

Regular Meeting of the Crystal Lake Township Board

Meeting held at 1651 Frankfort Highway, Frankfort MI 49635

October 11, 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 approved; 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 September 13, 2016, Board meeting be approved; May seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.

Guests: No official guests.

“For the Good of the Community”: Ferris reported that the Township election workers had volunteered not to place partisan election signs on their own properties in order to avoid even the appearance of bias. She and Sullivan had also decided not to place signs, but the other Board members felt very strongly about protecting their right to place political posters on their private property.

Correspondence: The organizer of the Reebok Ragnar Relay Race sent a letter thanking the Township for allowing them to pass through the Township along the Betsie Valley Trail during the end of September and beginning of October.

County Commissioner’s Report: Commissioner Griner said the merger of the Council on Aging and Benzie Home Health Care would allow for greater efficiency and quality of senior care in the area; the County recently received grants to expand its recycling efforts; he is hoping that the new President of Baker College, who is committed to promoting skilled trades, can be convinced to add courses in Benzie County; Graceland Foods has increased its shipping of local food products; the Maples is still waiting on a final inspection and serious questions are being raised about the role of the Building Authority in preventing similar problems in the future.

Public Comment: None.

Clerk:

- Sullivan moved that the outstanding bills be approved for payment; May seconded; all ayes. Motion passed.
- Sullivan reported that the Supreme Court had approved straight ticket voting for this election and that it looked like we will have a record number of voters.

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:**

- Trentham submitted the report of the Airport Manager; anyone seeking to use drones within a 5 mile radius must contact the airport and stay under 700 feet; the deadline for applicants for the Administrator position is October 15th; they will be meeting with MDOT representatives in Lansing in December.

- **Blight:**

- Ferris reported that she, the Zoning Administrator, and our lawyers had appeared in court regarding blight cases: Mr. Jaworski had been granted a continuance prior for “discovery” (extensive documentation gathering); Mr. Rommel continued to demonstrate his willingness to work with the Township and the Court, and asked for further patience and help in dealing with the squatters on his property, prior to cleaning it up.
- Over the summer, many residents were contacted about stuff for sale left in yards, including junked cars, beyond the three day limit. Most were responsive and removed the items.

- **Buildings & Grounds:**

- Two new serviceberry trees have been planted in front of the building and appear to be doing well.

- **Cemeteries:**

- It may be necessary to place an ad in the paper to remind people that we will be closing up the cemeteries for the winter soon; Ferris hopes to get volunteers to help with the process.

- **Planning Commission:**

- Trustee May reported that the Commission continues to work on Ordinance amendments, following the review by the County; the amendments will be published in the paper and a public hearing will be held in November.
- She reported that concern was expressed by residents attending the last Commission meeting that the old language of the Ordinance discouraged gardens and agriculture, but she said they had a very good discussion; they were assured this was not the case, and resolved some concerns.

- **Roads:**

- Bruce Walton reported that Forrester and Casey road repairs were completed, although there is some concern about one part; portions of Airport Road and Seventh Street by the park remain to be done; the next County Road Commission meeting will be in December and he hopes to get an estimate of our potential costs for next year, as well as the County’s role.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: Commissioner Griner reported that Bill Kennis will be the County’s representative on the Airport Board; the County has adopted a County Master Plan; the Commissioner was surprised and said he did not believe the Township was opposed to agriculture.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Sue Sullivan, Clerk, reporting.