

Regular Meeting of the Crystal Lake Township Board

Meeting held at 1651 Frankfort Highway, Frankfort MI 49635
December 13, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amy Ferris at 7 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Ferris, May, Nielsen, Sullivan, and Trentham were present, constituting a quorum.

Agenda: Ferris moved that the agenda be amended (a) to add section 7.5 for Correspondence and (b) to move the Resolution to amend the Zoning Ordinance from "Zoning" to "Planning" and that it be approved as amended; Nielsen seconded: all ayes. Motion passed.

Conflicts of Interest: Ferris asked if there were any conflicts of interest; there were none.

Minutes: Ferris moved that the minutes of the November 15, 2016, Board meeting be approved; May seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

Guests: Richard Bayer of the Airport Authority and Bill Kennis of Benzie Bus; see below for their reports.

"For the Good of the Community": The County Equalization office has asked that all requests for address changes on tax bills be sent to the Equalization Office; Assessor Jill Brown has sent out reminders to eligible disabled veterans that the best time to file for their annual disabled veteran exemption is in January or February .

Correspondence:

County Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Griner distributed copies of Benzie Senior Resources' Annual Report and noted several new and increased services, especially since the merger of the Council on Aging with Home Health Care; he announced that the Maples will host a public meeting on Dec. 19th at 10:00 a.m. that will include many key officials, including the highest ranking state official responsible for regulating such medical care institutions, to discuss the issue of whether a waiver can substitute for a new roof.

Public Comment: None.

Clerk:

- Sullivan presented the outstanding bills and moved that they be approved for payment; Ferris seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.
- A judge has rejected a request for a recount of the November 2016 election that would have been costly.

Financial Report by Treasurer:

- Trentham moved that the following amendments be made to the FY 2016-2017 budgets:
 - Audit Services: increased \$975.00 from \$4500.00 to \$5475.00,

- Accounting Services: increased \$150.00 from \$500.00 to \$650.00,
- Assessing Supplies: increased \$750.00 from \$1250.00 to \$2000.00,
- Township Hall & Grounds Waste Services: increased \$530.00 from \$2000.00 to \$2537.50,
- Planning Commission Mileage: increased \$200.00 from \$100.00 to \$300.00, and
- Zoning Professional/Legal Services: increased \$3000.00 from \$2000.00 to \$5000.00;
Sullivan seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Trentham presented the current financial report. Nielsen moved that the financial report be approved; Ferris seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Trentham reported that tax collection was ahead of last year at this time.

Committee Reports:

- **Airport Authority:**
 - Richard Bayer, the new Airport Manager, reported that a recent meeting in Lansing with DOT officials was positive, that 8 of the 9 objections preventing the return to a General License have been resolved, that negotiations are underway to resolve the remaining issue of tree removal, and that a new source of funding is being explored to pay for painting and re-marking the landing strip. Board members B. Trentham and T. May also made positive comments.
- **Assessing:** the Board of Review met Monday, December 12th.
- **Blight:**
 - There has been minor progress on the two cases currently in court; a Building Department staff member informed Supervisor Ferris that the Township needed to adopt a Dangerous Building Ordinance and even then, enforcement would be difficult.
- **Buildings & Grounds:** Ferris reported that she was still investigating the possibility of a new addition; Trustee Nielsen recommended the purchase and installation of a motion-activated light to provide greater visibility in the parking lot for evening meetings.
- **Cemeteries:**
 - Ferris reported that due to the drug paraphernalia found in a section of the North Cemetery, chained off that section and asked the Board and audience members to solicit feedback from other community members regarding closing the cemetery gates from the end of October to April 1st, as requested by our insurance company.
 - Due to several inquiries, Ferris is pursuing information about the green burials offered by Peninsula Township.
- **Planning Commission:** Zoning Administrator Tom Kucera presented and summarized the Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance approved by the Planning Commission in November, following publication in the newspaper and solicitation of community input in a public hearing.
 - Ferris moved that the Amendments be approved as presented; Trentham seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Resolution passed.
- **Roads:**
 - B. Walton reported that the scheduled township road repairs were completed within budget, leaving about \$6,000 for emergencies such as culvert repairs; asphalt has already increased from \$60 to \$65 a ton; the township Road Committee will recommend the following roads be repaired in 2017: Glory, Elm, Adams, Robinson, Palcich, and Mollineaux; the County is planning

to do ½ mile on Lobb and Bellows from Thomas to Graves; the County is looking for more grant money, which might help cover more of Lobb Road.

Unfinished Business: Because of a possible conflict with a potential August election, Ferris moved that the 2017 Schedule of Regular Board Meetings be amended to change the August 8th meeting date to August 15th; Sullivan seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Bill Kennis from Benzie Bus presented their 10th Annual Report, highlighting recent efforts to “right-size” the buses, construct more bus shelters in downtown Frankfort, Honor and Thompsonville, and to seek grants to offer more transport for commuters to jobs in the Traverse City area.
- The County Sheriff’s office has again requested money from the Township to support the snowmobile safety program; Trentham moved that the Township contribute \$200.00 to the County snowmobile program for the 2016-2017 winter season, but also request that the County provide more documentation regarding the amount of service provided to the Township; Sullivan seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Ferris reported that she received a request from School Choice Week asking the Township to support school choice; after discussion, it was agreed that there was no interest in getting involved in this issue.
- Thelma Rider-Novak explained her concerns about the failure of the Maples to open the new facility and asked that the Township Board send a letter to the County Board of Commissioners (BOC) and the Building Authority (BA) requesting that they replace the roof and make it code compliant; apparently the BA is the only entity with the authority to make that decision and it now has only two functioning members, who have rejected the BOC’s requests to replace the roof, but the BOC has not exercised its authority to remove them for cause; the current roof fails the Fed 2001 code to receive Medicare funding, there is no guarantee that the Feds will continue to grant waivers, and they are expected to change their code in 2017; the Township Board will reconsider Ms. Rider-Novak’s request in January 2017.

Public Comment: Bill Kennis suggested we contact Bear Lake to find out about their Best Practices policy regarding blight.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

Sue Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.