



SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

April 12, 2011

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Supervisor Ulsh, Clerk Mongreig, Treasurer Scott, and Trustee Hovenkamp

Members Not Present: Trustee Feldmeier

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Hovenkamp with support by Scott to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion carried.4-0

Approval of Meeting Minutes- Motion by Scott with support by Hovenkamp to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 8, 2011 as presented.

Motion carried.4-0

Approval of List of Bills: Motion by Ulsh with support by Scott to approve list of bills as presented.

Motion carried.4-0

Trustee Hovenkamp asked if the storm clean up costs were covered under insurance. Clerk Mongreig stated that the insurance claims have been high in the last year and in order to keep our premium from rising we should pay the smaller bills.

Treasurer's Report:

Interest Income for March 2011 \$ 175.00

Income for March 2011 \$ 158,270.87

Expenditures March 2011 \$ 65,165.84

Motion by Mongreig with support by Hovenkamp to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Motion Carried.4-0

Citizens Time:

Jeff Brown- Republican helping to get the word out about the TEA Party movement and about candidates running on the conservative movement.

Frank Bell- Addressed the Board to discuss his small piece of property on Sunset Lake and the Sunset Lake weed assessment. His property has only 100ft of lake frontage and is entirely cattail marsh. The property assessment reflects that the property is all marsh and the taxes are less than \$50.00 per year. Due to the weed assessment of \$333.88 his taxes have jumped six times what they were. Mr. Bell stated that he did receive all the mailing and has no excuse for not attending the meetings regarding the weed assessment. Attorney Rolfe gave the board several options on how they could handle Mr. Bell's property. Option one the Board does have the right to do nothing due to the fact that the time to appeal this special assessment was a long time ago. Attorney Rolfe pointed out that much of the property is in Brady Township and if you look on the map you see what little ground is in Schoolcraft Township and not much of it is above water. Attorney Rolfe stated that this is significant because the assessment was not based on if the property has a home on it, the assessment was significantly related to the frontage on the lake. Option two the Board could consider amending the assessment roll for year two through five and exempt Mr. Bell's property from the assessment. The Township would not pass his assessment on to others but would absorb the costs. Attorney Rolfe again stated that the problem is with proportionality and this will be forward looking with no refund from the past year. Attorney Rolfe will prepare a resolution for the May 2011 meeting.

Attorney's Time:

a.) Ag Rezoning Ordinance #250:

Mr. Barry Visel, Chairman of the Planning Commission addressed the board to offer his expertise on the Ag rezoning. State law requires the Township to review the Master Plan every five years. Three years ago after much Township resident input the Township adopted a new master plan. The Ag rezoning is now an implementation of the Master Plan and what it sets forth for the Township. The new Ag rezoning preserves the agriculture nature, rural character and open space of Schoolcraft Township all things that have been very important from the beginning. The new rezoning creates two Ag zones: Ag1 and Ag2. This allows for a lock down on Ag values and limits development on prime Ag land. Attorney Rolfe stated that Schoolcraft Township has made a strong commitment to Ag preservation from the beginning when the minimum lot space and frontage were both kicked up a few years ago. Also the plan changes special exception use to special land use. Mr. Visel wrapped up stating the Planning commission received many positive comments in general and really no opposition.

Dr. Tom Willmeng then addressed the Board regarding his property that is proposed to change to Ag 2. Dr. Willmeng stated that he would like to keep the current R-2 zoning of his property. He does not think that it is fair that the Township can change his zoning without his say so. He is currently farming the property and has no thoughts of development but would like to keep his options open. Mr. Visel again stated that the current zoning is not consistent with the current Master Plan and that is why the rezoning is happening. Dr. Willmeng also has the option to request a change to the master plan and rezoning but the costs would be solely on the applicant.

Motion by Mongreig with support by Hovenkamp to adopt Ordinance No. 250 Amendments of zoning ordinance and zoning map associated with new agricultural zoning districts and related matters with the change on page four of policies to polices.

Roll Call Vote: Hovenkamp yes, Scott yes, Ulsh yes and Mongreig yes.

Motion carried 4-0

b.) Subdivision Dev. Ordinance #251:

This ordinance verbiage piggybacks on ordinance #250 as Ag 1 and Ag 2 zoning districts do not allow Planned Unit Developments.

Motion by Hovenkamp with support by Mongreig to adopt Amendment of Ordinance No. 224 (Subdivision Development Ordinance)

Roll Call Vote: Scott yes, Mongreig yes, Ulsh yes, Hovenkamp yes.

Motion carried 4-0

C.) Discuss Weed Control Ordinance #154:

Hogweed has now been added to the State Statute of Noxious Weeds. Hogweed can grow very large in size and causes bad reactions when it comes into contact with human skin. The Board does not know if this noxious weed exists in Schoolcraft Township however it does exist in Kalamazoo County. The issue is to add hogweed to the list of noxious weeds for Schoolcraft Township so the Township can have control over removing the plant. The Board agreed to amend their current ordinance to include Hogweed. Attorney Rolfe will start to prepare the amended ordinance.

On March 21, 2011 the DEQ put the new state laws regarding burning on hold pending further review. The current issue the Township is facing is enforcement of no burning within 1400 ft of a village or city. Our current ordinance does not spell this issue out as the state law does. The Michigan State law says that no logs, tree, brush or stumps are to be burned within 1400ft of an incorporated city or village. The state law does not include leaves. Attorney Rolfe stated that the Township can impose more burning restrictions including the burning of leaves within 1400 feet of a city or village. Attorney Rolfe will look into amending the current zoning ordinance to enforce no burning within 1400 ft of a village or city as well as adding leaves and yard clippings to the list of items that may not be burned.

New Business

a.) Update from Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority:

Jan VanStratt from the Transportation Authority Board addressed the Township Board. The 2010 accomplishments of the County Transportation Authority include: an analysis of having a regular long line bus route in the South County area, running Metro County connect at a price of \$6.00 per ride, and a new executive rector to focus on the county issues and not just the city. Their current millage is at .4 mills and they would like stay at that amount. The Authority continues to work towards a van for just the South County area that would allow for seniors and disabled residents to ride at no additional cost.

b.) Discuss Vicksburg Library Appointment:

The term of the Schoolcraft Township Representative on the Vicksburg Library Board has expired. James Hildebrand and David Aubry have both applied for the board position. Supervisor Ulsh will invite both applicants to the next board meeting.

c.) Approve Township Audit Contract:

Motion by Mongreig with support by Scott to approve the Township Audit Contract with Siegfried Crandall PC as presented.

Motion carried 4-0

d.) Acceptance of Planning Commission Resignation

Jim Shaw has been with the Township since 1998 serving both on the Township Board and Planning Commission. In recognition of Jim Shaw's service a paver brick will be purchased and placed in the Township Park.

Motion by Scott with Support by Hovenkamp to accept Jim Shaw's resignation from the Planning Commission.

Motion Carried 4-0

) Discuss "Deeds of Line" P & N Proposal

Assessor Brousseau thinks the online deed system is working great and the website has the information we are seeking readily available. In regards to the current deeds we have on file the retention schedule will be checked before any deeds are destroyed.

Motion by Scott with support by Ulsh to approve Prein and Newhof to send the township deeds electronically.

Motion Carried 4-0

11.)Unfinished Business: None

12.) Assessors Report: Received

Planning Commission Report:

The Planning Commission has started on the next zoning section of rural preservation with the idea that the Township Board would approve the Ag rezoning. Dr. Willmeng also spoke at this months planning commission meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals Report: Meeting scheduled for May 5, 2011.

Township Park Committee Report:

Ryan LaPorte informed the board of the following:

The park restrooms are open and the bacterial tests came back negative.

The Township Board received their official invitation to the Schoolcraft Little League Opening Day.

The Masons are going to run the concession stand on opening day so all parents can attend the activities.

Ryan will be starting on the site plan review process to put in the parking lot. Gary Hahn from Wightman and Associates has started investigating the grants available to the Township Park. The DNR has a new grant program available this year with a May 1st application deadline. The Township has all the proper documentation but a resolution does need to be passed and a special meeting at the end of the month may be required. The grant would

start in 2012 and the Township could be eligible to receive \$10,000-\$40,000 with partial funding. The park committee is considering the grant application for a possible concession stand, irrigation on fields 1, 3 and 4 or continuing the walking trail. The committee is leaning towards using grant funding for added irrigation or the walking trail. The Township would have to provide 25% of matching funds and the Township would make the payments first and then be reimbursed by the grant program. Wightman and Associates fees would be separate from the grant money and can be split into monthly invoicing. After the grant application is written, the application can be resubmitted each year and can be helpful towards applying for other grant programs.

Motion by Mongreig with support by Hovenkamp to approve Gray Hahn from Wightman and Associates to start the grant application process on behalf of Schoolcraft Township Swan Park.

Motion Carried 4-0

Members Time

Trustee Hovenkamp reported the Barton Lake Association will meet later this week and all has been going well with that.


Treasurer Scott reported that settlement went very well this year with no issues. Treasurer Scott also reported that the Township is not able to pay off the Canal Zone sewer debt early. The loan is not subject to prepayment so the loan will be paid off in June of 2013 and we are currently paying 4.49%.

Clerk Mongreig reported that this past month has been quiet and the clerk's office is preparing for the upcoming May election. The office staff also continues to work on Pontem.

Supervisor Ulsh reported J. Rettenmaier will be in on Thursday, April 14 to discuss a site plan review to add a new warehouse. Clerk Mongreig asked about keeping tabs on companies with IFTs in regards to the keeping of employees and the addition of new employees. Supervisor Ulsh stated that it is up to the Township to keep ^{track} ~~track~~ and check in with the businesses. A list of IFTs will be gathered as well as IFT information to see if the township businesses are holding up ^{their} ~~there~~ end of the agreement.

With no further business, a motion by Ulsh with support by Scott to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm.

Motion Carried 4-0


Shelby Moss, Deputy Clerk
Township of Schoolcraft