mike Friesner, Beccy Friesner, Tammy Babcock, Theresa Gherna-Ankney, Paul Bungart, Doug Kuhlman, Dale Hutson, Rhonda Wright

**Members Absent:** None

**Call to order:** The May 8, 2017 meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mark Major at 7:01 p.m.

Mark Major lead the Pledge of Allegiance

**Approval of Agenda:** Mike Friesner made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Theresa Gherna-Ankney made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of April 10, 2017 as presented. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

**Public Comments:**

- A. Rick Daniels, 17274 Navajo Trail, on behalf of the owners of Sauganash Golf Course, addressed the Board regarding the recent Board of Review. Roger Rathburn made a presentation to the Board of Review requesting the property tax be based on the purchase price. Taxes prior to the sale were \$600,000 per year and have now been raised to \$1,000,000 representing a 66.67% increase. The determination from the BOR was that financial statements and the profit and loss statement were not presented. He would like to know why financial statements were requested since no other businesses are required to provide. He stated they were not asking for a tax break but to have taxes restored to presale amount.
- B. Lynn McLeod, 3620 Middlebury, thanked the Township Board for working hard and listening to the properties owners regarding the sports complex. She also said the Board has stayed true to their original stand on the sports complex.
- C. Linda Baker, 56850 Haines Road, has reviewed the lawyer bills thru last November and is not happy with the amount of approximately \$49,000 spent on fighting the sports complex issue. She feels the Township would not even make that amount of money if the property was to be a housing development.
- D. Terryl Lewis, 17241 Lovers Lane, stated the City of Three Rivers has paid just as much in lawyer bills and they have not won either.

**Enforcement Officer Report:**

- A. Doug Kuhlman presented the following items on the monthly ordinance violation report.
  1. 58613 Ash Rd-A court order to demolish the property within 60 days has been issued. The owner had agreed to quit claim the property to the Township, but has now backed out hoping to sell out right. Mike Friesner made a motion to proceed with Doug Kuhlman's recommendation to accept the quit claim deed in the amount of \$1,500 if the owner of the property offers to sign. Paul Bungart

seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Theresa-Yes, Mike-Yes, Paul-Yes, Tammy-Yes, Mark-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

2. 57902 Mitchell Rd-An administrative search warrant was issued due to dogs left locked up in the dwelling. Going to court at end of the month.
  3. 58771 Ash Rd-The owner has destroyed the property.
  4. 19907 South River Rd-This case was in court this week. Property owner is trying to find someone to clean up the property at a cheaper price.
- B. Five new zoning permits have been added this month for a total of 16 year to date.
- C. In regards to the sports complex, he feels the litigation needs to proceed until the end determination. Seventy percent of the correspondence sent to the State of Michigan was against the location of the sports complex. The Township Board needs to continue to prove they have done everything possible to stop the annexation. A decision from the Appellant Court should be given within the next 30 days.
- D. The county treasurer office provided a listing of properties in the Township that were foreclosed on under PA 123. Paul Bungart made a motion to exercise first right of refusal to purchase property 75-009-040-011-00 at tax sale. Theresa Gherna-Ankney seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Tammy-Yes, Theresa-Yes, Mike-Yes, Mark-Yes, Paul-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
- E. Doug provided information regarding tax sale of property 75-029-00-015 for consideration in Township purchasing. No action taken in regards to this property.

Commented [RW1]: my

Commented [RW2]: my

#### Public Comments on Sports Complex Annexation:

- A. Charlene Zavala has attended the city commission meetings and feels that the city considers the complex annexation a done deal. She would like to express that this has never been about not wanting to allow children to have the complex, just about the location of the complex.
- B. Terry Lewis agreed with Charlene regarding the children and the location. She feels this property is too small for expansion.
- C. Doug Bingaman, although a city resident, is responsible for two properties located in the Township. He questions why this location when the city owns property South of town along US 131. He thanked the township for the commitment they have made with for this cause.

#### Assessors Report:

- A. Dale Hutson reported that all paperwork has been turned in to the State of Michigan as required.

#### Treasurers Report and Bills:

- A. Mike Friesner reported the following monthly cash statement.  
Checking balance \$1,593.33 with \$14,975.19 transferred from SMB account and checks drawn in the amount of \$14,975.19. Outstanding checks in the amount of \$30.00. Balance of accounts to date are checking account \$1,593.33; SMB savings account \$129,385.71 (\$92,000 for fire truck fund and \$51,665.00 revenue sharing included in the balance); Flagstar savings account \$247,788.84; Horizon Bank CD \$177,454.91; Kellogg Community Credit Union CD \$75,470.90 and Three Rivers Banking Center CD \$111,619.85 for a total of \$743,313.54.  
Mike Friesner made a motion to accept the treasurers report as presented and pay the bills. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

#### Chloride Program:

In a notice from the county road commission, they provide 50% matching funds up to \$15,000 for dust control treatment. Two miles of treatment for Meyers and Jacobs Roads with 42% chloride would cost \$2,840. This would be two treatments for the year. Theresa Gherna-Ankney made a motion to have the 42% chloride applied to these roads. Mike Friesner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Paul-Yes, Tammy-Yes, Theresa-Yes, Mark-Yes, Mike-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

**Correspondence:**

- A. Tammy Babcock received correspondence from the Domestic Abuse Shelter requesting the township help fund their program. The DASC is a safe house for women and children of domestic violence. Tammy feels tax payer money should not be used for this program and Theresa Gherna-Ankney said there are other ways to raise money via grants etc. Paul Bungart would like to table and have a representative from DASC give a presentation. Mark Major agreed with Paul. No further action taken.
- B. Tammy Babcock received correspondence from the Three River Chamber of Commerce seeking a donation for the upcoming water carnival. No further action taken.

**Three Rivers Ambulance Contact:**

The final contract was presented for approval. This is a five-year contract with yearly increases based on the medical consumer price index capped at 3% per year. Paul Bungart made a motion to accept the contract as presented. Mike Friesner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Tammy-Yes, Mark-Yes, Mike-Yes, Theresa-Yes, Paul-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. Community Development-No meeting this month.
- B. Intergovernmental Relations-Paul Bungart attended the 5/2/2017 meeting. The Chamber gave an update on upcoming programs of Meet the Foundation (5/4/2017), Constant Contact (5/23/2017), SBA/SBDC Round Table (5/25/2017), Water Carnival (6/15-6/17/2017) and Coffee & Connections (6/23/2017). The county reported the Veteran's Affairs have now completed the construction of the new temporary housing building. Park Township presented a copy of their newsletter and Fabius Township reported they have approved the ambulance agreement. The city of Three Rivers is completing a grant for the Millard Road trail. Compost can be purchased from the city at the site located off Broadway Road. Next meeting will be 6/6/2017.
- C. Elections-Nothing to report this month.
- D. Nottawa Library-Mike Friesner reported there are 29,455 items in the collection, the computer usage was 264, Interlibrary loan 779 items, monthly circulation 5,538, and 3,104 people used the library with Lockport patrons checking out 380 items. The library donut day has been cancelled. The Library will be closed May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for children's room renovation.
- E. Planning/ZBA-No meeting this month.
- F. Centreville Fire Board-Mark Major reported the mutual aid agreement with the City of Three Rivers has been signed and will begin 6/1/2017.
- G. SMCCI-No meeting this month.
- H. Three Rivers Library-Joe Nowicki attending the meeting. Statistics for March were door count 8,140, circulation 5,406, computer usage 1,089, ILL borrowed 402, eBooks 536, young adult programs 30, general programs 58, and adult programs 48. Circulation for the township was 732 and township cardholders was 1,214. The townships have paid their dues for the year. Welcome bags will now be given to new members. New stools have arrived and currently waiting on bids for a new counter. The city still would like the library to move to a downtown

location. On 5/10/2017 a design team will be at Southern Michigan Bank, 88 North Main, which is open to the public for comment. The 2018 proposed budget has been sent to the Board for review. The next board meeting will be 5/23/2017 at 6:00 pm.

- I. Water Department-Mark Major attending the 5/2/2017 meeting and presented the 2017-2018 budget for approval. Expenses are still up since JPR ended services, however this is because of maintenance to equipment that had been neglected. Paul Bungart made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mike-Yes, Theresa-Yes, Mark-Yes, Tammy-Yes, Paul-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.
- J. Website-Nothing to report this month.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business:

- A. Park township sends via mail a newsletter twice per year. Mark Major likes the idea of a newsletter. It was discussed if this could be sent with tax bills, however the State of Michigan pays to mail summer taxes so if there would be a newsletter sent with the tax billing it could result in the State not paying for the postage. This was tabled for now.
- B. The township is still waiting on the AED unit purchased for the township hall. Training will be available once all equipment has arrived.

Adjournment: Tammy Babcock made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mike Friesner seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

The next regular scheduled meeting is 6/12/2017 at the Township hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Wright  
Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_