

**ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD PUBLIC HEARING AND
REGULAR MEETING**

TUESDAY, JULY 1, 2008

The hearing was called to order by Clerk Helen Mathieu in the absence of Supervisor David Meister.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mathieu appointed Trustee Roland Clement to chair the hearing.

Members present: Trustee James Wisniski, Treasurer LaVonne Schafer-Beebe.

TRUTH IN TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING

Clerk Mathieu said budget revisions are as follows: Millage was 1.4536, revised to 1.4344; Fire Department was .8709, now .8594; Roads was .9691, now is .9563.

Motion by Wisniski, second by Beebe, to accept the budget revisions as presented.

Roll call vote: James Wisniski, yes; Helen Mathieu, yes; LaVonne Schafer Beebe, yes; Roland Clement, yes. Absent: David Meister. Motion carried.

ADJOURNED: 9:10 a.m.

REGULAR MEETING

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Trustee Roland Clement.

MINUTES: Motion by Beebe, second by Wisniski, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2008 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Beebe, second by Wisniski to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2008 special meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No statement as yet.

AMEND AGENDA: Place Craig Stapley of Abonmarch up on agenda, move Mike Acton and Project Watershed Forever to end of agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments received from Howard Hughes.

CRAIG STAPLEY: Stapley of Abonmarche displayed and discussed a proposal for possible layout of the Bertelson Cemetery lots. The board asked Stapley to meet with the clerk and look at the lots at the cemetery for a cost estimate.

FIRE/RESCUE: Clerk Mathieu reported: 5 meetings, 9 fire runs, 10 rescue runs for June; the department will host an open house during the Onekama Days in August; wild Land gear is needed for 3 persons; batteries for oxygen tanks need to be changed; foam bill payment is being questioned with company; working on refurbishing the pontoon boat, which will be parked at Onekama Marina in the village.

Motion by Beebe, second by Wisniski to permit the fire department to allocate \$1,000 for purchase of handouts for the Onekama Days parade. Motion carried.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Clement reported the July meeting has been changed from Thursday, July 17 to Tuesday, July 22; as a result of the new Michigan Planning and Zoning Enabling Acts, the township board will need to pass a new enabling ordinance and rescind the previous one; by-laws of the planning commission will need to be reviewed and re-written, the Board of Appeals rules of procedure need to be changed and there will be some ordinance changes.

CEMETERY: Wisniski reported the cemetery grounds have been mowed.

BOARD OF REVIEW: The board will meet Tuesday, July 22 from 9 to 10 a.m. for corrections. No appeals will be heard at this time.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Chairman Tom Gerhardt reported no appeals have been received, rules of procedure need to be changed.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR: Zoning Administrator Dana Schindler reported for month of June: 4 land use permits , 1 land use permit pending, no appeals of land division action, 3 complaints received, 3 violations pending, 1 violation resolved. Schindler also reported on the County Zoning Administrators meeting where the Citizen Planner Series was discussed. It is recommended for planning commissioners and board of appeals members. General concerns from municipalities were also discussed.

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION: Chairman Jim Mrozinski reported dredging should be conducted in the channel this week; the coalition agreed to meet with the Project Watershed group to explore how they can enhance and protect the lake; discussed drains and impervious surfaces. Chuck May, who represented the commission at several meetings, asked the board to approve a resolution supporting the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition. Mrozinski will be the commission's representative to the coalition. May said 8 harbors have signed on to the coalition; two thirds of the harbors should be signed by September. The board tabled the resolution request until Supervisor Meister arrives.

SUZANNE SCHWING: Schwing updated the board on the Village Portage Lake Wetlands project. She submitted an application to the Michigan Resource Trust Fund. Dan Behring gave a presentation to the trust fund on behalf of the project at a meeting in Mackinaw City. She said the project needs 25 per cent or a local share of approximately \$135,000 for the project. The group is looking at other grant opportunities.

MTA-Local Chapter: No report.

RENEWABLE ENERGY AWARD: Supervisor Meister attended a gathering which included Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who presented an award to the supervisor recognizing Onekama Township. The State of Michigan Certificate of Tribute honors Onekama Township for being a leader in renewable energy by becoming the first community in Michigan to have a home with a wind generator with solar power, through its work with Hybrid Homes, LLC. The township has an ordinance in place for Wind Energy Conversion Systems under Article 10, Section 1026 in the Onekama Township Zoning Ordinance.

PARKS & RECREATION: Parks Committee Chairman Tom Gerhardt reported a new park bench has arrived, funded primarily through donations in memory of the late Steve Vargo, a relative of the late Blanche Miller, who was instrumental in getting the park created. The bench will be installed by a crew from Onekama Marine on the primitive trail. Debbie Diggins notified

the committee that she has resigned. She designed logos, conceptual design, and many other aspects of the North Point Park. Public input on the Park Five-Year Plan will be sought as part of the Joint Master Plan meeting Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Farr Center. It was the consensus of the board to ask Jason Sievert to mow the North Point Park grass along the Bayview entrance, and edge grass along the Primitive Trail.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: No report.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WORKSHOP: Clement reported he and Meister attended a meeting with the department regarding grant or loan money available through the department. Grant money might be available for a fire truck; other items may not qualify.

JOINT MASTER PLAN: A community-wide meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 17 at 6:30 p.m. in Farr Center.

MILARCH ROAD: No work done yet.

PORTAGE LAKE STREET & LAKEVIEW: Signs not installed.

AVENUE E, SECTION BY THE PIER: Awaiting finalization of the amended plat with new easement for relocation of Avenue E.

GOLFMORE: Fence removal not verified.

ROAD COMMISSION: Verbal report given by Wisniski on road commission meetings.

BURNHAM AVENUE: No activity.

BROWN/13 MILE ROAD: A copy of the recorded Final Order in the matter of Gloria Brown, et al v The State of Michigan , et al, amending the plat of the Village of Pierport (Amended Plat) received by the township.

ORDINANCE REVIEW: Motion by Wisniski, second by Mathieu to approve the ordinance amendment # 2008-01 to the Onekama Township Zoning Ordinance. Roll call vote: James Wisniski, yes; Helen Mathieu, yes; LaVonne Schafer-Beebe, yes; Roland Clement, yes. Absent: David Meister. Motion carried.

(NOTE: THE APPROVED AMENDMENT IS ATTACHED TO THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT OF THE MINUTES).

Supervisor Meister arrived at 10:55 a.m.

SMALL HARBORS COALITION: Motion by Clement, second by Beebe to approve Resolution Supporting Michigan Small Harbors Coalition # 2008- 06. Roll call vote:

James Wisniski, yes; Roland Clement, yes; LaVonne Schafer- Beebe, yes; Helen Meister, yes; David Meister, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Clement, second by Beebe, to rescind the motion made on Resolution Supporting Michigan Small Harbors Coalition. Roll call vote: James Wisniski, yes; Roland Clement, yes; Helen Mathieu, yes; LaVonne Schafer-Beebe, yes; David Meister, yes. Motion carried.

Motion by Clement, second by Wisniski, to consult with Tim Ervin of the Manistee County Community Foundation on correct language from the Watershed Forever Plan, to include a paragraph with reference to the watershed plan. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MICHIGAN SMALL HARBORS COALITION

No. 2008-06

WHEREAS, there are more than 50 federally authorized small Great Lakes harbors in Michigan, more than all the other Great Lakes states combined; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is responsible for maintaining boater access to these harbors through adequate dredging and maintenance of navigation infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as maintenance); and

WHEREAS, small harbors perform other valuable functions such as ports of refuge during inclement weather, ports for U. S. Coast guard rescue stations, ports for law enforcement, ports for commercial fleets, ports for Great Lakes research vessels, and ferry terminals; and

WHEREAS, many of the 50 federally authorized small harbors in Michigan require regular maintenance because of natural sedimentation, low water levels, storm events, and littoral drift, among other factors; and

WHEREAS, longstanding federal policy prevents the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers from allocating funds for the maintenance of small harbors in its operation and maintenance budget for the Great Lakes, thus forcing these harbors to seek Congressional assistance or “earmarks” to secure funds for maintenance; and

WHEREAS, this inefficient , inequitable system has resulted in maintenance backlogs that have hindered, or in some cases totally blocked, access to Michigan small harbors, causing significant economic loss and increased risk to human health and safety; and

WHEREAS, small harbors in Michigan have not, to date, had an organization through which to unite and speak with one voice to address concerns about maintenance and other shared interest to federal and state agencies; and

WHEREAS, goal two of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever Plan, approved by the MDEQ, to maintain adequate depths in the Portage Lake channel, to assure safe, easy access to and from Portage Lake and Lake Michigan, essentially supports the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition’s concern about adequate access from Lake Michigan to Portage Lake; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Onekama Township supports and commits to being a member of the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Onekama Township urges the Michigan Small Harbors Coalition to advocate for a more equitable, sustainable, needs-based system to allocate funds for adequate maintenance of small Great Lakes harbors in Michigan.

CLERK’S CERTIFICATION

I, Helen Mathieu, duly appointed Clerk for the Township of Onekama, Michigan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Onekama Township Board of Trustees at its regular meeting held on Tuesday, July 1,

2008.

Helen Mathieu

Clerk, Onekama Township

PORTAGE LAKE WATERSHED FOREVER PLAN: Chairman Mike Acton displayed a map which shows the certified watershed areas in the state. He announced that the Portage Lake plan has been approved by the State of Michigan. It took 3 years to develop, and includes 5 municipalities, DEQ, DNR, Army Corps, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, other associations. “this is the community’s plan,” he said. Acton announced that the Inventory, Monitoring and Research Committee of the Watershed Forever will conduct an entire shoreline survey of Portage Lake from July 21 through July 31. Volunteers will look for invasive species, document storm drains, algae growth. The review session will be at 10 a.m. on Monday, July 21 at the Village Park Pavillon.

Acton reported the village is doing E-Coli testing for 4 weeks; informational packets are being prepared with brochures on septic systems clean sweep hazardous waste, swimmer’s itch, fertilizer, protecting wetlands, watershed fact sheet, invasive species, endowment fact sheet guide for anyone wishing to build in the township. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Clement to approve the amount of \$3,172 for the educational expenditures by the Watershed Forever. Motion carried.

PPI: Review special assessment.

BUILDING RESEARCH: Clement reported copies of a proposal have been distributed to all board members for their suggestions and ideas.

GILBERT APPEAL: No decision yet.

W.W.ENERGY OIL CO.: **Motion** by Clement to have supervisor Meister sign an amendment to the oil and gas lease with W.W. Energy Oil Co. Motion carried.

GRAVEL ON TORRANT ST: Motion by Wisniski, second by Clement, to ask the county road commission to place a load of gravel on Tarrant St. Motion carried.

Meister left at 12:10 p.m.

Meister returned at 12:13 p.m.

PORTAGE RIDGE: Clerk instructed to send letter to County Planning director Sue Wagner regarding Portage Ridge at Onekama Site Condominiums, stating that the township had no jurisdiction at that time.

MEGAN MCCARTHY: Submitted a proposal offering her services as a grant writer to help Onekama Township meet some of its immediate and future goals, at \$20 per hour for grant writing and reimbursement of pre-approved expenses. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Beebe to accept McCarthy's proposal as a grant writer. Motion carried.

JOHN PADDEN: Reviewed permit application from Padden. Supervisor instructed zoning administrator on changes needed in permit.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE:

---MTA

---Cty. Planning Dept.

---Gosling/Czubak

---DEQ#08-51-0009-P

---West Shore College

---Kurt Schindler

BILLS: Motion by Wisniski, second by Beebe to pay all regular and incoming bills. Motion carried.

ADJOURN: 1:13 p.m.

David Meister, Supervisor

Helen Mathieu, Clerk

LaVonne Schafer-Beebe, Treasurer

Roland Clement, Trustee

James Wisniski, Trustee