

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular monthly meeting of the Bridgewater Township Board of Trustees was called to order by Supervisor Smith at 7:06 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: 27

**II. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

Ron Raab presented a petition to the Board on behalf of property owners of Bemis Road petitioning the WCRC, Freedom Township, and Bridgewater Township to fix or repair the bridge on Bemis Road located between Ernst Road and Schneider Road. Raab also submitted a letter to the Board from Ronnie & Dawn Wahl of Bemis Road requesting the bridge be fixed. Raab stated they have been told by the WCRC that there are insufficient funds to fix the bridge. Raab presented pictures of the Schneider Road Bridge and Waterworks bridge and asked why the Bemis Road bridge can't be fixed in the same manner with a half culvert and stone. Raab also presented pictures of the Bemis Road Bridge showing where the bridge is washed out but that the bridge is sound with no cracks. Raab expressed concern about access for emergency vehicles and asked who is going to be liable when emergency vehicles can't respond in a timely manner.

A resident asked if Bemis Road is going to be a dead end he will have to sell the farm. The resident also stated Bemis Road is a boundary road and went two years without any road maintenance because the Board voted it down.

A resident stated he has lived on Bemis Road for 20 years and the closure is a big inconvenience as well as a big safety and liability issue.

A resident stated she has lived on Bemis Road since 1983 and the bridge has been liked that since then and the WCRC hasn't taken any action until now. The resident stated she doesn't believe it's an emergency or that the structure is so compromised that local traffic can't go over it.

A resident stated he lives on Bemis Road and thought his taxes went to maintain the road not to close it and asked why the Board didn't let anyone know back in December what was going on.

Randy Clark from Salem Township stated he is life-long area resident, treasurer of the school board, and the only Republican candidate running for the 52 District. Clark stated he understands roads are a big issue and that more funding is needed at the County and State level. Clark also stated he is aware this area is dealing with the Rover Pipeline Project and is something he would like to address in Lansing to give property owners more rights.

A resident stated the Bemis Road closure is more of a hazard and is making people less safe because of the very steep hills putting people on the east end in jeopardy.

A resident stated the road closure has added real danger because of blind hills and friends are afraid to visit because of the condition of the road.

A resident stated she has lived on Bemis Road for 17 years which has seen a dwindling presence of the WCRC and have done a lot of road maintenance themselves. The resident stated you always had another direction to go but don't have another option now and it's a real safety concern and is unacceptable.

A resident stated she couldn't get medical supplies in a timely manner because of the Bemis Road closure and is very concerned.

### **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Smith moved to approve the Board of Trustees March 3, 2016 regular meeting minutes and March 30, 2016 special meeting minutes as drafted. Oliver seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

### **IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA**

**McQueer moved to approve the agenda as amended moving the Bemis Rd Bridge Discussion after WCRC Annual Meeting. Oliver seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.**

#### **WCRC Annual Meeting**

Jim Harmon Director of Operations, Doug Fuller Board Chair, and Ken Harris Assistant Superintendent of Road Maintenance presented the WCRC Annual Meeting report. Harmon presented the breakdown of the 2016 WCRC Budget and noted that most townships partner with the WCRC even though they have no obligation to fund road improvements. Harmon explained the 2016 local matching program with \$11,725 allocated for conventional local road match, and \$11,481 allocated for drainage match. Harmon noted May 20<sup>th</sup> is the commitment date for this year's 2016 local road program and that matching funds can be rolled over for one year. Harmon provided a summary of activities for 2015 and proposed 2016 local road projects and presented the 2016 Bridgewater Township Agreement for dust control. Harmon summarized the major projects the WCRC performed last year and projects to be performed this year under P.A. 283. Harmon explained Michigan's new road funding package and how funding will be phased in through 2021. Harmon stated because of the delay in funding the WCRC approved a .5 millage proposal for 4 years to be placed on the August 2nd ballot that is awaiting approval by the BOC. Harmon also reported on the Township's funding contribution summary from 2011 through 2015 with an average contribution of \$32,191.40. The Board expressed concerned that the county millage proposal earmarks 20% for non-motorized transportation initiatives. Harmon and Fuller responded to residents' questions and concerns regarding the closure of the Bemis Road Bridge.

#### **V.E. Bemis Road Bridge Discussion**

The Board responded to residents' questions and concerns and discussed the upcoming meeting scheduled on April 19<sup>th</sup> at Freedom Township hall, estimated costs to replace the Bemis Road Bridge, and partnering with the WCRC and Freedom Township on funding.

#### **Public Safety Report**

The Sheriff's Department submitted a written report to the Board on the law enforcement activities for the month of February 2016.

### **V. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDANCE**

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

McQueer reported she received the County's settlement report and noted Act 88 was not completely levied properly and will be added to the summer tax bill.

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

Fromhart submitted a written report to the Board. Fromhart introduced her new Deputy Clerk Char Stewart and asked the Board to adopt a resolution she prepared honoring former Deputy Clerk Judy Klager for her dedicated service to the Township. **Fromhart moved to adopt Resolution 04-07-16 To Acknowledge and Thank Outgoing Clerk Judy Klager for Her Service to Bridgewater Township. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.** Fromhart also requested Board approval for an expenditure not to exceed \$1000 to replace the Clerk's laptop computer and printer. **Smith moved to approve the expenditure to replace the Clerk's laptop computer and printer at a cost not to exceed \$1000. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

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

Smith reported he toured the sewer collection system with Tetra Tech representatives Brian Rubel and Joe Siwek and they located six of the seven air relief valves. Smith indicated it appears none of the air relief valves are working because they are all under water. Smith noted Tetra Tech is proceeding with their proposal to find contractors to do the work with estimated costs that will be presented to the Board at a later date.

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

Faust reported two grinder pumps have bad motors and it is cheaper to buy new pumps than repair them and requested Board approval to purchase two new grinder pumps. **Fromhart moved to purchase two new grinder pumps at a cost not to exceed \$4000. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.** Faust also requested Board approval to purchase new grinder pump setups. **Smith moved to approve the expenditure for two new grinder pump setups at a cost not to exceed \$8000. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.** Oliver reported he attended the quarterly WWCA meeting and they are still assessing the use of credit cards for the next six months because processing costs may be too high. Oliver also reported permits were ~~done~~ **down** a little bit but the WWCA remains in good shape financially.

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

Board packets included reports from the Assessor, Zoning Administrator, and Planning Commission. Horney reported the Planning Commission received a draft zoning ordinance amendment from the Township Planner for the keeping of farm animals in the Hamlet.

### **VI. PRIORITY BUSINESS**

#### **A. Approve Disbursements from April 1, 2016 – April 7, 2016**

**Smith moved to pay the monthly bills from the general and sewer funds in the total amount of \$45,406.54. Oliver seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

#### **B. Synagro Contract**

**Smith moved to approve Synagro Central, LLC three year contract for sludge handling. Faust seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.**

**C. WWRA Added Operating Fee for New Dwelling Units**

McQueer moved to table for further information. Oliver seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

**D. 2015-2016 Audit**

Smith moved to continue with an annual audit. Faust seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

**F. WCRC Roads Discussion, Matching Funds**

Smith moved to approve the 2016 Bridgewater Township Agreement with the WCRC for dust control in the amount of \$14,058.70. Faust seconded the motion which was adopted unanimously.

**G. Townhall Message/Furniture**

Smith moved to authorize the Clerk to purchase a new outdoor bulletin board not to exceed \$500. McQueer seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed. Oliver moved to authorize the Clerk to purchase 6 new chairs for the town hall not to exceed \$200 each. Smith seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Faust yes, Fromhart yes, McQueer yes, Oliver yes, Smith yes. Motion passed.

**VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

There were no public comments.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Fromhart  
Bridgewater Township Clerk