

**Watson Township Board Meeting
July 11, 2014**

Called to order: 7:01 P.M.

Present:

Sue Jones, Chuck Andrysiak, Rod Zeinstra, Pam Brown, and Kelli Morris.

Absent:

None.

Agenda Approval:

Chuck made a motion to approve the agenda, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

Hopkins Fire Chief:

The supervisor summarized an emailed report from the Hopkins Fire Chief.

Cemetery Report:

Sexton John Andrysiak reported he had filled and replanted grass on several sunken graves. He also reported on the condition of the cemeteries and primarily the lack of trimming around the headstones, in his consideration the problem was more concocted and not real. There was also discussion about the possibility of farmers using the cemetery drives for farm activities. Chuck commented that he is directing his energy toward the upkeep of the cemeteries from this point forward.

Planning Commission Report:

Chuck Andrysiak reported the planning commission discussed the wind and solar ordinances changes and also topics concerning Schnable Lake. He also let the board know that he and Dave Carter would be attending a planning seminar.

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell:

Jon Campbell thanked Pam for making copies of the "Tire Recycle" event. He reported that county may be moved into the new jail soon, after a few issues are worked out. He mentioned discussion on a federal court case that would make it unlawful to assess court costs to person charged with a crime. He discussed the "State of the County" report. He will email a copy when it is finished. He also went over some questions that will appear on the ballot in August. Lastly, he mentioned that he is on the ballot this August and would appreciate the support of the township.

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisor reported that she and Sue attended the Fire Board Meeting, and at that meeting they hired Marcie Fredricks to act as a bookkeeper for the Fire Board. The supervisor also summarized the audit report, including some transfers recommended by the auditor. There is some discussion on the amounts and funds. It is suggested that Mr. Angle attend our August meeting. Lastly, she reported that mice have chewed wires on one of the air conditioning units and the unit that supplies the office needed to be recharged and also needs new parts. The estimate is between \$600.00 and \$700.00 to do the repairs.

Minutes:

Rod made a motion to approve the minutes from June 5, 2014 Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Pam also answered a question Ken Pardee had asked about the placement of flags at the cemeteries.

Bills:

A motion was made by Rod to pay the bills for June, in the amount of \$17,955.83, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue gave a report on current bank balances.

Old Business:

1. Burnham Flower Insurance Renewal:

Scott McCray attended and went over the insurance policy in detail. He also explained that each year they would pay for one person to attend the six “core” classes of the “Citizen Planner”. He answered questions about coverage concerning the church building. Chuck made a motion to accept the renewal of insurance in the amount of \$4,088.00 beginning July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2014; Rod supported, Roll Call Vote: Rod-yes; Chuck-yes; Sue-yes; Kelli-yes; Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a 5-yes and 0-no vote.

Lastly, Jeff suggests taking a video reference of items in the township office and hall.

2. Wind and Solar Ordinance:

The board discussed the changes sent back from the Planning Commission. The board would like to get a final copy to present at the next meeting. Rod made a motion to incorporate the changes in a final draft, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

3. Recycling Sign Location:

There is discussion on where to put the sign. It is decided to put it on the fence.

4. Hicks Cemetery Clean-Up:

Rod explained that he met with Jesse Simpson to discuss the issues with both the driveway and the Clean-up. He explained the issue with driving on vaults currently, therefore the driveway would need to be moved several feet. He also explained that the other drive be re-routed to extend all the way back and then across the rear of the cemetery. He also identified nineteen markers where brush can be removed. Jesse believes that some can be pulled. Rod also spoke with a plant specialist that suggested spraying and waiting till spring to remove any brush. Additionally, Rod mentioned that Jesse expressed concern about the way the bid for the work was presented at last month’s meeting. Rod also asked him to add twenty-five (25) yards of gravel to his bid totaling two hundred and twenty-five (225) yards. Rod also suggests using cattle fence along the back of the Hicks Cemetery to elevate some of the unauthorized access. John Andrysiak suggests removing the pitcher pumps at the cemeteries if they are not in working order and are not going to be repaired. There is discussion on this subject and Nancy Counterman mentions that she would like to see them repaired. Rod suggested that he write up an ad for the Allegan County News and Gazette to advertise for spraying brush and cleaning up this fall and coming spring. There are no objections to this procedure.

New Business:

1. Karen Fifelski:

Karen Fifelski attended to basically catch up over the past few months on information concerning fracking. Chuck mentioned at the last Planning Commission other issues had come up and fracking was not discussed a great deal. He believes it will be discussed further at future meetings. Karen gave a brief synopsis of an article/study survey she had available. She did not read about much activity in the Southwest Lower Peninsula, most participation was in the upper Lower Peninsula. Karen also mentions a draft that she made available to Pam. She said several areas of our “master plan” would be affected by fracking. She also state that the class 2 (two) wells that do not require as much inspection are the most likely to store the fracking water. There has also been scientific evidence to support potential earthquakes in these class 2 (two) wells. Karen would like to offer her help to the board and planning commission in any way she can concerning the issue of fracking.

2. Policy/Public Records:

Rod made a motion to adopt a Policy and procedure on Public inspection and copying with the amendments discussed, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Other Business:

1. Bill Sage- Allegan County Commissioner Candidate:

Mr. Sage (Republican candidate for County Commissioner) attended and introduced himself to the board. He made a short presentation and provided the board and audience with an informational pamphlet on his qualifications. He reports that he is passionate about his county and the people of this country. There are some questions from board members and audience members. The board appreciates the attendance of Mr. Sage.

Public Comment (for topics not on the agenda):

Gary McNeal suggests that we approach a few of the new candidates with their agenda on fracking before the elections. Jeff Gouker asks about how the bids for the farm property were solicited. Pam answered that were done by sealed bids. Jeff Gouker expresses concern that the same policy was not followed with the Lawn Care Bid. Rod assures him that next season the Lawn Care bid will be published. There is some additional discussion and clarification on the subject of lawn care.

Adjourn:

Sue made a motion to adjourn, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned: 9:45 P.M.

Kelli Morris -- Watson Township Clerk