

OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
January 12, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Oakfield Township Board of Trustees held January 12, 2016 at 10300 14 Mile Road, Rockford, MI., was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Present were: Greg Dean, Roger Mason, Larry Parker, Bryan Porter, Ken Rittersdorf, and Linda VanHouten

Absent: Chad Sowerby

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve regular meeting minutes for December 8, 2015 offered by Porter second by Rittersdorf approved per a voice call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Motion to approve the report of fund balances for December 2015 as presented offered by Porter second by Rittersdorf was approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

Motion to approve General Fund expenditures for the month of December 2015 in the amount of \$44,809.48 offered by Mason second by Parker was approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

Motion to approve Sewer Fund expenditures for the month of December 2015 in the amount of \$2,080.24 offered by Parker second by Porter was approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Department:

- 25 runs for December
- Year in Review: 264 runs for 2015 up 32.66% from 2014 runs.
- Deputy Chief Ron Trachet gave update on accident billings. Questioned what to do with outstanding bills. Dean replied to give him copies of the bills and he would give to attorney.
- Chief Peterson stated 1 fire fighter left the Dept. in Dec. since he is living in Grand Rapids.

Motion to accept Kameron Walter and Ronald Shoner into the Fire Cadet Program offered by Porter second by Parker was approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

- Fire report on file

PCI Report: Report on file

Planning Commission: Meeting on January 13, 2016 at the Township Hall.

Board of Zoning Appeals: No meeting last month.

Zoning Administrator: Report on file

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- **MTA** – House bill 5016, bill is in state house, going onto floor soon. Legislation to place underground facility right of way relocation costs on townships. Townships would be required to pay 50% of the costs. Dean said we are opposed to this. Call state reps for a no vote.
- **Kent Co Solid Waste Surcharge** – Kent Co. Board of Commissioners enacted a Kent Co. Solid Waste surcharge on all solid waste originating from Kent Co. Surcharge will be tacked onto trash bills. \$1.68 per ton on solid waste for commercial and \$1.68 per year for residential.

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- **United States Postal Service** – Received a letter from the post office asking Township to supply them with a list of all new addresses in Twp. from now forward. Dean responded that we were not going to do that.
- **Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs** – Michigan Public Service Commission will no longer handle video franchise complaints. Municipalities should now contact their local providers. Effective January 1, 2016.
- **Comcast Cable** – Received one letter. Changes in channel lineup.
- **Charter Cable** – Received 2 letters. Monthly newsletter and price increases.
- **DEQ** – Letter received in regards to Scram Lake sewer and their reporting facility. Using a new program called “MiWaters”. Allen Evink of Main-Tech Services oversees the sewer and is using the MiWaters program. Suggested that Dean become a member of MiWaters. Dean is still in discussion with them.

CITIZEN’S COMMENTS: (limited to 5 minutes)

None

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Bovee Property:** cleaned up
- **Birdsall Property:** cleaned up
- **Fire Auxiliary:**

Motion to accept Amy Delp, Faith Fraser and Molly Seekamp to the Fire Auxiliary Commission offered by Parker, second by Porter was approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

- **Cusack Property** – Hearing January 15, 2016 Circuit Court

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Planning Commission Appointment** – Greg Lavallee
Motion to recommend the appointment of Greg Lavallee to the Oakfield Township Planning Commission offered by Parker second by Porter was approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)
- **Kent County CDBG Funds 2016** – Community Development Block Grant application, has to be filed by Feb. 26, 2016. Dean has a call into them. This will be coming back to the board at the Feb. board meeting.
- **Kent County Treasurer** – Letter received in regards to a foreclosed parcel in our township that did not sell at the Sept. foreclosure sale. Stated it would be transferred back to Oakfield Twp. We responded and objected to the transfer. The county will retain possession.
- **Fire Chief Insurance** – Received letter regarding renewal. Rates are up 3.08%. We were initially told to expect rates to increase 10-12%, so this is lower than what we had expected.

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- **Kent County Road Commission** – Dean signed on with a new program offered by the Road Commission to have the dust layer applications scheduled by the Road Commission.
- **Revenue Sharing – Took** in \$77,156.00 which was \$2,267 or approx. 3% less than last year. Still made budget.
- **Clerk Training & Election Hours for Deputy Clerk –**
Motion to approve clerk training and pay accommodations offered by Parker second by Porter approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

Motion to approve Deputy Clerk an additional 10 hours per week at \$13.50 per hour for election prep until the March 8, 2016 election offered by Rittersdorf and second by Porter approved per a roll call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

CITIZENS COMMENTS: (limited to 5 minutes)
None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mason stated the Kent Co. Fire Commission would be meeting Thursday, January 14 at 6:00 pm at the Cutlerville Fire Dept.

Mason inquired how the Fire Dept. grant was progressing. Chief Peterson replied that he had gotten through all of the registrations.

Mason also asked how the stand by process was working for the Fire Dept. Chief Peterson noted it has been up and running steady for 3 months with almost every weekend covered.

Dean mentioned that the Fire Dept. has been running under budget on Fire Fighter wages.

Dean spoke about the possibility of asking the residents of Oakfield Township to approve a ½ mill tax increase to support the Fire Dept. Dean wrote about this in the Townships Winter Newsletter that is currently on the website. In the newsletter Dean asks the residents to contact him with any feedback. Dean stated he has not received one call. Asked us to spread the word since he would like to explain it.

This started additional discussion about the newsletter. Citizen asked why we no longer mail the newsletters. Parker explained the high costs associated. Parker did suggest that anyone can stop by and pick one up. Citizen also questioned why we don't email them. Dean responded the time involved in keeping up an email database would not be cost effective.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM offered by Mason second by Porter approved per a voice call vote 5-0. (Dean abstained)

Linda L. VanHouten
Oakfield Township Clerk