

Watson Township Board Meeting
June 5, 2014

Called to order: 7:00 P.M.

Present:

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

Absent:

None.

Agenda Approval:

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

Reports:

J.C. Wheeler Library- Martin:

A member of the J.C. Wheeler Library Board attended and gave a short summary of programs that will be beginning at the library for summer. These events included a "Summer Reading Program".

Hopkins Library:

Pam gave a synopsis of the Hopkins Library Report emailed to the township.

Hopkins Fire Chief:

Assistant Fire Chief Tom Iciek gave a synopsis of the monthly calls and other business for the Hopkins Fire Department, including the installation of the "back up" generator at our Watson substation.

Cemetery Report:

Sexton John Andrysiak was absent. Chuck read a report sent by John that included one funeral for Everett Gilson. He also reported that the flags for Memorial Day were placed one week before Memorial Day and they did find five grave sites with no Veteran marker.

Planning Commission Report:

There was no meeting for last month. Topics for the next planning commission meeting will include the review of the master plan.

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell:

Jon Campbell emailed his report to the township, but was not present at the meeting.

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisor mentioned that Mrs. Diane Stone had contacted her about her road not receiving "dust control". At the request of Pam, Mrs. Stone attended the meeting and expressed her concern that her road did not receive the first application of "dust control" for Watson Township. Mrs. Stone lives on 124th Avenue between 20th and 22nd Street. After some discussion it is realized that because this road is a boundary between Watson and Hopkins Townships it has had similar issues in the past. The board plans to contact the County and attempt to make better arrangements for the care of this road in the future. The supervisor also wanted to thank Dave Kivell for his help in loading some large items into the containers at the township "Spring Clean Up" event. Pam also read a letter from Hopkins Area Business and Recreation Committee with a synopsis of the events planned for the "4th of July Celebration" in Hopkins. The letter included a request for any contribution from area townships to offset the cost of the fireworks display.

Rod made a motion to support HABRC and contribute \$750.00 (seven hundred and fifty) dollars to their celebration (pursuant to MCL 123.851) to help defray costs, Chuck supported, Roll call vote: Rod-yes; Chuck-yes; Sue-yes; Kelli-yes; and Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes.

Lastly, the supervisor mentioned that the B-93 Birthday Bash is planned for this coming weekend (June 7th and 8th). There is some discussion about the event and changes that have been made to the event this year.

Minutes:

Rod made a motion to approve the minutes from May 1st, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills:

A motion was made by Rod to pay the bills for May, in the amount of \$12,354.24, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue gave a report on current bank balances.

Old Business:

1. Proposed Wind/Solar Energy Ordinance Review:

There is some discussion on particular portions of the ordinance, including the de-commissioning and what would be required for a "performance guarantee". There are also issues with other areas of the ordinance including the need for a "site plan" and "assurance bonds" in some cases. Additionally, there is some language with respect to the placement that may depend on the location of a resident's home. The board will send this ordinance back to the planning commission to address those areas that have been discussed by the board.

New Business:

1. Burnham & Flower – Insurance Renewal:

The board will review and renew insurance at next month's meeting.

2. Road Bids:

The supervisor went over the gravel bids received from Allegan County Road commission. The total cost to Watson Township would be \$33,981.50. Rod made a motion to accept the "gravel" bid for \$33,981.50 from R. Smith and Sons and Allegan County Road Commission, Chuck supported, roll call vote: Rod-yes; Chuck-yes; Kelli-yes; Pam-yes; Sue- abstained. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 4-yes; 0-no; with one member abstaining.

3. Hopkins Propane- Pre-Buy:

Rod made a motion to pre-buy 1900 gallons of propane from Hopkins Propane for the amount of \$3,693.14, Chuck supported, roll call vote: Rod-yes; Chuck-yes; Sue-yes; Kelli-yes; Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes.

4. MTA Renewal:

Rod made motion to renew the MTA (Michigan Township Association) membership for 2014-2015 in the amount of \$1,116.32, Sue supported, Roll Call Vote: Rod-yes; Sue-yes; Chuck-yes; Kelli-yes; and Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes.

5. Hicks Cemetery- Clean –Up/Road Repair:

The supervisor explained an issue with the second drive and a deep dip where cars are bottoming out. There is some discussion on the repair of this problem and additional maintenance and repairs to the driveways. The board received a bid of \$1878.00 from Simpson and Son's to do the driveway repair work. Rod made a motion to accept the bid from Simpson & Son's to repair the driveway and re-gravel at Hicks Cemetery for \$1878.00, Chuck supported. Roll Call vote: Rod-yes; Chuck-yes; Kelli-yes; Sue- abstain; Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 4-yes; 0-no and one member abstaining.

The board discussed the brush clean up at Hicks Cemetery. This discussion set the foreground for some comments from township residents and additional discussion pertaining to the care of the lawns at Hicks Cemetery, Miner Cemetery, and the Township Hall prior to tonight and over the

Memorial Day holiday. Rod suggested that he write up some general guidelines for cleanup at Hicks Cemetery before the board accepts a bid on the clean up.

Other Business:

1. Opinion on ORV Ordinance for County Commissioner:

Tom Iciek would like to know what recommendation the board gave Jon Campbell concerning a county ORV ordinance. Although Jon could not attend the board meeting tonight, he did ask the board to send a response concerning the review of a county ordinance that would allow the use of ORV's on county roads. The board had some discussion concerning an overall opinion. Rod made a motion to send an opinion back to Jon that the Watson Township Board is in favor of reviewing a County Ordinance allowing ORV's on Allegan County local roads, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment (for topics not on the agenda):

Ken Pardee asks if it is a common practice to use one's foot to mark distance for grave markers, as he had seen someone using this method. The board is not aware of any designated method to measure the distance of markers for a grave.

Adjourn:

Sue made a motion to adjourn, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned: 9:39 P.M.

Kelli Morris -- Watson Township Clerk