

**INVASIVE SPECIES PUBLIC HEARING AND SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2014, 7 P.M., TOWNSHIP HALL**

The hearing was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor David Meister.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present: James Wisniski, Robert Blackmore, Lavonne Beebe, Helen Mathieu.

Also present: BreAnne Grabill, Environmental Scientist of PLM Lake & Land Management Corp., who is contracted by the township for management and treatment in and around Portage Lake.

PURPOSE: Meister explained that the purpose of the hearing was to consider any comments opposed to or in favor of the proposed Special Assessment 2014 Roll for the Special Assessment District.

Meister explained that the program runs from 2014-2018. The total estimated cost of the Program to be assessed against the district is \$418,000 and the annual costs of the Program are estimated at \$83,000 per year. The fee would be \$16 per year for five years for units off the water. Units on the water are \$130 per year for units of 51-150 feet; on half unit of 0 to 50 feet, \$65; two units of 151-250 feet, \$260; three units of 251-400 feet, \$390, etc.

COMMENTS IN FAVOR:

Howard Hughes: It's a good idea and good for the lake. I own one half unit on the lake and a full unit off the lake. It is well worth doing it again.

COMMENTS OPPOSED:

Pat Guzikowski: The issues haven't been addressed. I'm a licensed and experienced diver. I've probably seen more of this lake bottom than most of you. There's a 48 hour re-entry after application of 2, 4-D. Within days I noticed the mortality of small organic creatures. We have created an environment for good and bad. We need to address all the problems—invasive species and the swans. There are a lot of problems right under our nose. I can't blame one entity, we are all to blame. I have a label from 2, 4-D. I don't like 2, 4-D in the water.

BreAnne Grabill: I have reviewed the label. The swan restriction has to do with putting in our equipment. This label is for a separate type of product. We are using one that has a 24 hour restriction on entering the water. Anything that dies will be matter at the lake bottom. Bullheads, other fish—this is the first time I've heard of this. Our product is designed so that doesn't happen. Septic tanks are always a focus issue and something that is always on our agenda. We are trying to look at the big picture. We decided to look at inlets and organics in the lake. The swans are an issue and need to be incorporated into the program.

I can give you more information on the type of 2, 4-D we are using; it is not the only product in the lake. We use specific ones for aquatics. Loveland (brand) is not a product we are using; that brand is not listed by the DEQ in Michigan. The DEQ only approves granular 2, 4-D, not liquid 2, 4-D. Michigan is very strict on this.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Meister: The sewer system around the lake needs to be addressed again.

Al Taylor: The village and township passed resolutions on the issue of the swans two years ago, and nothing has happened.

Mary Reed: I will be happy to contact the DNR (about the swans).

Herb Lenon: It is unusual to find dead fish on the bottom.

Meister (to Guzikowski) : Grab a fish and we will have it analyzed. We can use granular 2,4-D , as it sets on the water. Meister to Guzikowski: Does that mean you are opposed? Guzikowski: Not opposed; questions were answered.

Grabill: It is very lethal to use "Rodeo" (brand name) in the lake; we use another product.

Judy Cunningham: I'm not opposed; I just have some comments. There should be a lot of focus on shoreline protection. Maybe it is time to pass an ordinance to protect the shorelines, keep the lake area protected, no fertilizer should be used near the lake, or anything that disturbs the health of the shoreline and lake.

Alice Hendricks: The village is working on a shoreline overlay zone, we are proposing a buffer-type zone. There are some things that are grandfathered in; it is difficult to police these things. We need the cooperation of all the lake property owners.

Chuck Reed: The most important thing is education, to get people to cooperate and preserve the lake.

Al Taylor: One "tool" in the "toolbox" is a riparian zone; the Planning Commission is looking at it. The lake is in fairly good condition. Education is the key.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters opposing were received from Diane and Lynn Dushane, Carol Funderburgh, Gary Anderson and Judy Parker, and Charlotte Wheyland Trust. A letter in favor was received from Cheryl and Bill Sundstrom.

Meister said there are 10,500 acres of land in the township. You need 51 per cent to approve. There is five acres, or 20 per cent, in opposition.

HEARING ADJOURNED: 7:40 p.m.

BUSINESS MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:40 P.M.

DISCUSSION, ACTION: Meister read Resolution No. 2014-14:

**RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PORTAGE LAKE AQUATIC WEED
AND PLANT CONTROL PROGRAM SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL**

Resolution No. 2014 - 14

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act 188, Public Acts of Michigan, 1954 as amended, a public hearing was held on the 13th day of May, 2014, to hear and consider objections to the special assessment roll made to assess all the costs of the Portage Lake Invasive Plant Species Management and Control Program (the "Program") to properties in the Portage Lake Invasive Special Assessment district (the "District"); and

WHEREAS, the special assessment roll has been presented to the Board and the Board has determined that the special assessment roll should be confirmed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows: The total estimated cost of the Program to be assessed against the District is \$418,000 and the annual costs of the said Program are estimated to be as follows:

2014,	2015,	2016,	2017,	2018
83,600,	83,600,	83,600,	83,600,	83,600

The Portage Lake Invasive Plant Species Special Assessment Roll (the "roll") assessing the aforesaid total sum to cover expenditures for the program against the District is ratified, confirmed and adopted. Each special assessment shall be due in one installment on February 14th, 2015 and subsequent years' assessments shall be due with the winter tax bill of that year.

If any assessment is not paid when due, then such assessment shall be deemed to be delinquent and there shall be collected thereon a penalty at the normal rate charged by the township and county for each month or fraction thereof that such assessment remains unpaid before being reported to the Board for reassessment upon the Township tax roll, or fraction thereof that such assessment remains unpaid before being reported to the Board for reassessment upon the Township tax roll.

The clerk is hereby directed to attach her warrant as required by law to the Roll and to direct the Roll, with her warrant attached, to the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall thereupon collect the special assessments in accordance with the terms of this resolution, the warrant and the statutes of the State of Michigan.

Moved by Robert Blackmore,

Supported by Helen Mathieu

RESOLVED, to approve the Resolution confirming Portage Lake Invasive Species Special Assessment Roll and amend the roll so that each lake front lot 50' or less is assessed ½ unit, 51-150 1 unit, 151-250 2 units, 251-400 3 units, 400' and more is maximum of 4 units. All other parcels in Onekama Township area assessed 1/8 unit with the exception of marinas and condominiums.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: James Wisniski, Robert Blackmore, LaVonne Beebe, Helen Mathieu, David Meister.

NAYS: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

STATE OF MICHIGAN

COUNTY OF MANISTEE

I, Helen Mathieu, Clerk of the Onekama Township Board, confirm and agree to this resolution on this 13th day of May 2014 as adopted at the Portage Lake Public Hearing of Assessment Roll on the 13th of May, 2014.

_____, Clerk

Onekama Township Board

ADJOURN: 7:43 p.m.

Helen Mathieu, Clerk