

SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING
March 19, 2015

I to Order: 3:00 p.m.
dge of Allegiance

Members Present: Feldmeier, Hovenkamp, Mongreig, Scott and Ulsh.

Also in Attendance: Schoolcraft Township Attorney Craig Rolfe, Vicksburg Village Manger, Ken Schippers, and Planner for Vicksburg Village, Kathy Hoyle

Vicksburg Village Planner Ms. Hoyle addressed the board regarding a letter of support and Vicksburg Trail Maintenance Agreement Between Village of Vicksburg and Schoolcraft Township, both of which were written by the Village of Vicksburg and presented for signature by the Schoolcraft Township Clerk and Supervisor on Tuesday March 10, 2015.

Schoolcraft Township board members voiced concern over the absence of the cost to the Township. The "Agreement" simply stated "Village of Vicksburg and Schoolcraft Township agree to maintain the portions of trail that run through their respective municipality. Maintenance will include, but is not limited to, trail inspections, clearing of overgrowth, and surface and sign maintenance.

Village of Vicksburg Manager, Schippers stated that the approximate cost of the 3.54 miles will be .28 per foot/\$1,500.00 mile each, with Schoolcraft Township paying the Village of Vicksburg for maintenance costs.

Trustee Feldmeier asked what Schoolcraft Township is committing to. Manager Schippers replied "not financial", the ant monies will take care of most of the costs of the construction. The Village will know in November 2015 if the ant (s) is approved.

Clerk Mongreig stated that in the late 1990's Schoolcraft Township made a commitment to build Swan Park, funded by a DNR grant as a recreational facility for the children of Schoolcraft Township which encompasses approximately one half of the Village of Vicksburg and all of the Village of Schoolcraft, and rural Schoolcraft Township. She also stated that due to poor oversight in the beginning, the park went over budget and has never been completed. Swan Park is home field for Vicksburg Lacrosse, various soccer teams from Vicksburg and Schoolcraft, and Schoolcraft Little League which has spent over \$100,000.00 building and maintaining ball fields. A walking path around the park, along with other items was not completed due to lack of funds.

Ms. Hoyle stated that the grants she is applying for could complete some of the Swan Park projects.

Clerk Mongreig stated that in May 2011 Swan Park Committee applied and was denied, a DNR Passport Grant for additional monies for Swan Park, following a visit from a DNR Representative.

Mongreig stated that she will not support spending Schoolcraft Township taxpayer's monies for Vicksburg Trail System until the Township has honored its prior commitment.

Attorney Rolfe addressed Manager Schippers and Ms. Hoyle voicing his astonishment that Schoolcraft Township had to schedule a Special Meeting mid-March to meet a Village of Vicksburg deadline for submitting the Vicksburg Trail System grant application which Schoolcraft Township has had no involvement in. He also stated that the Schoolcraft Township needs to be clear on the authority over right-of-ways in Schoolcraft Township, financial obligation, vnership, and to make crystal clear that Schoolcraft Township will have no part of collaboration for Village of vicksburg annexation of Schoolcraft Township property. Attorney Rolfe also referenced the Schoolcraft Township Master Plan which has no provisions for trail-ways and that by statute the Vicksburg Trail System should have first gone to the Schoolcraft Township Planning Commission for approval or disapproval. And that there are two bodies of Schoolcraft Township that have a roll in taking action on such a request.

Trustee Hovenkamp stated that the South County Intermunicipality Committee started - but stopped discussions on a walking trail.

Trustee Feldmeier stated that a bike trails committee he was a member of dropped plans due to a right-of-way issue.

Motion by Hovenkamp with second by Feldmeier to direct Schoolcraft Township Attorney Rolfe to draft a letter of support of the concept of the trail-way, but not a financial commitment.

Motion carried 5-0

Trustee Feldmeier stated that he supports Swan Park, the trails but is disappointed there was no discussion with Schoolcraft Township, which should have been significantly involved, not treated like a two year old. Schoolcraft Township was not treated with respect.

Schoolcraft Township should not have been informed of Mr. Schippers and Ms. Hoyle attending the Schoolcraft Township Board to ask for support for the Vicksburg Trail System four hours prior to the meeting.

Mr. Schippers apologized for offending Schoolcraft Township.

Following discussion of future meetings, the board unanimously approved Ryan LaPorte and Trustee Greg Feldmeier to be members of the Vicksburg Trail System Committee, and be included in future meetings of the committee.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 p.m.


Virginia M. Mongreig, Clerk
Township of Schoolcraft