

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 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, Deputy Clerk Judy Klager, Treasurer Michelle McQueer, and Trustees David Faust and Geoffrey Oliver.

Absent: Clerk Laurie Fromhart.

Also Present Township Attorney Fred Lucas, Township Planner Rodney Nanney, Township Engineer Marcus McNamara, Planning Commission Chair Dave Horney, Planning Commission Secretary Tom Wharam, GS Materials LLC Consultant Chip Tokar.

Attendance: 7

**II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

A resident asked about the current status of the Bemis Road Bridge. Horney commented a Compensation Commission can only meet during odd numbered years and that the Board may want to consider forming a citizen's committee to evaluate compensation for elected officials.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Smith moved to approve the February 4, 2016 meeting minutes as drafted. Faust seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

**IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

**McQueer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Oliver 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 January 2016.

**V. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**A. GS Materials LLC – Mineral Extraction License and Variance to Authorize Expanded Operations|**

**Smith moved to adjourn the regular meeting and open the public hearing on GS Materials Mineral Extraction License and Variance to authorize Expanded Operations at 7:09 p.m. Faust seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

Chip Tokar with Natural Resources Management on behalf of GS Materials gave a brief presentation on their proposed plans to expand their current mining operation. Tokar stated they are proposing to expand GS Materials Lake by approximately 4 acres in an easterly direction, and an expansion of the Crego Peltcs Lake by approximately 4.6 acres in a westerly direction. Tokar indicated as part of the expansion they are proposing to lower the lake level by 2.5 feet to 849 feet to the base condition that existed in 2000 to help the hydrology modeling for possible future expansion, and potentially connect the two lakes to form one large lake. Tokar noted their original plans presented to the MDEQ back in 2003 included one large lake but the

MDEQ requested the expansion be done slowly over time to ensure there would be no impact to neighboring wells and wetlands. Tokar also stated they are requesting a variance request from the setback between the common property line so they can waive the lateral support so mining and machinery can move back and forth between the two parcels. Tokar reported the Crego Peltcs parcel is governed by Ordinance 59 which requires the variance approval. Tokar indicated the GS Materials parcel is currently governed by a consent judgment which they would like to move to permitted conditions under Ordinance 59 to regulate the whole operation. Tokar stated they are not proposing to lower the lake levels in a significant manner that would affect any domestic wells, that they will continue to sample the ground water, and they have not seen any significant changes since 2000. Tokar also addressed Tom Peltcs concern regarding the stockpiling of topsoil on the Crego Peltcs parcel. Tokar reported the topsoil on site is of low organic content and quality and they have stockpiled the topsoil on the property for sale and reclamation purposes. Tokar explained the topsoil stockpiles are shown on the annual map with volumes that are calculated by engineering methods and inspected by the Township engineer.

Henry Jordan of Hogan Road stated he has a 50 foot well, and asked if their projections on how fast this is going to come together is based on the rate they are mining gravel now, or what it was several years ago. Tokar responded they based it on what they projected it to be, so they actually projected to increase as they mine, and that the rates are not too far off of what's going on right now, but it did slow down between 2008 and 2012 due to the economy.

Township attorney Fred Lucas stated that GS Materials is responsible if any domestic wells are affected and is part of the permitting requirement.

Township engineer Marcus McNamara stated OHM reviewed GS Materials application prior to the planning commission hearing and recommended approval except for the variance request which hadn't been submitted at the time. McNamara indicated he issued a brief report today recommending approval of their plans and that the variance request is warranted.

Township planner Rodney Nanney stated he did not issue a new review letter since the Planning Commission hearing, but did look at the variance application and explained that Ordinance 59 allows the Board to grant a variance. Nanney summarized the standards for a variance request that must be met by the applicant. Nanney reported they found the applicant's reasons for the variance compelling and agree with the Township engineer that it is warranted.

Tom Peltcs commented the MDEQ permit language indicates the slopes of the lakes to be 1:4 but the application indicates 1:6 and asked which one is correct. McNamara explained the MDEQ restricts the slopes to no steeper than 1:4 and that 1:6 is actually a shallower slope. McNamara noted the plans meets the requirements of the Township ordinance which is more restrictive. Tom Peltcs asked where the 19,000 cubic yards of topsoil is stockpiled on site. Tokar indicated on the map where the topsoil is currently stockpiled on site, and invited Peltcs out to the site to show him the location. Peltcs expressed concerned if the topsoil is not being saved they won't be able to restore the site and they will leave. Lucas explained that GS Materials has posted a reclamation bond that covers the cost to reclaim the land and protects the Township in case the operator abandons the project. Lucas recited the topsoil requirements in the ordinance for the purpose of reclamation.

**Smith moved to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 7:56 p.m. Oliver seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

## **B. General Fund and WWTP Budgets**

**Smith moved to adjourn the regular meeting and open the public hearing on the 2016-2017 fiscal year budgets at 7:57 p.m. McQueer seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

Smith reported the Supervisor is required on an annual basis to submit a balanced budget for Board approval. Smith noted a few changes in the WWTP budget that establishes a WWTP Operations Committee. Smith also noted last year the Township spent extra money on roads, but because of the Bemis Road Bridge status he chose not to budget extra money until the replacement costs for the bridge is better defined. An error was noted under the line item for planning and zoning correcting the total budgeted amount to \$19,500. McQueer requested a correction under the tax administration fee line item from \$32,000 to \$26,000 reducing total income to \$239,587.

Tom Wharam asked why the increase in the cost for cemetery care. Smith explained the Board is separating the actual cost of cemetery maintenance instead of combining it with town hall building and grounds expense, and that improvements to the cemetery is on the Board's project list for 2016. Dave Horney suggested budgeting for a portable screen and projector for those who wish to make presentations so it is highly visible to those in attendance.

**Smith moved to close the public hearing and open the regular meeting at 8:09 p.m. Oliver seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

## **VI. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE**

### **A. Treasurer's Report**

McQueer submitted a written report to the Board.

### **B. Clerk's Report**

No report.

### **C. Supervisor's Report**

Smith reported the Board of Review's organizational meeting will be held in the township hall basement on March 8th due to the presidential primary election.

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

Faust reported the property on Michigan Avenue is getting worse with more junk, and the fire run for the Willow Road property will need to be billed for an illegal burn.

### **E. Written Reports**

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

## **VII. PRIORITY BUSINESS**

### **A. MMLLPP Insurance Renewal**

**Smith moved to approve the MMLLPP as our insurance carrier for this year. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes.**

### **B. Approve Disbursements from February 5, 2016 through March 3, 2016**

**Smith moved to pay the monthly bills from the general and sewer funds in the total amount of 29,801.02. Faust seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**C. GS Materials LLC Variance Request Approval**

**Smith moved to approve GS Materials LLC Variance Request. McQueer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**D. GS Materials LLC Permit Approval as recommended by the Planning Commission**

**McQueer moved to accept GS Materials LLC permit approval as recommended by the Planning Commission. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**E. Review/Approval General Fund 2016-2017 Budget**

**Smith moved to approve the General Fund 2016-2017 fiscal year budget as amended. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**F. Review/Approval WWTP 2016-2017 Budget**

**Smith moved to approve the WWTP 2016-2017 fiscal year budget. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**G. Mowing Bid**

**Smith moved to accept the 2016 Mowing Bid from Jon Way. McQueer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**H. Support Letter Manchester Village Grant**

Smith reported he received a request from the Village of Manchester to support their grant application for work that is upstream of the bridge to clean up that area of the river. Smith explained the Village is requesting letters of support from surrounding communities. Board agreed to have the Supervisor write a letter in support of their grant application.

**I. WWTP System Repair**

Smith reported since the WWTP collection system was built it hasn't been maintained and there are a couple of air relief structures that have failed which require a vessel entry permit and equipment to make the repairs. Smith asked Tetra Tech to provide a proposal for the work which he included in the Board's packets. Faust reported the Township has no operation and maintenance manual for the collection system which was supposed to be provided by Tetra Tech when the system was built, and that the Township has no information on the specifications of the air relief structures. Faust stated if Tetra Tech did the work they should have the information, and is opposed to paying them \$4200 because they designed the system. Oliver agreed with Faust. McNamara reported an operation and maintenance manual is something that is typically delivered on the completion of a project, and offered to provide the Township with a proposal for the work. The Board discussed the option of obtaining more quotes but expressed concern of delaying the project that has already been a problem for the past 3 years. **Oliver moved to approve Tetra Tech's Sanitary Sewer Collection System proposal. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust no, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**J. Bridgewater Days Road Closure**

**Smith moved to approve Resolution 03-03-2016 Regarding Temporary Road Closure. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart absent, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

A resident asked if the Township is continuing to have a lot of problems with the sewer system.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Fromhart  
Bridgewater Township Clerk

APPROVED