

Regular Meeting of the Crystal Lake Township Board

Meeting held at 1651 Frankfort Highway, Frankfort MI 49635
January 12, 2015

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

Pledge of Allegiance was made.

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

Agenda: Ferris moved that the agenda be approved; Trentham 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 December 8, 2015, Board meeting be approved; May seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

Guests:

- Paul Olsen, Municipal Underwriters of Michigan: due to the bad weather, Mr. Olsen was unable to attend, however Ferris presented his letter and the attached Summary of Coverage and invoice for insurance coverage for the coming year; there were no changes to the coverage other than a 3% premium increase and 5% increase in blanket property values; Ferris moved that the policy be renewed for 02/07/2016 through 02/06/2017 and that the premium of \$6,131.00 be paid; Sullivan seconded; all ayes. Motion passed. Trustee May asked if any grants might be available from the insurance company to help with risk reduction improvements in the building and grounds; Ferris said she would check with Mr. Olsen.
- Al Taylor, M-22 Corridor: due to the bad weather, Mr. Taylor was also unable to attend, however, Ferris presented a draft Resolution of Support proposed by Mr. Taylor and others seeking to get M-22 within Benzie and Manistee Counties designated as a Pure Michigan Byway; Ferris moved that the Resolution of Support be approved as presented, minus the last paragraph which required the Township's participation with the documents and the Byway Committee; Sullivan seconded: roll was taken: Ferris said aye; May said aye; Nielsen said aye; Sullivan said aye, Trentham said aye; Motion passed. (Copy of finalized Resolution attached.)

“For the Good of the Community”: Ferris pointed out that the Benzie Bus (B-Bus) annual report was available in the Township and on the B-Bus website; appreciation was also expressed that the B-Bus has constructed new bus stops with roofs and benches at various locations in the County. No Board members were interested in attending the MTA annual meeting.

Correspondence:

- Richard Barclay objected to being taxed on the County fee for recycling;
- Jill Baker objected to neighbors being allowed to operate properties which are zoned “Residential”, exclusively for rental, i.e., “Commercial” purposes; Ferris will consult with Attorney Figura;
- The Lakes to Land Farm and Food System Assessment Project received the Michigan Association of Planning's 2015 Planning Excellence Award for Innovation in Economic Development.

County Commissioner's Report: Commissioner Griner reported that he had recently been elected Chairperson of the Benzie County Commission; residents can now recycle all appropriate items (e.g., glass, paper, cans, and plastics with the official recycle triangle) together in the County recycle bins; the

County received \$50,000 in grants to reimburse expenses for safety improvements in the building; he experienced Pasadena's drought recently and was reminded how fortunate we are to have so many great fresh water resources and how much more we need to promote these as an important tourist attraction.

Public Comment: None.

Clerk:

- Sullivan presented the bills and moved that the bills be approved for payment; Trentham seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Sheila Applebee has been hired as our new Deputy Clerk; she currently works as Night Auditor for Crystal Mountain and has previously worked for local municipalities on a temporary basis; her hours are compatible with our needs and she has already proven to be a quick learner.
- The Michigan legislature recently passed a bill that will seriously limit municipalities' ability to communicate with citizens about upcoming ballot issues within 60 days of an election; MTA and several other organizations may contest this in court and although he signed it into law, Gov. Snyder has already asked legislators to more clearly define the restrictions; we will continue to monitor this.

Financial Report by Treasurer:

- Trentham presented the financial report; Trentham moved that the financial report be approved; Ferris seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Workshops to develop the FY 2016-2017 budget will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Jan 20, Feb 3 and 17; a public hearing to present the draft budget for public input will be held on March 15 at 6:0 p.m., prior to the March Board meeting.

Committee Reports:

- **Airport Authority:** Bruce Harwood has announced that he will retire as Chair of the Authority, but remain on the Board through the summer; concern was expressed that the Township pays \$3-4,000 and all Frankfort contributes is meeting space and copying costs; the Authority is looking to hire an Administrator; it was suggested that the Township Board should look at the Authority's budget.
- **Blight and other Civil Ordinances:** A newsletter from an MTA-recognized law firm suggests that townships use a diversity of ordinances to regulate distressed properties: e.g., nuisance/blight, grass/noxious weeds, dangerous buildings, and property maintenance. Ferris presented a selection of sample ordinances from MTA, including ones regulating dismantled cars and noise. Issues were also raised about illegal squatters in substandard housing and the fact that local junkyards require automobile titles before they can help remove dismantled cars. Staff will continue to investigate these issues and find out to what extent the Sheriff's office can help.
- **Building & Grounds:**
 - Dean Michaels has coordinated the long overdue installation of new gutters on the building, the elimination of exposed wiring, the addition of a handrail to the front door entrance, and servicing for the furnace.
 - The Capital Improvement Committee will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 10:30 a.m.
- **Roads:**
 - Bruce Walton reported that all of M-115 from Benzonia to Frankfort will be repaired in 2016, at a cost of approximately \$8.3 million; since this construction will affect numerous township accessory roads, he will try to determine the County's schedule and budget for road improvements so the township Road Committee can better plan which township roads should

be worked on before or after the County construction; a public hearing will be held in early February to solicit input from township residents.

- Treasurer Trentham will investigate the possibility of using bonds to give us greater cash flow flexibility so we do not have to wait 5 years until all the road millage has been collected.
- **Zoning:**
 - The Family Dollar Group's initial zoning permit has expired; MDOT supported our denial of the Dollar Group's plans for signage that would have exceeded township regulations re: size and road proximity.

Unfinished Business:

- Ferris moved that the Township contribute the following amounts toward the Sheriff's request for support for the County Snowmobile Patrol: the \$55.00 we approved in Dec. 2014, but did not send, together with another \$90.00 to represent the 3% share of Snow Patrol service time the Township appears to have received, for a total of \$145.00; Sullivan seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

New Business: None.

Public Comment:

- B. Walton suggested that since the improvements of gutters, handrails, energy-efficient windows, and removal of moldy tile from the basement were all about risk-reduction, we should explore getting grant funds to reimburse the township.
- Commissioner Greiner reported that the Maples hopes to conclude roof repairs and finally move residents into the new facility by March, since the delay is now costing the County approximately \$20,000 a month.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Sue Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.