

# SCHOOLCRAFT TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

November 10, 2015

Call to Order: 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

**Approval of Agenda.** Motion by Hovenkamp with second by Feldmeier to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Scott with second by Hovenkamp to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2015, Regular Meeting with correction to South County Sewer & Water Authority petition circulation question of Supervisor Ulsh. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Motion by Scott with second by Feldmeier approve the **List of Bills** for payment. **Motion carried 5-0.**

**Treasurer's Report.** Treasurer Scott reported the following for the month of October 2015:

Income	\$ 62,073.32
Expenditures	\$ 20,277.22
General Fund Balance	\$ 265,818.32
September 2015 Balance	\$ 307,614.42

Motion by Feldmeier second by Mongreig to approve the Treasurer's report. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Treasurer Scott reported that a property at 105 West Highway Street in the Village of Vicksburg did not sell at the Kalamazoo County Tax Sale. The Village of Vicksburg has first right-of-refusal, with Schoolcraft Township next.

Motion by Ulsh with second by Scott that Schoolcraft Township, if offered, is not interested in ownership of the property. **Motion carried 5-0**

## **Barton Lake Weed Assessment Plan – Paul Hausler of PLM Lake Management:**

Treasurer Scott began the discussion reporting that Trustee Hovenkamp, on behalf of the Barton Lake Association, has asked to increase the weed assessment amount for 2016.

Mr. Hausler explained to the board that the reason for the increase in weeds for 2015 is that frequent rains hindered treatments as the lake level increased, and that one more very invasive species- the Starry stonewort contributed to depleting funds for 2015. Mr. Hausler presented a proposed (amended) annual budget plan as follows:

<b><u>Improvement</u></b>	<b><u>Annual Cost</u></b>
Aquatic Plant Control	\$25,000.00
Aquatic Plant Control Field Surveys and Coordination	6,500.00
Contingency	2,700.00 (legal & publication)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,200.00</b>

Trustees Hovenkamp stated that at a prior meeting of the Barton Lake Association there was overwhelming agreement by the property owners present to "get aggressive on treatments".

Treasurer Scott stated "she would like to see petitions from the property owners," continuing with "we see the need, but do we not ask the people?"

Trustee Hovenkamp said that the initial cost is comparable to the costs at the beginning of the treatment project.

Clerk supported Treasurer Scott's statement that the property owners should be involved in the final decision.

Supervisor Ulsh suggested the Public Hearing process with no petitioning. Trustee Hovenkamp also would prefer no petitions, while Trustee Feldmeier mentioned that the original petitions and hearing were approved by the property owners.

Motion by Treasurer Scott with second by Mongreig to petition the property owners for approval of the plan presented by Mr. Hausler for the weed treatments. **Motion failed 2 to 3.**

Attorney Rolfe advised the board that the costs to process the Special Assessment District will be costlier using the Public Hearing process.

Scott inquired as to the number of property owners in attendance at Barton Lake Association meetings and whether they have heard the presentation given by Mr. Hausler, adding that she would like to see overwhelming support of the treatment plan. Trustee Hovenkamp stated that mailings to property owners (advising of meetings), have not been successful in the past.

Motion by Ulsh with second by Feldmeier to begin the Public Hearing process with mailings to property owners in January 2016. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Mongreig stated that she feels Schoolcraft Township is doing a disservice to the property owners on Barton Lake affected by the special assessment district by beginning the Public Hearing process without petitioning.

**Dangerous Building Update – Baker Property:** Chris Hamilton, Ordinance Enforcement Officer reported that most of the demo/cleanup of the property at 14590 South 24<sup>th</sup> Street has been completed, with some building debris (blight) remaining. Supervisor Ulsh directed Ms. Hamilton to continue enforcement of the remaining violation.

The board reviewed the proposed **South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority** Estimated Monthly Payment Distributions for the April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 which proposes an annual estimated payment of \$196,823.22 for Schoolcraft Township which is approximately \$57,000.00 higher than 2015-2016.

Motion by Mongreig with second by Feldmeier to deny approval of the South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority Estimated Monthly Payment Allocations for the April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017 Fiscal year. **Motion carried 5-0**

**Household Hazardous Waste:** Letter of Understanding for Additional 2015 HHW Funds. The Township received a request for additional funding to cover disposal costs for waste received from Schoolcraft Township residents. The original contract was for \$2,500.00. Motion by Ulsh with second by Scott to increase the budget \$500.00. **Motion carried 5-0**

**Ordinance Enforcement Report:** The board reviewed a report for Schoolcraft Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer Tina Straw regarding an attempt to enforce the Vehicle

Parking, Storage and Repair Ordinance # 261. The ordinance addresses public streets, while the violations described are on private drives around the lakes. Officer Straw suggests that if Schoolcraft Township wants her to enforce the ordinance the ordinance should be updated to include private roads and not designate only a front yard violation.

Board members discussed public safety, especially children and will update the ordinance accordingly.

Trustee Feldmeier added that he believes Officer Straw is doing a terrific job.

Motion by Scott with second by Mongreig to follow state statute in March of each year with the publication of **"Notice Of Obligation To Destroy/Cut Noxious Weed And Cut Uncontrolled Plant Growth"**. Motion carried 5-0

The board asked Attorney Rolfe to begin work on a draft of a free-standing general Noise/Nuisance and Health Ordinance.

Attorney Rolfe advised the board of communication difficulties with Crystal Flash Unlimited Partnership in resolving the Michigan Tax Tribunal Case.

Trustee Hovenkamp reported that the Planning Commission approved a site plan submitted by Clark Logistics, for an estate resale business in their building at U.S. 131 and XY Avenue. The Planning Commission also approved a site plan for an addition at the Cole-Krum Dealership on U.S. 131. The addition will expand the service department.

Ryan LaPorte reported that the new parking lot at Swan Park is 90% complete due to 230 man hours, volunteers and heavy equipment usage, (donated), in the past two weeks.

Supervisor Ulsh reported <sup>Wightman & Associates, Inc.</sup> South County Sewer & Water has spent \$80,000.00 in engineering for proposed sewer and water projects in Schoolcraft Township.

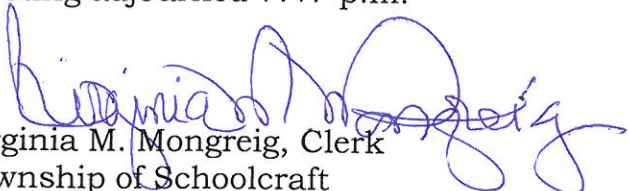
Property/business owners of the 131 Corridor have been invited to a December 3, 2015 meeting to discuss sewer and water in the corridor.

Supervisor Ulsh also reported that South County EMS is thriving and has recently purchased 2 new ambulances.

Trustee Hovenkamp stated that there is a lot of follow up to do in the sewer and water petition process at Barton Lake.

Road Committee Chair Scott reported that the road repairs projects list for 2016 is due to Kalamazoo County Road Commission by December 16, 2015. The Township received reimbursement from the county for an over charge on the 2015 22nd Street project.

Meeting adjourned 7:47 p.m.

  
Virginia M. Mongreig, Clerk  
Township of Schoolcraft