

**Watson Township Board Meeting
February 5, 2015**

Called to order: 7:01 P.M.

Present:

Sue Jones, Pam Brown, and Kelli Morris.

Absent:

Chuck Andrysiak and Rod Zeinstra.

Agenda:

Sue made a motion to amend the agenda and remove the Outdoor Furnace Ordinance until all board members were present, Kelli supported all in favor, motion carried.

Reports:

Allegan County Road Commission

Larry Brown attended the board meeting along with Bruce Culver to give a report on some projects that will be completed this year in our area and surrounding areas. He reported that a portion of 16th Street will be resurfaced and where that ends they will do a chip and seal up to M-222. He also spoke about a road improvement project on 16th St. and 120th Ave. in Watson Township where the road grade will be improved and that area will be paved. This project will be funded by a federal safety grant the county has obtained. Also the bridge on M-222 going over U.S. 131 will close on Feb. 9th to begin a total bridge reconstruction project. Mr. Brown then answered some questions concerning options for dust control products for the township. He also clarified with the board some shaded areas of particular roads in the township and how we might handle applications on those roads to most please the residents. He also mentioned a state proposal on the May 5th ballot to raise the sales tax from 6% to 7%. Currently the gas tax is 19% with the 6% sales tax added to that. If the sales tax bill passes then the sales tax would be removed from gas and the gas tax would go down to 14.9%.

Cemetery Report:

No Funerals.

Planning Commission Report:

Chuck was not present. The supervisor reported that the planning commission is still working on the "master plan".

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell:

None.

Hopkins Area Fire:

Supervisor presented an emailed report from the Hopkins Fire Chief.

Library Report:

Martin's J.C. Wheeler Library newsletter is published on our township website.

County Commissioner:

Jon explained to the board that this is the time of year they do much of their strategic planning. He reported that the chair of the "911" board is resigning and he will now chair that board. He will email out a general business report soon. The supervisor questions Jon about the regulations for snowmobiles. Jon explains that they are allowed to ride on the right most side of the road between trails.

Supervisor's Report:

The supervisor reported that the Martin Winter Fest is Feb. 28th. She also reported that Watson's portion of the Hopkins Fire Subsidy is going to be \$36,309.03 this year, which is up \$2,532.00 since last year.

Minutes:

Sue made a motion to approve the minutes, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills:

A motion was made by Sue to pay the bills for February, in the amount of \$7,360.67, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Sue gave a report on current bank balances.

Old Business:

1. Street Lights On M-222:

Pam explained that street lights on 19th, 21st, and 23rd streets would cost \$100.00 to install and approximately \$12.00 per month to operate from Consumer's Energy. On 14th street a street light would cost approx \$928.00 to install and LED lights would cost \$205.00 from O & A Electric.

2. Sexton Resignation:

Mr. Andrysiak did send the township a letter of resignation due to health reasons. Sue made a motion to accept his resignation, Kelli supported all in favor, motion carried. The township would like to thank Mr. Andrysiak for his service this past year as the Sexton. Pam offered to perform the duties of the Sexton at the regular rate of pay for the sexton until which time the position is able to be refilled. Kelli made a motion to appoint Pam to perform as Sexton until the position is filled and pay her the current rate of the Sexton, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

New Business:

1. Budget Amendments:

Kelli made a motion to amend the budget as follows on the attached Sheet, Sue supported; roll call vote: Sue-yes; Kelli-yes; and Pam-yes; the supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 3-yes and 0-no votes.

2. Angle and Associates Audit:

Sue made a motion to accept the "Audit Agreement" in the amount of \$4,400 to \$4,700 for the townships annual audit and for work to begin in June 2015 thru September 2015, Kelli supported; roll call vote: Sue-yes; Kelli-yes; and Pam-yes. The supervisor declared the motion passed by a vote of 3-yes and 0-no votes.

3. Dust Control:

The board did discuss some alternatives to "brine" earlier with Mr. Brown and Rod is currently doing some research on alternatives. The board will discuss this subject further next month.

4. Service Agreements:

The board discussed putting a notice in the paper for our Lawn Care Contract. It is decided to put a classified ad in the Penasee Globe to conserve funds. Also because there are so few companies and choices for "dust control", the board will not publish an ad in the paper, but rather just contact the companies that provide this service directly.

5. Net Warrior- Website Contract:

Sue made a motion to contract with Net Warrior to provide Website service for Watson Township for one year in the amount of \$420.00 for the year, Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried.

6. Newsletter:

Kelli made a motion to ask Sue Zeinstra to do the Annual Newsletter for the township, Sue supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Other Business:

None.

Public Comment (for topics not on the agenda):

Karen Fifelski wanted to let everyone know that Saugatuck Township had passed guidelines for leasing land for fracking. She also mentioned that Cannon Township had adopted an ordinance pertaining to fracking. Karen also left the board with a copy of New York's moratorium and the studies they used to develop it.

Adjourn:

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

Meeting adjourned: 8:35 P.M.