

Schoolcraft Township Board  
September 11, 2012  
Schoolcraft Township Hall

Supervisor Ulsh opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Supervisor Don Ulsh, Clerk Virginia Mongreig, Treasurer Teresa Scott, Trustee Hovenkamp and Trustee Feldmeier.

Motion by Hovenkamp with support by Scott to approve the agenda with two changes:

- 1.) Attorney's Time: switch Item a.) Comcast Agreement with Item c.) Status Barton Lake Assessment.
- 2.) New Business: Item d.) Addition of Township Entry-Way

**Motion carried 5-0**

Motion by Hovenkamp with support by Scott to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2012 meeting as presented.

**Motion carried 5-0**

Motion by Scott with support by Hovenkamp to approve the List of Bills as presented.

**Motion carried 5-0**

Motion by Feldmeier with support by Mongreig to accept the Treasurer's report as presented.

Interest Income for August 2012	\$119.91
Income for August 2012	\$31,640.50
Expenditures for August 2012	\$63,538.85
Total Cash	\$319,226.57

**Motion Carried 5-0**

**Barton Lake Weed Assessment:**

James Shaw, Bob Wells, Penny Briscoe, Gary Steensma, Richard Cutshaw, Bill Appel, Harry and Juanita Gregg, and Kenneth Lotz, members of the Barton Lake Association Board were present along with Barton Lake residents, Mary Harrison and Ken Kuchenreuther.

Attorney Rolfe reviewed two issues with the Barton Lake Improvement Program:

First, the status of the current 5 year program; 2012 will be the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the special assessment which has a surplus of approximately \$14000.00 as of July 31, 2012, and has reached the end of the five year treatment plan. After payment of upcoming treatment invoices there will be approximately \$9,278.00 remaining in the fund.

Secondly, Attorney Rolfe asked if there was a consensus by the Township Board to re-determine the cost of the assessment following the 2012 treatment.

Attorney Rolfe stated that the Township Board receive input from the consulting firm and determine if it is the desire of the lake property owners to move forward with the treatments 2013.

Trustee Hovenkamp stated that most of the Lake Association Board was present at the meeting and are interest in continuing treatments.

Trustee Feldmeier inquired as to any property owners not in support of the treatments to which Bill Appel responded that he has received one to two letters commenting against on the treatment. Attorney Rolfe reminded everyone that property owners will have the opportunity to voice concerns/opposition at the noticed formal public hearings (2).

The Township Board has consensus to go forward by November 2012 at the latest in order to schedule a hearing in January/February 2013.

#### **Status Comcast Agreement**

Attorney Rolfe wrote a letter to John Gardner of Comcast asking him to delineate company's position in order to deal with them. With Attorney Rolfe reporting no response from Mr. Gardner the item has been removed from the agenda.

#### **Status Charter Communications Agreement:**

Attorney Rolfe has pointed out the incomplete application submitted by Charter Communications, and has asked for more clarity from Mr. Ransberger. Attorney Rolfe state that Charter Communications is not asking for a cable franchise, but possibly asking for a throughway at US 131 and U Avenue in Schoolcraft Township.

Attorney Rolfe has yet to receive any clarification from Ransberger, with no complete application submitted as of yet.

Supervisor Ulsh directed Attorney Rolfe to not spend much more time on this project.

Attorney Rolfe will write one more letter to Mr. Ransberger.

Motion by Scott with support by Mongreig to adopt the 2011-2012 audit by Siegfried Crandall.

#### **Motion Carried 5-0**

#### **Township Health Insurance Ordinance:**

Supervisor Ulsh has discussed the ordinance with Trustee Hovenkamp who stated that what ever is appropriate is ok with him regarding trustee insurance coverage.

Supervisor Ulsh has obtained copies from other municipalities finding that Schoolcraft Township is not out of line compared to other townships, and stated that he learned at a recent MTA you are hurting the people that are doing it right(insurance coverage), by not providing insurance benefits in some capacity.

Treasurer Scott stated her thoughts of making benefits equitable across the board as Clerk Mongreig is the only one insured at this time. Supervisor corrected Treasurer Scott in that Trustee Hovenkamp and the Supervisor also have insurance provided by the township.

Trustees Feldmeier and Hovenkamp suggested shopping around for insurance.

The Army Corp of Engineers request for free GIS data from Schoolcraft Township was tabled until the October 2012 regular meeting.

Supervisor Ullsh presented the bid amounts received from Peters and Sons Construction and T.A. Scott Builder. Don will sit down with Tom Scott for more information. Tabled for more details.

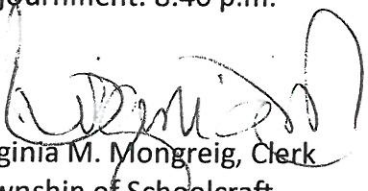
Trustee Hovenkamp voiced concerns of Barton Lake Residents property owners after the Village of Vicksburg Village gave permission for homeowners in the Angels Crossing Development to have access to Barton Lake. Vicksburg Village Manager, Matt Crawford stated that under no circumstances are boats allowed, except for livery behind Pat Reeves home. Canoes and Kayaks will be allowed.

Treasurer Scott reported that Official Payments.com will begin charging annual fee of \$1,000.00. She reported approximately 4 credit card payments thus far in 2012, and that due to lack of usage the township will no longer offer the service.

Don: MTA's Larry Merrill stated that road funding is #1 priority of townships. Michigan is 50<sup>th</sup> in road funding. With regard to property taxes, Michigan ranks 15<sup>th</sup> concerning burden on residents, and was 24<sup>th</sup> when Proposal A passed.

Clerk Mongreig reported work on the November 6, 2012 General Election and the recent vandalism at the Vicksburg Cemetery.

Adjournment: 8:40 p.m.

  
Virginia M. Mongreig, Clerk  
Township of Schoolcraft

