

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 11, 2009
7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Braman at 7:00 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Charlie Braman, Dennis Lance, Jerry Stone, Bob Naumann and Curt McCracken

Public Comment:

Don Smucker reported on the Community Information Web Site that can be found at www.montcalm.org

Brenda Greenhoe with the Great Starts Montcalm organization introduced herself to the board.

A question was asked regarding board meeting minutes being posted in the paper. Our township isn't big enough to require posting in the paper but Clerk Naumann is working on having minutes posted on the website and perhaps at local businesses as well so that they're accessible to everyone.

Agenda:

A motion was made by Lance and supported by Stone to accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5/5

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Lance and supported by Stone to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 meeting as presented. Motion carried 5/5

Approval of Township Bills:

A motion was made by Naumann and supported by McCracken to approve the Township Bills as presented. Motion carried 5/5

Approval of Crystal and Duck Lake Sewer Bills:

A motion was made by Naumann and supported by Lance to approve the sewer bills as presented. ***DISCUSSION:*** *Questions were raised regarding the approval of a software purchase for the sewer district. Braman, Naumann and Lance stated they were not comfortable with purchases being approved by the sewer committee before the Township Board knows about it.* Motion carried 5/5

Reports:

Police: Officer Frick submitted a report on police coverage for the township.

Fire: no report

Reports (cont):

DPW: Roger Gooding reported needing flags for the cemetery and also reported that the handicap parking and sidewalk area at the town hall needs to be repaired to prevent water from pooling in that area.

Sewer District: no report

Sewer Advisory Committee: Minutes posted. McCracken questioned the sewer spill at Station #10 on North Shore Drive.

DDA: Minutes posted

Chamber of Commerce: Minutes posted

Parks and Recreation: Marv Sanborn reported a need for more members, noting they would like a member of the Crystal Youth League to join the committee.

Duck Lake Improvement Board: no report

Correspondence:

Board of Review is attending a training meeting on February 14, 2009 at the Wheatland Town Hall at 9:00 a.m.

Braman asked McCracken to contact the County Road Commission as a result of conversation he had with Cheryl Edwards regarding needs for upgrades to Muskrat Road west of Sloan Road.

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Naumann and supported by McCracken to approve the request from Gerrit Bakker for a reduction of fees to his FOIA request. Approval was made to accept the \$140.00 request. ***DISCUSSION:*** *Naumann indicated he would do his best to accommodate any reasonable requests from the public for any information the board can legally share. Braman also stated that the board would support such requests.*

Motion carried 5/5

A motion was made by Lance and supported by Stone that the board take no position regarding the Road End Ordinance and instead allow our attorney to represent us at the hearing on February 23, 2009. Motion carried 5/5

A motion was made by Stone and supported by Lance to approve the 2008 Auditors' Report for Crystal Township. ***DISCUSSION:*** *Stone had questions regarding a section on page 420 of the audit regarding pensions for board members. Braman suggested that Lance and Naumann request a meeting with the auditors to clarify this and other specifics of the audit report that the board has questions on. Naumann will check with auditors to see if there would be a fee to meet with them. Naumann also praised the previous board for their work in preparing for the audit.* Motion carried 5/5

A motion was made by Naumann and supported by Stone to adopt the wages and conditions of employment for the Board of Review. Motion carried 5/5

The issue of snow removal was tabled until next meeting.

Discussion on downtown light damage and Fire Barn Well was tabled until next meeting.

Naumann indicated that he is setting up online payments for CenturyTel, Consumers etc... for the township.

New Business:

Braman and Stone will meet with Roger Gooding and Craig Fellowes for discussion regarding edits/revisions to the Employee Handbook.

A motion was made by Lance and supported by McCracken to approve the appointment of Ron Flinn to the DDA, replacing the seat vacated by Arlene Turner. Motion carried 5/5

Stone will research the costs involved with hiring a firm to have a Wastewater System Assessment done and report on findings at the next Township Meeting.

Discussion regarding improvements for the Town Hall took place. A committee consisting of: Rich Buscemi, Pat McShosh, Deb Woodard, Bob Naumann and Jerry Stone will look into possible grants to help with improvements.

Stone discussed a need to look into a possible bike/walking path on the South side of Crystal Lake (between Pine Grove and the old boat launch area). He will contact the Parks and Recreation committee to help explore this. Braman asked McCracken to check with the Road Commission to find out about possible funds that could be used for such a path.

A motion was made by Stone and supported by Lance to approve the DPW purchase of weed whips and a jack for a dump trailer. Motion carried 5/5

Roger Gooding indicated he would again like to utilize prison workers for township clean-up work. A schedule for this will be discussed at the next Township Meeting.

A motion was made by Stone and supported by McCracken to approve the purchase of four, 4x6 flags (@\$24.95 each) and 2 gross of small 12x18 gravesite flags (@ \$124.00 per gross) for the DPW. Motion carried 5/5

Tabled Items:

Braman indicated the State Police are still proceeding with their investigation regarding Dan Eller and therefore the reinstatement matter is again being tabled until that investigation is complete.

Public Comments:

Stone asked what could be done to improve the alley behind CMS and the Laundromat to prevent washouts and debris flowing into the street. Because the alley is private property, the DDA will have to investigate possible improvements.

Paula Plank questioned the need for an assessment of the Wastewater System.

Marv Sanborn spoke to the matter concerning the sewer advisory communication with the Township Board and indicated changes would be made to reflect differences between motions and recommendations. Keith Evans also agreed that recommendations need to be made before action takes place.

McCracken indicated he would like more communication regarding activity and/or discussion at meetings and also questioned people attending classes without board approval.

Roger Gooding asked what type of report the board would like from him. Stone indicated he didn't feel a report was necessary as long as the board was kept informed of needs.

Paula Plank asked Craig Fellowes if the two valves at the sewer had been fixed. He indicated one was fixed, temporarily and that the other had not yet been fixed.

Chris Johnson asked the board about what is being done about the office at the Fire Barn. Braman said the board was looking into it.

A motion was made by Lance and supported by McCracken to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried 5/5