

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 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.

Attendance: 12

**II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

A resident expressed concern about possible reconsideration of a pathway between preserve properties and asked the Board to put the County on notice that eminent domain is not an option because there is not a public necessity.

A resident expressed disappointment with the Board for their failure to act last month on a motion to amend the agenda to respond to the County's letter.

A resident introduced herself as the new coordinator for the River Raisin Watershed Council and asked if the Board received the renewal letter for membership dues.

A resident asked if a letter had been sent to the County.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**McQueer moved to approve the February 6, 2014 meeting minutes as amended. Cowden seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

**McQueer moved to approve the agenda as amended advancing item VI. A. James Miller, Manchester District Library after the public hearing. Faust seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**Public Safety Report**

The Board received a written report from the Sheriff's Department on law enforcement activities for the month of January 2014. Smith noted the reports continue to be inaccurate and the Clinton Fire Chief has complained they are spending too much time directing traffic on motor vehicle accidents because of delayed or no response by MSP.

**PUBLIC HEARING: General Fund and WWTP Budgets**

Smith opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. Glenn Burkhardt 11727 Hoelzer Road asked if there has been any forecast regarding the WWTP budgets to see if the payment on the sewer bonds will be covered by projected operation reserves and debt retirement fund reserves in case of potential liability. McQueer explained the recent redeemable projection she prepared last month for the Board and summarized the recent refinancing of the sewer bonds with the County Treasurer. Smith closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

**VI. A. James Miller, Manchester District Library**

James Miller introduced himself as the new director for the Manchester District Library and reported the library will be having a millage renewal proposal of 1.05 mills for 10 years on the November ballot. Miller noted the library receives almost all of its money from the millage and is important that it passes. Miller answered a series of questions from the public and Board and there was brief discussion regarding the contract between Manchester and Clinton Libraries that is due to expire on May 31, 2015.

## V. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE

### A. Treasurer's Report

McQueer submitted a written report to the Board regarding banking, tax collection, and WWTP billing. McQueer also reported she will be out of the office for 4 weeks and introduced her Deputy Treasurer Christina Domas who will be assisting with her duties.

### B. Clerk's Report

Fromhart reported Manchester Schools millage renewal proposal has been moved to the August election and the Election Commission met tonight and approved precinct consolidation with Clinton Township for Clinton Community Schools' non-homestead millage renewal special election in May. Fromhart reported the postcard for the Hamlet Master Plan Open House was prepared and mailed by the Township planner and will be published in next week's paper and has been posted on the Township's website. Fromhart also reported she entered the Township's data for the new MTA's Township salary survey, has been preparing for upcoming elections, created email addresses for the Deputy Clerk and Zoning Administrator, met with Zach Michels from Dexter Township to set up broadcasting for Township meetings, plans to affix the Township's official zoning and future land use maps on folding foam boards for easy storage and accessibility, and reported on FOIA requests within the last 6 months.

### C. Supervisor's Report

Smith reported a meeting was held between the Township and Tetra Tech with attorneys present and Tetra Tech has agreed to a detailed plan for the next 60 days to confirm the plant is built according to the as built drawings. Smith also reported the MDEQ approved the fence permit for the Riverbend Preserve, an environmental study has not been conducted yet on the Dindoffer property, and he has a tentative meeting scheduled in the spring with County Parks regarding the dead trees around the parking lot at the Ervin-Stucki Preserve.

### D. Trustees' Report

Faust reported he contacted John Estes regarding a railing for the hall and will provide the Board with a proposal next month.

### E. Written Reports

Board packets included reports from the Assessor, Zoning Administrator, and Planning Commission. Horney submitted the Planning Commission's 2013 annual report to the Board.

## VI. PRIORITY BUSINESS

### B. Livestream Status & Update

The Board briefly discussed live broadcasting of Township meetings and Cowden and Fromhart agreed to follow up with equipment set up. **Smith moved to appropriate \$1000 to broadcast Township meetings. McQueer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

### C. FOIA REPORTS

Smith noted this item was addressed under Clerk's report. Fromhart indicated she would make a central FOIA file available at the hall for the Board's review.

#### **D. WCRC Resolution**

Smith reported the BOC subcommittee regarding the WCRC is asking for the Board to discuss and provide a recommendation in support of one of the three options on the table: (A) Leave the Washtenaw Road Commission under the direction and supervision of the three appointed road commissioners; (B) Dissolve the Washtenaw County Road Commission and make it a department under the direction and supervision of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners; or (C) Expand the 3 member board of Commissioners to 5 board members. Smith reported about half of all Townships have indicated they do not support the WCRC being taken over by the County. Smith indicated he has a philosophical problem with an independent bureaucracy that is not accountable to elected officials. Faust reported he heard that the subcommittee already recommended option C to the BOC. Fromhart indicated she was in support of option C to create more representation and didn't see any benefit or advantage in dissolving the WCRC after reading the feasibility study for Jackson County. **McQueer moved to accept the proposal to dissolve the Washtenaw County Road Commission and make it a department under the direction and supervision of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with Fromhart opposed.**

#### **E. Annual Salary Resolutions**

**Fromhart moved to adopt resolution 03-06-14 to establish Trustees' salaries. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden abstained, Faust abstained, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed. McQueer moved to adopt resolution 03-06-14A to establish Clerk's salary. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart abstained, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed. Smith moved to adopt resolution 03-06-14B to establish Treasurer's salary. Fromhart seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer abstained, Smith yes. Motion passed. Fromhart moved to adopt resolution 03-06-14C to establish Supervisor's salary. McQueer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith abstained. Motion passed.**

#### **F. WWTP Rate Change Resolution**

**Smith moved to adopt resolution 03-06-14D to Amend Monthly Sewer Rate to Cover Decreased Operation and Maintenance Costs as amended striking the 6<sup>th</sup> Whereas clause and replacing it with "Whereas the refinancing of the special assessment debt has caused a decrease in interest cost." Faust seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed. Smith moved to amend resolution 03-06-14D to insert "effective date of September 1, 2014" under the Now Therefore We Resolve clause after "\$20 decrease". Fromhart seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **G. Adopt General Fund and WWTP Budgets**

Fromhart reported there will be no election reimbursement now because the Township will not be holding a special school election in May. Smith noted that contingencies will then need to be reduced by \$1000. **Fromhart moved to approve the General Fund Budget and WWTP Budgets as amended reducing the general fund budget for election reimbursement to zero and reducing contingencies by \$1000 to \$5160. Cowden seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

#### **H. General Fund Budget Amendment**

**Fromhart moved to approve the general fund budget amendments for Board of Review expense in the amount of \$219 and Assessor expense in the amount of \$743. McQueer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **I. Approve Disbursements from February 7, 2014 – March 6, 2014**

**McQueer moved to approve the monthly disbursements from the general and sewer funds in the amount**

of \$28,965.42. Cowden seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Cowden yes, Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.

**J. WCPARC**

McQueer moved to direct Supervisor Smith to inform the County Parks Department that we as a Board direct them to follow the Consent Judgment in regards to anything to do with the Riverbend Preserve. Fromhart seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

**VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

A resident asked if the letter to the County will be posted on the Township's website.

A resident complimented the Board for their work on the budget.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Fromhart  
Bridgewater Township Clerk

APPROVED