

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016**

**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 Geoffrey Oliver.

Attendance: 9

**II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Jack Ceo a private citizen spoke in favor of the 800 MHz emergency system millage renewal proposal and presented a brief background about how the system works and the services it provides.

Barb Fuller announced she is running for State Representative for the 52<sup>nd</sup> District. Fuller also provided information on the state's new road funding package and how the new road funding will be phased in over time.

Michigan State Trooper Hammond indicated she was present tonight to address any concerns or questions the Board or public may have regarding law enforcement activities in the Township.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Smith moved to approve the January 7, 2016 meeting minutes as drafted. Faust seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

**Fromhart moved to amend the agenda to advance item VI.G before item VI. A. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**Public Safety Report**

The Sheriff's Department submitted a written report to the Board on the law enforcement activities for the month of December 2015.

**V. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE**

**A. Treasurer's Report**

McQueer submitted a written report to the Board.

**B. Clerk's Report**

Fromhart submitted a written report to the Board.

**C. Supervisor's Report**

No report.

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

Faust reported that Dale Vershum passed away and recommended that the Board send the family a card.

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

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

### **VI. PRIORITY BUSINESS**

#### **A. WATS Membership**

**Smith moved to approve \$200 payment to the Village of Manchester for the Township's contribution for the 2016 WATS membership. Faust seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **B. Approve Disbursements from January 8, 2016 through February 4, 2016**

**Oliver moved to pay the monthly bills from the general and sewer funds in the total amount of \$32,152.10. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **C. GS Materials Status/Input from Board for PC**

Smith reported the Township received GS Materials annual report for 2015 but the Township still hasn't received a report from Township Engineer Marcus McNamara regarding their revised application for expansion. Smith indicated he has started a list of items that need to be changed in Ordinance 59 and recommended keeping the consent judgment in place until Ordinance 59 is amended. Smith reported the consent judgement clearly states that GS Materials is responsible for the maintenance of the roads but Ordinance 59 does not. Fromhart reported the MDEQ just recently granted a permit to increase the Crego Pelts' lake from 23 to 27 acres and GS Materials Lake from 35 to 38 acres. Fromhart indicated the MDEQ previously restricted the size of the lakes because they determined it would significantly alter groundwater flow patterns, and recommended the Township hire an expert in hydrology and for the Planning Commission to do due diligence in their review. The Board discussed GS Materials original application that was denied by the MDEQ to create one large lake by connecting the two. Smith reported the MDEQ is concerned about the effect on the wetlands and the hydrology modeling. Faust and Oliver expressed concern if the proposed channel to float a dredge between the two lakes fail and if it was proposed to the MDEQ. Faust and Oliver also expressed concern that GS Materials may over excavate the lakes and then back fill with dirt to obtain the proposed slopes. Oliver asked that the reclamation bond be reviewed to ensure it is sufficient in case they abandon the project.

#### **D. Poverty Guidelines Resolution**

**Fromhart moved to approve Resolution 02-04-2016E Bridgewater Township Board of Review Guidelines for Poverty/Hardship Exemptions. Faust seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

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

Fromhart requested a restoration of the Clerk's salary since it has only seen a 2% increase in the last 10 years. Fromhart stated she believes her proposed increase in salary is conservative and comparable to other clerk's compensation in the County. Fromhart indicated the Board overly compensates the assessor for the Supervisor's statutory duty yet she makes less and has the most statutory duties of all the officers. McQueer stated she doesn't support the Board voting themselves a raise and suggested conducting a citizen survey to determine salary increases. Fromhart stated the Board shouldn't have to belabor the subject and that she recommended forming a Compensation Commission last year but the Board didn't support it. **McQueer moved to establish Compensation Commission to review Township Board salaries and make a recommendation. Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried with Fromhart opposed.**

**F. Budget Presentation 2016-2017**

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed general fund and sewer fund budgets for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The Board discussed the proposed new line item for the WWTP Operations Committee and the duties and responsibilities of the committee. The Board also reviewed and discussed the proposed increase in the compensation for the sewer billing clerk, compensation for the Clerk for managing the sewer books, and establishing a capital improvement fund for the sewer plant.

**G. Road Commission 2016 Road Projects**

The Board reviewed and discussed the WCRC's road projects for 2016 and also discussed WCRC's proposed millage proposal of .5 mills for 4 years with 20% earmarked for border to border trails and connecting communities' initiative.

**VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Oliver moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. Smith seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Fromhart  
Bridgewater Township Clerk