

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

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

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

**Public Comment:**

None

**Agenda:**

A motion was made by Stone and supported by Lance to accept the agenda with the following corrections/additions: Correct item #5 to read: Approve minutes of the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting (not January). Add to New Business: Item I: Town Hall Copier and Item J: South Pier Park property. Motion carried 5/5

**Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Stone and supported by Lance to approve the minutes of the February 11, 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 with the following additions: Check #15280 for \$40.00 to Holly Hagerman and an authorization to pay the 3 board of review members. Motion carried 5/5

**Approval of Crystal and Duck Lake Sewer Bills:**

A motion was made by Lance and supported by McCracken to approve the sewer bills as presented. Motion carried 5/5

**Reports:**

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

**Fire:** no report

**DPW:** Supervisor Braman indicated he told Roger Gooding to proceed with getting some needed black dirt for the cemetery.

**Sewer District:** A summary of sewer district activity was presented.

**Sewer Advisory Committee:**

**DDA:** Pam Greenhoe reported they will have more information regarding DDA budget and plans available soon.

**Chamber of Commerce:** Pam Greenhoe told the board they are putting together a Summer Celebration Calendar listing area events beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. We should notify the Chamber as soon as possible of any events we'd like added to the calendar. Also, the Chamber will again sponsor a Farmers Market during the summer on Saturday's from 8:00-12:00 at the Crystal Elementary school parking lot.

**Parks and Recreation:** No meeting however Marv Sanborn reported that Trisha Saylor (Crystal Youth League Secretary) has been added to the committee. There is no new information regarding the proposal for a walking/biking path. Trustee McCracken indicated there is no funding available. The Road Commission will be contacted to see if there are any grants available for this type of a project.

**Duck Lake Improvement Board:** Marv reported that he spoke to a professor at MSU re: arsenic levels in Duck Lake and the possible effect on dredging. He also indicated the DEQ sent the permit to allow spraying of weeds in the spring.

**Road End Ordinance Committee:** The Township Attorney will be giving an informational meeting at Montcalm Community College on March 26<sup>th</sup>. The board also received an update on Court Proceedings, which is available from the board upon request.

**Correspondence:**

Clerk Naumann reported the MSU Extension Office sent information regarding Recycling and Household Hazardous Waste Collection. This information is posted at the Town Hall.

The Library Report is posted at Town Hall.

The Community of Hope Ministries of Mid-Michigan will be holding a dinner and silent auction on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. More information can be found at the Town Hall.

Clerk Naumann received notification that we may be in violation of Polling Place accessibility regulations at the Town Hall and is checking into the matter further.

The Drain Commissioner's Office indicated that maintenance work would be done on #131 Drain and Branches. Supervisor Braman received a book from their office showing all the drain locations in all townships throughout the county.

**Unfinished Business:**

The board will get input from the Sewer Advisory Committee before making a decision regarding hiring a firm to assess the condition of the Wastewater System. Nan Hagerman will report at the next board meeting.

Clerk Naumann will set up a meeting with the members of the Town Hall Committee to discuss options for improvements to our Town Hall.

A motion was made by Stone and supported by Naumann to approve the purchase of a Yazoo mower from Bush's Hardware for the DPW in the amount of \$2,400.00.

**DISCUSSION:** *Clerk Naumann indicated he has checked with the Michigan Township Association regarding purchases and was told we would not need to seek other bids for this purchase. Motion carried 5/5*

Roger Gooding was told by a prison official that we probably won't be able to utilize prison workers for township projects in the same capacity as we've done in the past. The board is going to contact the prison to look into the matter further.

**New Business:**

Gerrit Bakker made a presentation regarding his proposed 25-site campground at the old Lakeside property. He requested that the board review the current ordinance regarding lake access rights and make a decision within the next 2-3 months. He would also like to tie into an existing sewer drain for his campground and Nan Hagerman indicated she could check on the costs involved and report back at the next board meeting. Stone

suggested and Naumann agreed the board would consider abolishing ordinance 15a (The Funneling Ordinance) at the next board meeting.

The Library requested smoke detectors, fire extinguisher inspection (last inspection was 2001), new lines painted in the parking lot and new exterior paint. A motion was made by Naumann and supported by McCracken to authorize the DPW to purchase smoke detectors, take care of the fire extinguishers (also to include town hall extinguishers) and to get paint for the parking lot. Motion carried 5/5.

Roger Gooding will get prices for the exterior paint at the library and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Supervisor Braman reported on the Police Department office at the Fire Hall. Supervisor Braman reported that guns were found stored in a gun safe in the office but that they are now in possession of the Sheriff's Department. Officer Fricke will report back regarding whether or not these guns are eligible for sale at a public auction. He will also report back as to how many years paperwork and other items currently stored at the office need to be retained. The board will still need to make plans for what to do with other items (file cabinets etc...) being stored in this area.

The job descriptions for the DPW, Supervisor and Assessor will be reviewed for discussion /adopting at the next town meeting.

Supervisor Braman will be checking on who is parking a truck at the fire hall. The board suggested a sign stating "No Unauthorized Parking" should be considered to prevent others from using the parking lot. Unauthorized parking potentially interferes with the recycling truck parking and can also create visibility issues, especially for children walking or biking to and from the ball fields behind the fire hall.

The cemetery pricing and policies will be reviewed/discussed by the board.

Trustee Stone suggested some type of sign for the South Shore Park should be put up to indicate no motorized boats or boat launching is allowed at that site. The board agreed to table this until the next meeting after Supervisor Braman has a chance to check into what is allowable.

The issue of loaning or not loaning township equipment is being tabled until next meeting. **DISCUSSION:** *Clerk Naumann said he feels it's not a good practice to loan out equipment as it causes more wear on items and could potentially create liability issues as well.*

A motion was made by Stone and supported by McCracken to authorize Clerk Naumann to make an offer of \$1,500.00 to Carson City - Crystal Area Schools to purchase a copier they are selling. This is contingent on us getting a maintenance agreement at or below \$400.00 per year. This machine would replace the broken copier at the town hall. Motion carried 5/5.

The Department of Natural Resources contacted the board stating they want to sell South Pier Park to the township. The board will contact our State Representative regarding this matter.

**Tabled Items:**

Attorney Stephen St. Amant spoke on behalf of Dan Eller regarding the ongoing investigation by Detective Doyle of the Michigan State Police. He indicated that Detective Doyle met with Dan and Mr. St. Amant on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and that the only questions Detective Doyle asked pertained to allegations of food and water theft from EightCAP. It is Mr. St. Amant's opinion that these are the only matters being investigated and that they have been definitively resolved in Dan's favor. He urged the board to take action based on his findings and re-employ Dan at this time. Unfortunately, Detective Doyle is on vacation until March 18<sup>th</sup> and despite the information summarized in the memorandum presented by Dan's attorney, the board feels it's important to get final clarification from the detective before taking action. All board members expressed frustration with the length of time this matter has gone unresolved and is anxious to get the matter taken care of as quickly as possible. Clerk Naumann was authorized to contact our attorney about the legality of setting up a special board meeting with all involved parties (Detective Doyle, the attorney's, board members and Dan).

A motion was made by Stone and supported by McCracken to change the date of the April board meeting to Wednesday, April 15, 2009. This change will be posted in the paper. Motion carried 5/5.

**Public Comments:**

Roger Gooding noted a change needed to be made to his time sheet to reflect a deduction of comp. time.

Chris Johnson addressed the issue of loaning out township equipment, stating that he also felt it was a bad practice.

Paula Plank talked about a conference she went to regarding cemetery policies, ordinances etc... She and Supervisor Braman will get in touch to go over the information she received at that meeting.

**Unfinished Business:**

Supervisor Braman will set a date to review the employee handbooks.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made by McCracken and supported by Lance to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Motion carried 5/5.

Minutes approved at April 15, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Crystal Township Board