

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 2, 2014**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular monthly meeting of the Bridgewater Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Smith at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag at Bridgewater Township Hall, 10990 Clinton Road, Manchester, MI.

Present: Supervisor Ronald Smith, Clerk Laurie Fromhart, Treasurer Michelle McQueer and Trustees David Faust and Wes Cowden.

Also Present: Township Constable Michael Meeks and Ecology Commissioner Grant Howard.

Attendance: 0

**II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Grant Howard requested an update on the Dindoffer NAPP Nomination and expressed concern that the Board may be considering opening up the Riverbend Preserve Consent Judgment to include the Dindoffer property to connect trails. Howard also expressed concerned that the Board may have changed its position regarding opposition to trails in the Township.

Smith responded to Howard's concerns stating there is nothing legal in front of us and that he notified the Planning Commission the same day that this was out there.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cowden moved to approve the December 5, 2013 meeting minutes as drafted. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

**McQueer moved to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of #8 WWCA Proposed Fee Schedule Increase. Smith seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**Public Safety Report**

No report. Smith reported the November report was so inaccurate he didn't forward it on to the Board. Smith also reported that SWWCOG discussed the inaccurate sheriff reports at their last meeting and reported the problem to Commissioner Ping.

**V. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

McQueer submitted a written report to the Board regarding winter tax collection. McQueer also reported two veteran exemption cases and one hardship case resulted in a refund of summer taxes due to December Board of Review action.

**B. Clerk's Report**

Fromhart reported on the County Clerk's December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, website updates, WCRC second preliminary review letter of the Riverbend Preserve, WCPARC Master Plan for planned greenways, Board of Review training registration, purchase of new shovel for town hall, and new boardroom tables.

**C. Supervisor's Report**

Smith reported he discovered the Township leases 5 acres of land to the Vershum family that has been in effect since 2002 and renews automatically unless either party decides to terminate 20 days in advance of the renewal term. Smith noted the Township receives no money for the lease and the Board may want to consider putting it out for bid to make it available to other farmers. Smith agreed to follow up with Vershum's first before the Board made any decision. Smith reported Tetra Tech will be performing another hydrology test of the sewer plant on January 6<sup>th</sup> and a follow up meeting is scheduled for January 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the basis of design and hydrology of the plant. Smith also reported he received a letter from WCPARC Director Bob Tetens regarding acquisition of the Dindoffer property and noted the County would be required to go through the Planning Commission's review process for approval by following the Township's procedures, rules and regulations.

#### **D. Trustees' Report**

Faust reported on a couple of recent break-ins in the area and Cowden reported on the December 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting.

#### **E. Written Reports**

Board packets included reports from the Assessor, Zoning Administrator, and Planning Commission.

### **VI. PRIORITY BUSINESS**

#### **A. Approve Disbursements from December 6, 2013 – January 2, 2014**

Fromhart requested board approval for the recent purchase of 3 new grinder pumps. **Smith moved to approve the purchase of 3 new grinder pumps and electrical units from Dubois-Cooper in the amount of \$11,058. Cowden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed. Smith moved to approve the monthly disbursements from the general and sewer funds in the total amount of \$29,044.99. Faust seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **B. Nomination of Dan McQueer to ZBA**

Smith recommended the appointment of Dan McQueer to fill the current vacancy on the ZBA. **Smith moved to accept the Supervisor's nomination of Dan McQueer to the Zoning Board of Appeals. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

#### **C. Approval of Snow Removal Bid**

Smith reported Green Meadows withdrew their bid that the Board approved last month because their schedule was filled for the year and that McQueer received the current bid from Felip's M&D Auto Service Inc. Fromhart reported T&N Service recently plowed the town hall and sewer plant but did not put in a bid because they can't service the Bridgewater Depot before 7 a.m. **McQueer moved to approve Felip's M&D Auto Service, Inc. snow removal bid as presented. Cowden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **D. Road Committee**

Smith reported the Board needs a recommendation from the Road Committee regarding brining of Township roads so it can be added to next year's fiscal budget. Smith also reported Faust and Wharam terms have expired and recommended renewing their terms. **Fromhart moved to reappoint Dave Faust and Tom Wharam to the Road Committee for 3 year terms ending December 2016. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

#### **E. Sewer Committee**

Smith reported the sewer committee hasn't been active in a while and needs to meet to address inspection of manholes, valve boxes, air relief structures, and flushing of the main line to Henes. Smith noted current

members are only himself and Dave Faust.

**F. Joint Board of Trustees & Planning Commission Workshop**

Smith reminded Board members of the joint workshop meeting scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Smith noted hard copies of the proposed draft master plan were mailed to all board and commission members.

**G. Budget 2014-2015 Overview**

Smith reported he will be presenting the proposed budget for 2014-2015 next month. Smith noted it appears the Township could handle a reduction in the monthly fees for operation and maintenance for the sewer plant. McQueer reported she would like to bring a proposal to the Board with cash flow projections to lower the monthly maintenance and operation fees by \$20. Smith indicated this is a possible change he may propose for next year's budget.

**H. WWCA Proposed Fee Schedule Increase**

Cowden presented the WWCA proposed fee schedule increase which will help balance the budget with an estimated increase of \$2500. Cowden requested Board approval. **Smith moved to accept the WWCA fee schedule increase as presented. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Fromhart moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53p.m. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Fromhart  
Bridgewater Township Clerk