

Regular Meeting of the Crystal Lake Township Board

Meeting held at 1651 Frankfort Highway, Frankfort MI 49635

July 12, 2016

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 amended and approved; May 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 June 14, 2016, Board meeting be approved; Nielsen seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

Guests: No official guests, but 18 audience members were present.

“For the Good of the Community”: Ferris announced that local volunteers have arranged for some shrubs and trees to be planted near the Gateway Arch on M-115; there may be development on a property on the south side of the Arch currently zoned for multi-family use by Jay White; the results of the annual Clean-Up/Recycle Day were 99.9% positive, in that a large number of residents showed up, but the recycle man did not and the trash company only sent one small truck, so a number of people had to be turned away; next year we may need to avoid the week of July 4th and schedule 2 events.

Correspondence: None.

County Commissioner’s Report: Commissioner Griner said a recent state and federal inspection of the Maples, including the roof, appeared to be positive and he hoped it would be approved to open soon; there will be a scrap metal and tire collection event at the Road Commission in Honor on July 23rd; Benzie Bus reports that they are traveling fewer miles, but succeeding in carrying more passengers and will reevaluate their procedures accordingly.

Public Comment: Doug VanMeter asked if the Maples roof will be permanent and who will be accountable for the costly delay; Commissioner Griner said the County will take the architect to court, but since the work was not bonded, he is not sure how much money they can get.

Clerk:

- Sullivan moved that the outstanding bills be approved for payment; Trentham seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Sullivan moved that the Board endorse the following appointments by the Election Commission:
 - Alice Farr and Kathy Fishburn as the Receiving Board for the August 12, 2016, Primary Election and
 - Anne Burt, Harold Comer, Alice Farr, Kathy Fishburn, Mary Halliday, Joanne Herban, Joyce Kirshner, Kathy Picklo, Sue Sullivan, Judy VanMeter, Cathy Wilkinson, and David and Janet Wynne as Election Inspectors for the August 2, 2016 Primary Election;

Trentham seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.

Financial Report by Treasurer:

- Trentham presented the current financial report. Trentham moved that the financial report be approved; May seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.

Committee Reports:

- **Airport Authority:**
 - Ferris reported that no new action was required, because Bruce Harwood and Les Poggemeyer agreed to continue as Township Liaisons to the Airport Authority for one more month, pending the results of discussions with the City and County regarding future funding; she had an informative discussion with Chuck Jedson, an attorney recommended by our Atty. Figura due to his experience with both Traverse City and Frankfort airports.
- **Blight and other Civil Ordinances:**
 - Ferris reported that progress was being made with a couple of cases, but she was hearing new complaints about other properties
- **Buildings & Grounds:**
 - Due to the forecast for continued hot and humid weather, combined with expectations for a large election turnout, Ferris said an air conditioning unit would be purchased.
- **Cemeteries:**
 - Plot markers are needed to identify unmarked cemetery plots in both cemeteries; Ferris moved that the Board authorize her to spend up to \$3,000 to purchase the necessary plot markers; Trentham seconded; roll was called; all ayes. Motion passed.
- **Fire Department:**
 - A summary of the Fall 2015 Michigan Public Policy Survey regarding fire protection services was distributed.
- **Fireworks:**
 - Janet and Cliff McConnell, Liz Dyrdal and Doug VanMeter reported that despite previous warnings, one of their neighbors exploded large, loud, dangerous explosives for up to 5 hours on July 4th; it was believed that he used potentially lethal high percussion Class 5 mortars, fired from 8x8 stainless steel tubes; the sound of the explosions caused Mr. McConnell to leave his home and family for more than 4 hours that night and Ms. Dyrdal saw sparks landing in dry grass behind her house and in the orchard; the owner was unsympathetic when politely confronted the next day by Mr. McConnell; Ferris, Nielsen, and D. Michaels proposed looking at a variety of restrictions based on our local ordinance, state law, and commercial licensing before next year and taking positive action before July 2017 to promote compliance and warn about enforcement consequences.
- **Roads:**
 - Bruce Walton reported that the Road Commission has already spent over \$160,000 from this year's Township millage funds for Township road repairs and has very little left; they will use County millage funds to work on Casey after the work on M-115 is completed; asphalt is now \$20/ton cheaper than it will be next year; the County will give us a final bid proposal on the cost of doing more repairs this year to be paid for with funds advanced against next year's Township

road millage income; right now they are using what funds are left from this year to do shoulders and a passing road by Lobb.

- **Zoning:**

- In response to the Zoning Administrator's report, Trustee Nielsen requested that he and/or the Planning Commission notify the Board of any proposed changes in the Zoning Ordinances before they are finalized and sent to the County Planning Commission for comment.
- Ferris referred Board members to a recent *Record Eagle* article describing the impact of short-term vacation rentals on affordable housing shortages in Garfield Township and asked Board members to consider the commercial implications and possible licensing regulations.
- Scott Westin, owner of Boat Doctors on M-115 near the Gateway Arch, explained why he believed he should be allowed to place a boat or car for sale at the front of his commercial property, particularly since he also did boat and car repairs on his storage property; he was advised to speak with Zoning Administrator Tom Kucera.

Unfinished Business: Ferris raised the issue of an inequitable workload among Board members, saying she believed she and Clerk Sullivan were carrying more than their share; Trustee Nielsen and Treasurer Trentham suggested making increased/improved use of Deputies for the Supervisor and Clerk positions; Bud Reed said he was surprised not to see any Trustees helping on the July 9th Junk Day; Trustee May did work several hours that day; additional staffing needs will be discussed at a later date.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: Commissioner Griner suggested the Board consider the economic advantages of investing in centralized forced air for cooling and to lower heating costs.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Sue Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.