

LOCKPORT TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
June 12, 2017

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

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

Members Absent: Melissa Major

Call to order: The June 12, 2017 meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mark Major at 7:31 p.m. following the annual meeting.

Approval of Agenda: Theresa Gherna-Ankney made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: Mike Friesner made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 8, 2017 as presented. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Public Comments:

- A. Charlene Zavala thanked the Board and Doug Kuhlman for all the work they have done in regards to the sports complex. She feels the people representing the city are not as polite as they should be during the meetings. Charlene is worried about predators and drug dealers approaching children at the sports complex along with increased traffic on Lovers Lane. A final decision will be on or after July 2, 2017.
- B. Terry Lewis still believes this particular property is not a good location for the sports complex.

Enforcement Officer Report:

- A. Doug Kuhlman presented the following items on the monthly ordinance violation report.
 - 1. 17340 Birchleaf Court-Doug Kuhlman issued a citation to both parties of the divorce, and the wife paid the fine. Doug Kuhlman was in court last week and the court found husband to be responsible. The permits have expired, however the owner is in the process to renew them.
- B. Six new zoning permits have been added this month for a total of 22 year to date.
- C. In regards to the sports complex, there is still much confusion on the recent decision of the Appellant Court. They ruled the water line causes the property to be habited. The city has filed an appeal to the court. The Boundary Commission has recommended LARA sign the paperwork in favor of the city. Since the county commissioners did give a deadline to the city for starting the project, it may be up to the commissioners to rescind the funding.
- D. Doug Kuhlman reported three companies are looking to start solar farms in the county. Our zoning ordinances do not allow this type of development so they would have to request a change in the ordinances.
- E. Doug Kuhlman reported a local farmer will be applying for an AFO with the State of Michigan. The AFO would be an operation with up to 600 calves.

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- F. The property located at 58613 Ash Road has been listed for \$3,790. Doug Kuhlman has rescinded the offer to purchase. A court order has been issued so the property must sell within 60 days or will be demolished.
- G. After discussion, it was decided that Doug will hold off on starting the bid process for demolition of properties until next month's meeting. This will allow time to determine if two or three properties will need to be sent for bid process.
- H. Doug Kuhlman reported he has received calls regarding the Township accepting debit card payments. There is an option, with cost charged to the payer, available. Tammy Babcock would like to see a presentation for this option. Doug is working on having a presentation for all municipalities.

Assessors Report:

Dale Hutson gave a report on how Proposal A changed how taxable value is determined. The State of Michigan sets the overall value of the whole county for which the equalization department then divides between each municipality. This is State law not the assessors. An increase can be no more than the rate of inflation, up to 5% maximum. When a property is sold, the State Equalized Value (SEV) is uncapped and could result in an increase of value and an increase of property taxes.

Treasurers Report and Bills:

- A. Mike Friesner reported the following monthly cash statement.
Checking balance \$1,623.38 with \$27,684.21 transferred from SMB account and checks drawn in the amount of \$29,720.06. Outstanding checks in the amount of \$0.00. Balance of accounts to date are checking account \$1,623.38; SMB savings account \$278,828.98 (\$92,000 for fire truck fund and Tax Savings and Tax checking monies collected); Flagstar savings account \$247,883.54; Horizon Bank CD \$177,602.93; Kellogg Community Credit Union CD \$75,470.90 and Three Rivers Banking Center CD \$111,619.85 for a total of \$893,029.58. Mike Friesner made a motion to accept the treasurers report as presented and pay the bills. Paul Bungart seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Principles of Governance:

Tammy Babcock received correspondence from the MTA requesting the Township adopt the Principles of Governance. Theresa Gherna-Ankney made a motion to accept the document as submitted and for the Board to sign. Tammy Babcock seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Paul-Yes, Mike-Yes, Theresa-Yes, Mark-Yes, Tammy-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Mileage:

Tammy Babcock reported that the current IRS mileage amount is .53 ½¢ per mile. Paul Bungart made a motion to change the mileage rate each year to the current yearly IRS guidelines rounded up to the nearest amount. Mike Friesner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Theresa-Yes, Paul-Yes, Mark-Yes, Mike-Yes, Tammy-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Cemetery:

Tammy Babcock reported the cemetery needs some work to spruce up. There is a stump from a tree the county removed last year that needs to be removed and ruts need to be leveled out. She will call the county road commission to see if they will make the repairs needed.

Mowing:

The property on North Main Street will be mowed after the building has been removed. Dale Hutson will add the amount to a tax bill if an e mail is sent to him. Mike Friesner will keep track for the township records. Doug Kuhlman is responsible for having properties mowed.

Pension:

Tammy Babcock did check with the State and verified the Township does not need to file a summary annual report.

Committee Reports:

- A. Community Development-Theresa Gherna-Ankney attended the meeting and reported station 2 and 3 fire chiefs also attended. Each department is working together to try and increase staffing. Fabius Township also attended and said Waste Management is now accepting certain types of Styrofoam.
- B. Intergovernmental Relations-Paul Bungart attended the meeting. The Chamber gave an update on upcoming programs of the Water Carnival (6/15-6/17/2017), Coffee & Connections (6/23/2017 8:00 am), Lake & Home Tour (7/29/2017 10 am – 4 pm), golf outing (8/22/2017 at St. Joe Valley). The county gave an update that animal control has purchased property for building a new facility. Park Township has passed their budget. They are resurfacing two roads and their supervisor contacted Mark requesting Lockport help with the cost of Edgerton Road. Mark indicated the township is not interested in helping. Three Rivers Health has a new cardiologist doctor on staff.
- C. Elections-Tammy Babcock and Rhonda Wright attended the clerks meeting on 6/5/2017. Lindsay Oswald told the clerks to expect the cost to replace equipment in ten years will be \$15,000 to \$30,000. The new equipment being purchased this year may include a wireless modem if the county commission approves paying the cost for all municipalities. Tammy presented a resolution to authorize the clerk to sign the grant funding paperwork to purchase new election equipment this year. Mark Major made a motion to authorize Tammy Babcock to sign the grant paperwork. Mike Friesner seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Paul-Yes, Mike-Yes, Tammy-Yes, Theresa-Yes, Mark-Yes. MOTION CARRIED 5-0. Resolution number 02-2017.
MTA requested a donation for the MTA-PAC. After discussion, it was decided the Township would not make a donation.
- D. Nottawa Library-Mike Friesner reported there are 29,601 items in the collection, the computer usage was 316, monthly circulation 4,973, Audiobooks—Children 98, OverDrive 176, and 3,718 people used the library. Summer reading program begins June 19th.
- E. Planning/ZBA-No meeting this month.
- F. SMCCI-Ed Schrader reported there continues to be brisk activity in construction plan reviews and code inspections. 18 wind turbines are to be erected between June and August in the Tuscola area. None are planned for 2018 but 50 or more could be erected in 2019. New construction, plumbing and mechanical code publications are to be purchased for the office library. The greatest activity for inspections is in Schoolcraft Township. Matters of inspection fees, an employee request for compensation consideration and review of employee benefits were issues referred to the Finance Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 7/26/2017 at 5:30 p.m. Paul Bungart asked Ed if he could provide information on solar farms.
- G. Three Rivers Library-Joe Nowicki attending the meeting. Statistics for May were door count 7,272, circulation 4,373, computer usage 921, ILL borrowed 578, eBooks 491, children's programs 218, young adult programs 34, general programs 24, and adult programs 38.

Circulation for the township was 605 and township cardholders was 702. The townships have paid their dues for the year. Welcome bags will now be given to new members. Site and building plans for the Southern Michigan Bank were provided to the board members. The next board meeting will be 6/27/2017 at 6:00 pm.

- H. Water Department-Mark Major attending the 6/6/2017 meeting. Scott King, operator, told the board that testing for the Dactal herbicide is done each year and was negative with the April testing.
- I. Website-Nothing to report this month. Mark Major said to let Melissa Major know if any new information or updates need to be done to the website.

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: No new business.

Adjournment: Mike Friesner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:37 p.m. Paul Bungart seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

The next regular scheduled meeting is 7/10/2017 at the Township hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda Wright
Deputy Clerk

Minutes Approved: _____