

**Watson Township Board Meeting
November 6, 2014**

Called to order: 7:00 P.M.

Present:

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

Absent:

None.

Agenda:

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

Reports:

Cemetery Report:

Sexton John Andrysiak reported there was one foundation poured this month and he added some flags and holders that were in need of replacing. He plans on leaving all flags up until after "Veteran's Day" on November 11th. He will then pull the flags for the winter season.

Planning Commission Report:

Chuck reported that the planning commission met and mainly discussed the "master plan" and will continue that discussion at future meetings. They also briefly discussed the new information on "fracking", and discussed again "Schnable Lake" and the lake's status as a "no wake" lake.

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell:

Jon Campbell reported that Mark Mills (with the DNR) presented a plan for the "State Game Area". The Road commission also presented their report. Manlius approved a contract for Recycling with the County. There were eight vehicles approved for purchase for the Allegan Transportation System. He also reported that "drain tax levies" were approved. The county will also be waiving the fees for the Health/Fitness Club for employees, in an attempt to generate more participation and help with lower insurance rates. The county will also be printing new "plat map books". Pam asked what may become of the "old jail" area. Jon explained that they are still working on what might be done, but he is in favor of more parking. Jon also added condolences for the family of Bob Wakeman, who tragically died in a car accident, and who was laid to rest today.

Hopkins Area Fire:

Supervisor summarized the emailed fire report.

Library Report:

The supervisor summarized the "Bookworm" newsletter sent from the "Wheeler Library" in Martin.

Election Report:

The Clerk reported there were 615 voters that cast ballots for the November 4th election. The election went well with the exception of the ballots not feeding into the accu-vote tabulator with ease. Cathy Pardee (who is on the board of canvasser's) also added that many precincts were having the same issue with the machines and it may be a good idea to have them serviced.

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisor reported that she did place signs on the "Paper" recycle container, indicating what is allowed to be placed in that container. Also State Representative Genetski did contact the supervisor back with word on the Amerigas issue, and that issue is still being worked out. Lastly, she reported that Mr. Brown (from the Allegan County Road Commission) will attend the next board meeting.

Minutes:

Sue made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills:

A motion was made by Rod to pay the bills for November, as presented, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue gave a report on current bank balances.

Old Business:

1. Proposed Wind and Solar Ordinance:

Rod made a motion to adopt Ordinance #11062014-1, Wind Energy and Solar Energy Systems, an ordinance to amend the Watson Township Zoning Ordinance for the purposes of adding zoning provisions regulating the location and operation of wind energy systems and solar panels and to make various other related changes, Sue supported. Roll Call Vote: Chuck-yes; Rod-yes; Sue-yes; Kelli-no; Pam-yes; the supervisor declared ordinance #11062014-1 passed by a vote of 4-yes and 1-no vote. Rod made a motion to amend Ordinance #11062014-1 to be effective January 1, 2015, Kelli supported; roll call vote: Rod-yes; Kelli-yes; Sue-yes; Chuck-yes; Pam-yes; the supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 5-yes and 0-no votes.

2. Proposed Outdoor Furnace Ordinance:

Chuck made a motion to adopt Ordinance #11062014-2, an ordinance to regulate the installation and use of outdoor furnaces, Sue supported; roll call vote: Rod-no; Kelli-no; Chuck-yes; Sue-no; Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the ordinance not passed by a vote of 2-yes and 3-no votes.

3. Clean Up at Hicks Cemetery:

Rod has spent considerable time in the last month at the Hicks Cemetery along with Knightway Lawn Care and he believes he has done as much as possible at this point. Rod made a motion to release the remainder of the payment for the work at Hicks Cemetery, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

1. Insert in Winter Tax Bill:

The board discussed the possibility placing an insert with the winter tax bill with information on the recycle containers. There is discussion as to the legal aspects of placing the insert with the tax bill. The supervisor will investigate the legalities. The board is in favor of putting an insert in, if it is legal to do so.

2. PCI Non Compliance Mobile Home:

Professional Code Inspections would like approval to act on a non-compliant mobile home permit. Rod made a motion to give Professional Code Inspections permission to move ahead with the civil infraction, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Other Business:

None.

Public Comment (for topics not on the agenda):

Cathy Pardee congratulates the board on paying off the fire station. Ken Pardee asked Chuck why the Planning Commission was discussing Schnable Lake as a “no wake” lake. Chuck explained that there had been a home for sale and this posed questions and investigation on the subject. Ken also asked Chuck who voted for or against the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance on the planning commission. There is more discussion about the outdoor furnace ordinance. Rod will take a look at the ordinance and bring it back next month.

Adjourn:

Rod made a motion to adjourn, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned: 8:21 P.M.

Kelli Morris—Watson Township Clerk