

REGULAR LITTLEFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING

January 5, 2016 TIME: 7:00 PM

Meeting called to order by Damien Henning, Supervisor. Present: Kim Shomin, Treasurer, Dean Morford, Trustee, and Sondra Festerling, Clerk, Absent: Katie Derrohn, Trustee. Guests: Kurt Hoffman, Dan Plasencia, Jim Lapeer, and Art Drayton.

Minutes of Regular Meeting December 1, 2015 were presented. K. Shomin **Moved** to approve minutes, Second by Dean Morford, Carried 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.

Minutes of Special Meeting December 14, 2015, Joint LAMA Meeting, were presented. K. Shomin **Moved** to approve minutes, Second by D. Henning, Carried 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.

Financial Report: K. Shomin reported: General Fund Checking \$54,332.05, Sewer Fund Checking \$76,262.92, Fire Fund \$2,894.34, Tax Account \$181,063.61, Cemetery Savings \$6,793.99, and Oden Light Savings \$1,411.32.

D. Henning **Moved** to approve bills for \$48,156.98. Second by D. Morford, Carried 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.

Fire Board Report: All of the coats & boots have been received for the first responders and they love them. Art reported that they are still working on the Budget for this year. Only 3 members showed up to work on the budget for 2016 this last week. They got some done but need to do modifications since they ended up being over budget after their first attempt by \$1,915.00. Modifications will be made before presenting the 2016 Budget. Art has been working on a maintenance agreement for the generator. It was last quoted back in July so Art was able to track down the representative from Bridgeway Power out of Gaylord & Saginaw. The representative is on the Tuscarora fire department and the new proposal was for five annual inspections of the generators fluid, batteries, coolant, and that the generator is maintained in good working condition for \$2,026.94. The cost is not a bad price, however, D. Henning asked Art to find out if they are expecting the total cost to be paid up front or if it could be done in annual payments. The main concern is that if we pay up front there is nothing protecting the Fire Department if the business were to go out of business or were to be sold and the new owners choose not to honor the contract. We would be out the money if either of those two situations were to happen. Art will check into this a bit further and will report back.

Blight: Due to health concerns Joe Villemure has resigned as Blight Officer. Joe did suggest a replacement to D. Henning. The replacement is retired from law enforcement in Petoskey and has known Joe for a while. The gentleman's name is George (Mike) Vargo and D. Henning has talked with him. He was very interested in taking over where Joe left off and is familiar on how he was doing things. D. Henning said the George agreed to the same terms of employment that Joe agreed to. S. Festerling made the **Motion** to engage George (Mike) Vargo as Littlefield Township's Blight Enforcement Officer per Joe Villemure's recommendation at a rate of \$15.00 per hour. Second by D. Henning, Carried 4 Yes, 0 No, 1 Absent.

LAMA: The financials were received. The new Village representative to LAMA is Sue Ann Curnow and the minutes from the last meeting were not drafted as of this meeting. The storm on December 26th blew down a big tree on the roof and the power was out at the hall. The generator wasn't working and it was found to have something wrong with the transfer unit. A gentleman from Northwest Mechanical said he could come back after the first of the year and look into and fix the generator. The tree was removed from the roof and cleaned up by Cory Withy who has done work for the Village. D. Plasencia said that the gutters were damaged but as far as he could tell at this time it didn't appear to damage the roof.

Assessors Report: Jim Lapeer reported that the CPI this year is at .06%. Building permits approximately were at 80 and there are 25 in progress, a dozen foreclosures, and 6 miscellaneous were all visited since this past November. Our foreclosures are way down from past years and we currently have only 3 in the pending/redemption file. Jim went over the 2015 24 Month Sales Ration Study. This study showed the % Ratio Assessments to Appraisals as follows: Agricultural: 45.74, Commercial: 49.42, Industrial: 50.41, & Residential: 49.86. Jim doesn't agree with the Agricultural study. He just got the figures yesterday from the county when he should have received them at the beginning of December so he could go over them and go to the county if he disagrees he can go into the county and discuss it. Jim received them when the County usually would be sending out to the State. This week he will be going into the county to pick up personal property statements and he hopes to discuss the results of the agricultural study.

D. Henning offered a Resolution titled **Littlefield Township Board Resolution to Adopt Poverty Exemption Income Guidelines and Asset Test**. After presenting the full resolution to the board **D. Morford Supported the resolution and a roll call vote was given by S. Festerling with Aye Votes: Dean Morford, Kim Shomin, Damien Henning, & Sondra Festerling, Nay Votes: 0, and there was 1 Absent: Katie Derrohn. D. Henning then declared the resolution adopted.** The Poverty Exemption Guidelines for 2016 is from the Poverty Exemption Guidelines put forward by the State and Federal Governments for 2016. The Full resolution will be attached with the minutes from this meeting.

Sewer Authority: The minutes have been received.

Unfinished Business:

Admirals Pointe: Our grant was granted last month. This next Wednesday D. Henning, Kurt Hoffman, Klaus Heinert, and Paul Peterson (DNR Waterways Program Director) will meet out at Admirals Pointe to show Paul the property. Kurt Hoffman said the property is plowed so it will be no problem. One of the next steps is to apply for BAS Funding which is part of the reason to have Paul come out and visit the site. The Waterways Infrastructure Grant is also due April 1st, but Klaus said that a lot of the work is already done or to be done which coincides with the MNRTF Grant.

D. Henning brought up the two storage buildings that is occupied by the homeowners association and the agreement that went into place on the removal of the buildings. When the PUD agreement was put in, it stated if 50% of the housing property was developed then the buildings would be removed. Kurt said he believes that if one more house is put in than they would meet the 50%. D. Henning talked to Tammy Doernenberg from the County, and she said that they would consider relaxing that stipulation since the Township is involved. The long

storage building is not a building that the Township would want there, but what we could possibly do would be an "in kind" trade. The Township has the property on Powers Rd. that we could trade a portion over to Kurt so the three buildings at Admirals Pointe could be moved and still used for storage. This type of deal will help both us in funding by not having to come up with as much money for the development of the property and it would help Kurt with increasing his storage. The Township Board all agreed to continue considering this "in kind" trade possibility while looking at the logistics of how it could work.

Olke-Brill Property: The railway from Powers Rd. to almost Blumke Rd. along US31 is currently under the control of the Olke's (nephews of Brill). D. Henning met with Tammy Doernenberg & Emily Meyerson from the County, Tom Bailey, Max Putters, and two staff members from the conservancy. They got together to talk about the possibilities for the railway grade. Max called it a linear park possibility since there is a potential that the property could now be acquired with the Olke's having control of it. The property could be put into public trust and developed into a linear park preventing any commercial developing of that area. There are different grants that could be available to purchase the property per Tom Bailey. At the end of the meeting the two staff members from the conservancy said that they would talk with the Olke's to see what they need to get for the property. D. Henning did tell everyone that the Townships main attention is currently on our Admirals Pointe project but we are always able to entertain the possibilities that this could bring and to keep us informed.

Gazebo Park: Katie & Damien met with Klause at the park, walked the property and shared some ideas of what we would like to see there. Klause sent a team out to GPS the sidewalks and property. There is one piece of property that is owned by the Apartment Rental property which is separate from the main property that can't be built on because of its size. This piece of property would make more sense for the Township to have. D. Henning said that the gentleman who owns the property is in the service and he just got back in December. The Owners name is Tim Beethem. When Tim saw the survey stakes and poles he called D. Henning. They will be meeting tomorrow to take a look at how these properties can be re-aligned to make more sense to both of us property owners.

New Business

ECRC-PASER Study: This last year's budget for the roads was put in on the Lakeview Rd. project, and it came in under budget giving us \$50,000.00 to be moved over to the paving of the road in the future. This next year we slotted saving an additional \$50,000.00 for the paving. This would leave only one more year after that to get enough funds to finish Lakeview. D. Henning would like to entertain the idea of finishing Lakeview this year so we don't lose more of the gravel that was just put down. The 2016 Littlefield Township PASER repair list was to include 1.10 miles of general crack sealing &/or minor patching @ \$3,410.00 and 1.37 miles of ultra-thin asphalt @ \$98,640.00. In the ECRC PASER suggested projects we would need clarification of what section they are talking about along the .61 mile of Honeysette because it doesn't match up with how the road is. The roads will be discussed further by our board before we finalize our choices for this next year. D. Henning will email the board before our meeting with ECRC on 1/26/16 -7:00PM with information for us to consider.

Miscellaneous: Besides our meeting at ECRC this month we also host the MTA Local chapter meeting at the Fire Hall on 1/20/16 -7:00PM.

Clerks Agenda: Kim Morgan provided a Cemetery Report for this last year. She reported that there were a total of 13 burials- 9 Cremations & 4 Full Burials, and there were 5 gravesites sold to Township residents. The Village will need to be reimbursed for the use of their backhoe for the full burials. The Cemetery had tree damage after the wind storm on December 23, thankfully, no damage to any of the markers. Cory Withey was hired to clean up all of the downed trees, including the brush. In the spring there will need to be some work done to get a cement piece to lay flat again or to be removed. The back lot removal of the pine trees is almost complete and the cover to the well wasn't completed before snowfall.

Next month we will need to hold the Special Meeting of the Election Committee to prepare for the Presidential Primary. The Township Board will also need to have our petitions and affidavits done before April 19th if we are planning on re-running for our offices except for Kim who has until July 21st to file under no party affiliation.

Regular Meeting was then **Moved** to adjourn by D. Henning @ 8:40PM

Sondra Festerling, Clerk