

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 15, 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: Sandy Carlton with Montcalm County Citizens for Animal Welfare addressed the board and provided material regarding positive changes needed at the county animal shelter.

Pat McShosh questioned manhole cover repairs needed on north side of the lake.

Agenda: Motion was made by Lance, supported by Stone to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 5/5.

Approval of Minutes: Motion was made by Naumann, supported by McCracken to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 5/5.

Approval of Township Bills: Naumann made clarifications regarding check numbers 15281, 15282 and 15283 that were for Board of Review and also noted the amount of a pension check for Bill Powell was actually paid to us from an outside group for his pension. Motioned by Lance, supported by Stone to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5/5.

Approval of Crystal and Duck Lake Sewer Bills: Motion was made by Stone and supported by Lance to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried 5/5.

Reports:

Police:

Fire: Roger cautioned people regarding burning.

DPW: Roger reported that Jerry Alexander, part time DPW employee wouldn't continue working for the DPW due to health reasons. He also presented costs for library painting. He also reported that flowerpots are being prepared for the Kids Clean up day on May 1st.

Sewer District: Nan Haggerman asked for direction from the board regarding a piece of property between Clinton Avenue and Peterman that is hooked into the sewer. Asked how to address the issue of how to charge them for hook up and inspection. The board directed Nan to write a letter and said that she and Craig should go meet with the landowners.

Sewer Advisory Committee: Minutes posted.

DDA: Minutes posted

Chamber of Commerce: Minutes posted

Parks and Recreation: Nan mentioned they discussed the bike path and said they are still looking into it. She also asked if the board would approve the purchase of small trees for the parks. Naumann indicated he would like to see some trees planted at Noll Park. A motion was made by Naumann and supported by Lance to approve the purchase of trees for an amount not to exceed \$100.00.

Duck Lake Improvement Board: No report

Road End Ordinance Committee: No report

Discussion: Stone asked why we have a Road End Ordinance Committee when the Road Commission is already making all the decisions. Naumann indicated that it's more of an advisory group to get feedback and input from the community.

Correspondence: Braman presented a letter from Franz Mogdis, representing the countywide transit initiative. Braman also presented a letter from Carol Tomlin, coordinator for the Neighborhood Watch Program stating that their committee will disband due to lack of interest. The board discussed contacting Carol regarding getting Neighborhood Watch posters for the Lake Association to distribute to help increase visibility and awareness.

Carson City Hospital sent information regarding organ donor ship.

Braman brought up the issue of streetlights not working. He will be contacting Consumers Energy regarding the problem areas.

Unfinished Business:

Prison workers to help DPW: No new news regarding prison workers to help with township clean up.

Gerrit Baker's request: Naumann would like to table the matter for another month to research a revised ordinance that would allow Mr. Bakker to proceed with his proposal without abolishing the current ordinance. Stone suggested waiving it right now but Naumann indicated one additional month was within the time line Mr. Bakker gave us in his presentation. The board agreed.

Library work: Roger reported all fire extinguishers at the library (along with Township Hall and Roger's truck) were all inspected and recharged. Two new smoke detectors were also installed at the library. Roger reported that Parker Painting has paint they will donate for the parking lot. The board requested a drawing at the next meeting that would show how the parking lot lines would be set up.

Roger presented bids for painting all the wood on the library. Parker Painting submitted a bid for \$2,600.00 (labor and materials included). Paint Works submitted a bid for \$1,100 (labor and materials included but indicated replacement wood, if needed, would be extra). Stone was reluctant to act on either bid given the considerable difference in the bids. Lance would like to look at the library before acting. Naumann suggested we put together an RFP to get both parties to re-bid and also to advertise in the paper.

Job descriptions for Fire Chief, DPW Supervisor and Assessor: Jerry presented job descriptions. A motion was made by Stone, supported by Naumann to approve the job description for the DPW Supervisor as presented. Motion carried 5/5. The Fire Chief and Assessor will be tabled until next month when those two job descriptions can be reviewed with the employees.

Braman reported on the semi trailer being parked at the Fire Barn.

Braman reported on the work he and Stone had been doing on the Employee Handbook. Discussion took place regarding the amount of sick time that should be allowed. A motion was made by McCracken, supported by Stone to approve the Employee Handbook with the following change: Increase from 4 hours of sick leave per month to 8 hours of sick leave per month. Motion carried 5/5.

New Business: Braman asked the board consider a request from the owner of L.G.'s to put in a sidewalk in front of the restaurant

Braman reported that we would keep an eye on the lawsuit regarding the road end matter (Simon v. Linton) and the request for reimbursement of legal fees.

McCracken reported on the issue of maintenance needed of the Weidbrauk Drain (Sections 25 & 26) on Mt. Hope Road. A letter from the Drain Commissioner's Office indicated the board could take action and approve a resolution to allow the maintenance project to take place. A decision was made to get more information on this project before taking action.

Road Commission Proposed Policy for Public Rights-of-Way at bodies of water: The county Road Commission is putting together a policy that will direct the townships to take over policing the policies regarding public use. Braman will represent the board at an upcoming meeting on Wednesday, May 20th at the Road Commission's office in Stanton. We will find out what specific obligations the township will have if the proposed policy is adopted.

Road Commission contracts: The board will review and research costs involved with the contracts for road repairs and maintenance. McCracken will get clarification on centerline striping and which roads are primary (covered by the road commission).

Crystal Lake Association: Theron Guild presented a letter requesting board support for the goose roundup. Motion was made by Lance, supported by Stone to support the CLA contract for removal of the geese. Motion carried 5/5.

Tabled Items: The State Police investigation regarding Dan Eller is still not complete so the board agreed to continue to wait until we hear the investigation is complete.

Public Comments: Stone reported that Waste Water Study is still on hold.

Larry Fate asked if the Road End Ordinance Committee could also be consulted regarding ordinance 15A since they are so closely related. Naumann agreed they would do this.

Connie Evans requested the board consider needed repairs on Holland Lake Road.

Chris Johnson asked if the part time DPW work previously done by Jerry Alexander would be posted. The board agreed to advertise Motioned by McCracken, supported by Lance to approve Naumann to advertise a temporary, part time DPW position for a minimum of 20 hours per week.

Gerrit Bakker questioned the O/M fee in his request last month. Nan will get back with him on costs.

Motion made by Naumann, supported by McCracken to approve the purchase of a copier/printer/fax machine for the township in the amount of \$1000. Motion carried 5/5

Motioned by Naumann, supported by Lance to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.