

CRYSTAL TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 14, 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, Bob Naumann, Curt McCracken and Jeremiah Stone

Public Comment: Bill Clark from the DNR provided information to the board, at the request of the Crystal Lake Association, regarding making the Crystal access site a "fee site" for parking. Cost would be \$6.00 per day or \$24.00 for an annual permit. The fees collected would fund the DNR's boating program. He explained that when the parking lot is full, the boat launch would be closed until there are vacancies in the lot.

Dwight Chandler, Montcalm County Rescue/First Response, notified the board of a change in service area for Crystal Township. Rescue units for the Crystal Lake area will likely come from Stanton instead of locally as the boundary areas have changed. Supervisor Braman will continue to pursue efforts to work with the County Commissioner to restore the local coverage area for our rescue units.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Stone, Supported by Lance to accept the agenda as presented. All Ayes/Motion Carried 5/5.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Stone, supported by Naumann to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2009 meeting. All Ayes/Motion Carried 5/5.

Approval of Minutes of the Mini Budget Hearing on September 30, 2009: Motion by Lance, supported by McCracken to approve the minutes as presented. All Ayes/Motion carried 5/5.

Approval of Township Bills: Motion by Naumann, supported by Lance to approve the bills as presented with the additions of Fire Dept. bills. All Ayes/Motion carried 5/5.

Approval of Crystal and Duck Lake Sewer Bills: Supervisor Braman questioned additional hours for work done by Sandy Raines and Carrie Wills. Motion by Lance, supported by Naumann to approve the bills as presented. Ayes: Naumann, McCracken, Lance. Nays: Stone, Braman. Motion Carried 3/2.

Reports:

Treasurer: Motion by Lance, supported by McCracken to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried 5/5.

Police: Deputy Jamie Grinzinger presented the Police report. She also reported that she will be visiting the elementary school at the end of the month to introduce herself to staff and students.

Fire: Roger reported repairs to trucks have been done and/or are in progress.

DPW: Roger reported 318 flags were removed from Veteran's gravesites and asked for direction from the board on what to do with flags that are still in good condition. The board suggested they be given to Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and/or other local organizations. New flags will be purchased each year to honor our veterans.

The Pony League diamond fence work has been completed but Roger indicated one area that has come apart on the fence will require additional help to repair.

Roger asked again about the possibility of getting a back-pack style leaf blower. Martin's carries a Stihl brand blower that is approximately \$50.00 cheaper than what Bush's hardware can provide. Motion by Lance, supported by McCracken to approve the purchase of 2 Stihl Brand blowers for the DPW from Martin's. All Ayes. Motion carried 5/5.

Sewer District: Dan reported there were two lightning strikes at the sewer district, one of which affected the auto-dialer for the pumping stations. The board will talk to the advisory committee

regarding the possibility of getting rid of the auto-dialer after initiating constituent input. Dan also recommended the board look into replacing the roof at the Pump House. This item will be added to new business at the next board meeting along with the auto-dialer issue.

Sewer Advisory Committee: Don Cooper reported on bids received for the Wastewater Assessment. He recommended the board adopt the recommendation from the Crystal/Duck Lake Liaison Committee and select Spicer Group to conduct the study. Don explained that the committee felt the presentation from Spicer group was far superior to the other companies due to the level of service they felt Spicer group would provide. Motion by Naumann, Supported by Lance to approve the bid from Spicer Group to conduct the Wastewater Assessment for the amount of \$9,000.00 with the agreement that the division of cost between Duck and Crystal Lake be split with 95% charged to Crystal and 5% to Duck Lake. Ayes: Naumann, McCracken, Lance, Braman. Nays: Stone. Motion carried 4/1.

Don also reported on the County Study and provided information from the Advisory Committee regarding existing sanitary sewer systems in Montcalm County. The Committee recommends the board select FTC&H to conduct conceptual comparison analysis of having the County Board of Public Works operate all of the county Wastewater systems rather than local municipalities operating the system. Total cost for the analysis would be \$13,900 which would be divided equally between the several lakes concerned. This would roughly cost \$2,300 for Duck and Crystal Lakes respectively. The board expressed concerns regarding cost and asked that Don go back to FTC&H and ask them to provide us with a list of other Wastewater districts charging the same as and/or less than Crystal and Duck Lake. The board feels we already provide a good service at a fair cost and would like to see comparisons. Motion by Naumann, supported by Stone to deny the recommendation from the Advisory Committee to conduct the analysis. All Ayes. Motion Carried 5/5.

DDA: Winter Festival will be January 23, 2010

Chamber of Commerce: October 29th, Halloween Costume Parade/Pumpkin Painting Contest at the school (5:00 pm). Tree lighting will be December 9th at 6:00.

Parks and Recreation: Report on Bike Path Proposal. Stone reported he is trying to contact someone regarding trails at the DOT and DNR to help with the proposal. The board will continue to look into options.

Duck Lake Improvement Board: No report

Town Hall Committee: Pat McShosh reported she would like the committee to get bids from a mover to make the necessary repairs to the foundation. The board expressed concerns about costs related to this proposed project and further indicated that an RFP is needed in order to evaluate whether or not the project is feasible prior to soliciting bids. The board would also like more information after the next Town Hall Committee meets on Wednesday, October 28th at 6:00 pm. Pat indicated more support and involvement is needed and also reported there may be Federal stimulus money available through the Montcalm Alliance to help make improvements and the board encouraged her to pursue this and apply for the funds.

Correspondence:

- DDA Winter Festival, January 23, 2010
- Wayne Sherwood/Tax Concern: The board directed Mr. Sherwood to contact the Montcalm County Drain Commissioner regarding a possible error on his tax bill.
- Mike Huckleberry Tax Collection Fund
- Recycling in Crystal will be done in December. Charlie contacted the MSU extension office regarding this and expressed concern over losing this program. He will attend a meeting tomorrow and petition for the Township to keep recycling in Crystal.

Unfinished Business:

New ¾ ton truck w/plow: Repairs were made to the existing truck and while Roger has concerns about the plow, it may also be repairable to save the cost of purchasing a new truck for a while.

Sewer Office Furniture: No action at this time.
Downtown light damage has been taken care of.

New Business: Painting and repair of the Library and Town Hall will be held over for further discussion at future Township Board meetings.

Centron Data Services for billing: Naumann reported on a company representing several county townships that may be available to handle tax billing. Charlie will attend the next Montcalm County Supervisor's meeting to see if other districts may want to join with this company and combine costs.

Tires for Wastewater truck: Dan reported that new tires are needed and presented 3 bids. Motion by Naumann, supported by McCracken to approve the purchase of four new tires from Discount Tire in the amount of \$534.00. All Ayes. Motion carried 5/5.

Naumann proposed to the board that the group that was meeting on Ordinance 15A not meet until January. The board agreed that would be acceptable.

Charlie reported the amount for annual police patrol from the county will be \$68,200.

Public Comments:

Roger Gooding reported people should call for leaf pickup.

Stone requested that Clerk Naumann add the following item to the next meeting agenda: Adoption of job descriptions for the Fire Chief, DPW Supervisor and Assessor.

Dan Eller wants a Procedure Manual for the Duck Lake Sewer. Supervisor Braman will check to see if one exists.

Motion by Lance, supported by McCracken to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 pm. All Ayes. Motion carried 5/5.