

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
9:00 A.M.

Meeting called to order at 9:05 by Supervisor Meister with the Pledge of Allegiance.
Board members present were: Supervisor David Meister, Treasurer LaVonne Beebe,
Trustee Bob Blackmore, Trustee James Wisniski, and Deputy Clerk Lynn Mathieu.
Absent: Clerk Helen Mathieu

MINUTES: **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve the August 5, 2013 minutes with the following corrections: Page 3, under Portage Lake Harbor Commission, revise the first statement to read "Meister reported the dredging application has been sent to Lansing and was notified of its tentative approval." Page 4, under Roads, correct the word Board in the statement regarding the consensus of the board. Page 5, under Correspondence, change to MI Par Plan.

Motion by Beebe, second by Blackmore to approve the August 13, 2013 minutes without corrections that were read aloud by Supervisor Meister.

Motion by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve the August 19, 2013 minutes without corrections that were read aloud by Supervisor Meister.

Motion by Beebe, second by Blackmore to approve the August 26, 2013 minutes that were read aloud by Trustee Blackmore with the following corrections: Page 1, under Township Building Millage Proposal, correct the spelling in township and on page 2, under Revenue Sharing Grant, remove Bear Lake township.

Motion by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve the August 27, 2013 minutes without corrections that were read aloud by Supervisor Meister.

AMEND AGENDA: Windfalls Landing LLC added under sewer expansion

TREASURER'S REPORT: see attached report. Summer tax collection is way behind for this time of the year.

CLERK'S REPORT: see attached report.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

COMMISSIONER KEN HILLIARD: Absent

COMMISSIONER KARL WAITNER: The Bar Lake Improvement Board will meet on 09/09/2013. The biggest problem was that people did not feel adequately represented and now there is a group of people who are trying to disband the board. The Manistee

County fair ended this past week, Commissioner Waitner did not realize how much work went into the fair. He will have a final report on the fair at the next township meeting. The commissioners meetings have gotten a bit heated recently and the road commission is definitely a hot topic. Next board meeting should be just as interesting and active. Please attend if possible. Supervisor Meister asked about having a report from road commission from the board member attending the meeting. They currently have a report that is submitted to them from the road commission. There was continued conversation about how the meeting minutes will be obtained. This is not a witch hunt in regards to the road commission but they will continue to look into whether it would be beneficial for the board of commissioners to take over control of the road commission. The township board has a continued concern regarding the meetings that took place prior to the hiring of the new administrator.

REPORTS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES:

---Fire/Rescue Report, Fire Cadet Letter: Blackmore reported these runs from memory, a report will follow: 2 brush runs, 2 Jaws runs, 18 medical runs. There was fire equipment at the fair 5 nights with personnel, several other townships were there as well. Wisniski would like to have a truck up at the football games, they were there last year. Wisniski will ask the school. Wisniski wondered about why we are paying for the education of the cadets. Blackmore indicated that it is the cost of doing business. Following some discussion, it was suggested that we should come up with a resolution or policy that states a length of service requirement following the township paying for further education. It is costing the township because we pay to educate the fire employees that then leave shortly thereafter. The policy or resolution should have a time frame regarding how long they need to be here for us not to be reimbursed. Supervisor Meister read a letter from John Curtin.

---Planning Commission: Public hearing on ordinance amendments will take place on Thursday, Sept. 19, 2013, 6: 30 p.m.: No report submitted. Al Taylor and Roger Cody are signing up for the Citizen Planning Committee. Letter submitted to the township board from Robert Blackmore and read during the meeting by Supervisor Meister. **Motion** by Blackmore, second by Beebe to appoint Wisniski to fill the vacated position. The village has appointed two people, those people are Rudy Milasich and Suzanne Schwing.

---Board of Review/Assessor: See attached report.

---Zoning Board of Appeal: Report given by Tom Gerhardt stating that there has been no real activity because of the potential revision of zoning ordinances.

---Zoning Administrator: See attached report. Last Wednesday, the Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp was placed under a stop work order because there was a complaint. Philpot will follow up.

---Parks & Recreation: See attached report. There was a grant application submitted to board to apply for a well at Northpoint Park. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve the grant application. The grant application was signed by Meister. Committee review of the five year plan is set for Thursday, Sept. 18, 2013, 8 a.m. The board is working on five year plan and the public will be able to view them at the township, village, and the school. In November, the five year plan will be submitted to the local governmental agencies for their approval and in December it will be submitted to the State of Michigan. Gerhardt has the deed for the wetlands. He was surprised to know that the township owned more land than he thought and wants to know if he should include it with the wetlands. Following some discussion, the board consensus instructed Gerhardt to include it.

---MTA Local Chapter: No quorum so there was an informal discussion about what was going on in the local communities and the road commission. Jim Krolczyk was not pleased that the township submitted the letter to the road commission. They also spoke of local crimes committed and the dredging. Next meeting is Sept. 25, 2013 at 7 pm.

---Portage Lake Harbor Commission: Dredging company will get with Jim Mrozinski with notice to mariners.

---Invasive Species: See attached report. Conversation took place regarding Bar Lake and why they did not contact Mary Reed for help. There will need to be a new SAD and they will continue to investigate and come back to the board with the new recommendation.

---Watershed Committee: Bob Gezon presented to the council and there was a huge crowd. They were a very positive audience with good questions. Council following the presentation passed a resolution in support of his endeavor.

---PLA: Bob Gezon presented to this group as well, they would like a resolution from the PLA also. They are also offered an area on the website. The PLA met with the Lions Club regarding Onekama Days. They felt that overall the feedback was positive. Moving all of the activities to the park is still being discussed. They will speak with the fire department regarding moving their activities to the park. Onekama fall festival is scheduled for October 12, 2013, and will be moved to the school in the event of rain. Christmas in Onekama is scheduled for November 23, 2013. Beer tasting and pig roast were successful. Christmas decorations will go up shortly. Petunia removal will be September 23rd.

---COMMUNITY DOCK: The bench for Barb Bingham is set, Gerhardt submitted photos.

ROADS:

---M-22-Smith Rd. (MDOT): No contact yet regarding a sign placed there.

Pricing for skimming 11 Mile road has not yet been received. The village would still like to work to get their road work done this year. Hudson will contact Ron Brown and Sons to see if they can do the work this year yet. The village would like approximately \$35,000 from the township for the Mill Street project. Blackmore suggested that the village should sign a contract with Ron Brown and Sons and accept the help that the township is able to give them. Continued discussion suggested that the village make their contracts and accept any help that the township is able to give them.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

---Dredging: Procurement policy says that we can take an appropriate bid in the effort to move the dredging along. All line items have been met except for the final step that needs to be done following construction. Dredging is scheduled to start September 9, 2013, and the dredger will be here on September 6, 2013.

Boat launch repair was discussed. PLA and Watershed contributed what they could afford. Manistee Sport Fishing group was unable to contribute any money. Village is asking the township for a commitment of \$2,820.00. **Motion** by Blackmore, second by Wisniski to pay the Village of Onekama \$2,820.00 for the repair of the park boat launch, roll call vote: Wisniski, yes; Blackmore, yes; Beebe, yes; Meister, yes; Mathieu, absent. Should the village boat launch charge for boats to be launched?

---Dirksen/Brown—Case # 06-12498-CH: N/A

---Par Plan Grant Info: Grant received for security cameras. They are here and are scheduled to be installed. Par Plan is the township insurance company and we have received three grants from them.

---Roof: The contractor will be here to do the work September 4, 2013.

---Sprinkler System: Hold on for the revenue sharing decision.

---Bertelson Cemetery (Water Well): The well has been repaired. Head stones need repair but Wisniski has hit several dead ends in inquiring who would do the work. Monument companies may have the equipment to do this project. Beebe suggested contacting the families. Blackmore suggested that we wait until the trees are removed. We should budget for this next year.

---Building Expansion: This issue will be on the ballot and we can let the voters decide. We will have an informational meeting again and we hope to have better attendance.

---County Summit Meeting: Sept. 19, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Signup deadline is Sept. 9, 2013. Mathieu and Wisniski are currently signed up.

NEW BUSINESS:

---Sewer Expansion Project: The village seems to be for the project based on further information which will be obtained at future meetings. The township has a request for engineering qualifications that was discussed. Supervisor Meister read parts of the request. Supervisor Meister would like to send these RFQ/P out on Wednesday September 4, 2013 and ask for them to be submitted to the township by September 25, 2013. There was ongoing conversation. The board consensus was to go ahead with this.

---Windfalls Landing LLC: Meister read a letter from Windfalls Landing LLC requesting a creation of a commercial rehabilitation district under PA 210 of 2005, both items are attached. **Motion** by Blackmore, second by Wisniski to create a Commercial Rehabilitation District for the properties that comprise Portage Point Inn.

---Public Comment: Alice Hendricks thanked the board for contributing to the village boat launch. Camie Cairns commented on the community dock. The board will send the zoning administrator out to look at this situation. The board will remove the stack of docks that are not being used. Al Taylor has had trouble getting issues handled regarding the crime report as well as getting the road commission to cut grass at critical road crossings. He questioned what the proper way to handle these issues is. Wisniski will speak at the next MTA meeting and ask specifically about the crimes committed in Onekama. Beebe questioned the board about the sand and the barriers at the turnaround. Meister gave a brief history about the turnaround.

---Bills: Motion by Wisniski second by Blackmore to pay bills.

---Correspondence: Letter from Patricia Pierce was read by Meister, original attached to minutes.

Dear Onekama Township Board Members,

A private dock was installed today at the road end of Arborvitae. My property adjoins this road end. I spoke with Helen Mathieu about this and was informed that I was contacted prior to the board giving permission for this dock to be placed there and that I had no problem with it.

I hereby state that no one contacted me or my husband, Robert Pierce, about this issue. I certainly did NOT give my approval.

The dock is now in place. It is only about six feet from my property. I am concerned about the closeness and interference with my riparian rights.

Wouldn't this dock require a permit from the Michigan Corps of Engineers as other docks do? Shouldn't this dock be required to follow the State of Michigan

DEQ regulations?
Thank you for looking into these matters.

Sincerely,

Patricia Pierce
2680 Lakeview Road
Onkama MI 49675
217-622-4807

Letters were sent to Cook and Millar. Letter to village regarding their joint planning.
Letter to Bob G, village man, for his work on the village park.

---**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned 12:17 pm.

Minutes submitted
Lynn Mathieu
Deputy Clerk