

**Watson Township Board Meeting
October 1, 2015**

Called to order: 7:03 P.M.

Present:

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

Absent:

Sue Jones.

Agenda:

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

Reports:

Hopkins Area Fire:

The supervisor read and summarized a report from Hopkins Fire Chief- Tim McKinnon.

Planning Commission Report:

Chuck reported that the topics for this month's meeting included the reclamation of a gravel pit and also discussion on raising the cost of reclamation fees. It is still unclear if the fees will be reset and what the new fees would be. There was discussion on rezoning a piece of property on M-222 owned by Alan Hendrickson that is currently R-2; but would be a "better fit" as A-1 or A-2. Mr. Hendrickson would be in favor of this change. There was a site plan review set for the "railroad reclamation" business on 12th Street. The Master Plan was also discussed. Lastly, there was discussion and suggestion on raising and revising the fees for planning commission services, including implementing a mandatory "escrow". The board and audience members shared information and opinions on such a change.

Library Reports:

None.

Cemetery:

Pam reported that there were no funerals for the month. She also shared that the headstone repair is nearing a finish at the cemeteries.

County Commissioners- Jon Campbell:

None.

Supervisor's Report:

Pam reported that the county has finished with the road and ditch work at Hicks Cemetery.

Minutes:

Rod made a motion to approve the minutes for September 3, 2015, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Bills:

Rod made a motion to pay the bills for October in the amount of \$11,183.98, Chuck supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Kelli read a treasurer report left by Sue with current bank balances.

Old Business:

1. Fence Bids and Survey:

The board discussed the survey and the revised fence bids for Hicks Cemetery. There was concern from Steve and Nancy Counterman on the reason for the fence. These concerns were addressed by the board. Steve Counterman also shared his opinion of installing fence at both Cemeteries. Rod made a motion to accept a bid from Robert Galloway with a quote of \$3,769.76 for installing four hundred and fifty foot (450') of two rail vinyl fence at Hick Cemetery; Kelli supported, all in favor, motion carried. The board will also contact Whitman's to get a quote on doing a survey of Miner Cemetery.

New Business:

1. Snowplow Bids:

Pam read one bid for snow removal for the (2015-2016) season at the township offices, township hall and fire station. The bid included two options- \$2,100.00 for the season, or \$95.00 per plow. Also included was an optional salting service on an as needed basis for \$110.00 per salting of lot, entrances, and sidewalks. Chuck made a motion to accept the bid from ATS Enterprises for \$2,100.00 for the 2015-2016 snow plow season, Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.

Other Business:

Chuck shared a conference brochure being offered by Bauchman/Sparks for a free mini conference on October 22nd in Cedar Creek for planning commission or any board members interested. He explained it has some interesting topics.

Public Comment (for topics not on the agenda):

Cathy Pardee encourages the board to take a serious look changing fees or implementing escrow for the planning commission. She noted how different it is to manage escrow accounts. There is some discussion on the subject and the board will discuss the issue in more detail after doing more research. Kevin Travis also attended and gave the board some information on his bid to fill the open 80th District State Representative seat. He shared his insights and his running premise and engaged in some discussion with the board and audience members.

Adjourn:

Chuck made a motion to adjourn, Rod supported, all in favor, motion carried.
Meeting adjourned: 9:07 P.M.

Kelli Morris—Watson Township Clerk