

**Township of Thetford
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Board of Trustees
November 23, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Board of Trustees.

There was a moment of silence in observance of all military past, present and for the families in Paris, France due to the terrorist attack.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Kerr at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Kerr, Clerk Pennington, Treasurer Ayotte, Trustee Gunnels, Trustee Cousineau, Trustee Stevens

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Congdon

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Robert Kenny, Attorney Robert Swartwood, Building Official Stuart Worthing

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Trustee Cousineau, supported by Clerk Pennigton to approve the November 9, 2015 Regular Board Meeting as presented. Vote 6-0 Motion Carried.

Motion by Trustee Cousineau, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to approve the November 12, 2015 Special Board Meeting as presented. Vote 6-0 Motion Carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Public comments began at 6:33 p.m. Ended at 6:34 p.m. One comment was received from the public.

- What is going to happen to the Historical Building?

Supervisor Kerr ~ Concrete has been poured and completed, we are going to start having funerals in the historical building during the winter months. We have special boxes, which Chief Kenny received from the military to properly store the old Clio Messengers..

- Going to one meeting a month and if you have to have another meeting where will the three postings be?

Supervisor Kerr ~ The door, the web site, our Facebook page and it will still be putting it into the paper, if it is a special meeting. We always fulfill the legal requirements.

- What was the meeting on November 12, 2015?

Supervisor Kerr ~ We were supposed to get the concrete donated for the ramp but that didn't work out. Due to that, I needed board approval to purchase the cement.

PRESENTATIONS:

North Morris Estate Christina Hall, Thetford Police Chief Robert Kenny, Building Official Stuart Worthing

Christina Hall ~ This is what has been done at North Morris Estates:

- In four months we have spent over \$100,000.00, to remove 48 homes.
- There are 19 homes left to remove,
- I will be getting the next 19 homes out within the next two months. I have gotten a lot of compliments on how nice everything is looking and people are grateful on how many homes have left in such a short time.
- I have ordered 12 bulbs and fixed 16 streetlights.
- The entrance and exits are not on the park's meter. Consumers came in and put new meters on and never replaced the old ones. We called and put the lights on as an emergency measure. When we left to come here tonight Consumers had not arrived..

Building Official Stuart Worthing ~ Yes,, Chief Kenny and I have gone through the park today and we also counted 19 homes still needing to leave the park. The park is being cleaned up and the lighting issue I was going to address tonight. Are the 16 lights that were fixed, is that a portion of the park or are you addressing all the lights and time frame on that?

Christina Hall ~ Addressing all the lights, I have managed to get what I have gotten done in a couple of days. We are continuing.

Building Official Stuart Worthing ~ From that standpoint they are doing what they told us they would do, time line was a little bit less then what we anticipated but due to unforeseen circumstances. They should keep moving forward. From a building stand point I don't have any issues. If we can get those 19 out of there, we are right on track.

Chief Kenny ~ Just going along with what Stuart said there are 19 homes boarded up and prepped. . Question about a double wide?

Christina Hall ~ That is getting moved to the other area.

Chief Kenny ~ The debris, which we could see there are no large piles and seems to be cleaned up. From our standpoint, as long as they continue to move forward they will have no issues with us on the ordinance issue.

Supervisor Kerr asked for the three individuals, Christina Hall, Stuart Worthing and Chief Kenny, to stay up in front. She asked do any board members or audience members have any questions for these three people while they are here. This is the time to ask.

No questions were asked by board members or audience members.

Attorney Robert Swartwood ~ Ma'am, I need to know if you are working with a current licensing with the State of Michigan and aren't you getting ready to renew?

Christina Hall ~ We did renew this year and Brenda at the building department already approved us and told us that we complied and we will be receiving our license. They were very happy with 46 homes leaving.

Attorney Robert Swartwood ~ There are some tax issues that were supposed to be taken care at the township. Are you aware of this?

Christina Hall ~ Yes, I am aware as Mr. Gantos has notified all the residents. He should be watching for that in the next couple of weeks. The payment has already been given to the lender and the lender will be sending you the money.

Supervisor Kerr ~ At this time I would like to thank you all for attending and working together. Bob Swartwood, I think maybe the four of you need to go into the next room I believe there are still things that legally need to be addressed..

Attorney Robert Swartwood agrees.

Christina Hall, Chief Robert Kenny, Building Official Stuart Worthing and Attorney Robert Swartwood leave to go to our conference room.

Two residents had comments

- Why are the residents behind in sewer? Residents not paying North Morris Estate? Or residents not behind North Morris Estate not paying the bill? Why is North Morris Estates behind \$100,000?

Supervisor Kerr ~ I am not sure of that question but I am sure that is being discussed

- I am confused about the comment that was made, I can wait until she gets back. But my understand on the First Amendment Rights I can communicate with residents.. Is there a restraint of giving people public information?

Supervisor Kerr ~ I am not following what you are talking about

- There was a comment made because I put out some information to the residents.. My understanding is I have the freedom of speech to do that. It's public knowledge, correct? Taxes and sewer are public information?

Supervisor Kerr ~ Yes, but let's remember this is continuous and we are trying to get input from everyone to get this resolved.

SUPERVISOR REPORT:

We established a new fund at the Senior Center, which is a Memorial Fund.

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, support by Supervisor Kerr to establish a new restricted fund called the Thetford Township Senior Center Memorial Fund. Roll Call Vote 6-0. Motion Carried.

TREASURER REPORT:

Taxes are being mailed this week and you will see the Public Safety Assessment on your bill.

CLERK'S REPORT:

As of November 2015 Fund Balance ~ \$60,769.94, which does not include \$150,000 which was borrowed from the sewer fund, which makes the actual fund balance: \$-89,230.06

BILLS FOR APPROVAL:

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Supervisor Kerr to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call Vote. Vote 5-1 Nay ~ Trustee Stevens. Motion Carried.

BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

Was presented

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Reports from the following committees were reviewed:

- Fire
- Police ~ for the month of October responded to 193 calls, Chief Kenny gave a report
- Roads
- Drain Commission

GENERAL BUSINESS:

A): **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1): **2016 Meeting Schedule**

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to approve the 2016 Meeting Schedule. Roll Call 5-1. Nay ~ Trustee Stevens. Motion Carried.

2): **Grant Finder**

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Trustee Cousineau to purchase Grant Finder for the township and the police department for \$319.00 each. Roll Call 6-0. Motion Carried

3): **Rec Hall ~ discussion if we would like to add liquor and security**

Clerk Pennington talked to Larry Clever there will be an extra cost and extra exposure if we allow liquor in the rec hall. . Calling Monday to get some questions answered. She won't have a quote until the end of next week or the following week.

There was a lot of discussion, many board members would like to see what expenses would be necessary to update the hall, how much would we raise the rental and if it would be worth it.

B): **NEW BUSINESS:**

1): **Health Insurance ~ Change of Agent**

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Trustee Cousineau to change our agent in our township health insurance to Dennis Doelle, of The Ascend Group PLLC. Roll Call 5-1. Nay ~ Trustee Stevens. Motion Carried

2): **Pay Back Sewer Fund \$150,000**

Motion by Trustee Stevens, supported by Trustee Cousineau to pay back the Sewer Fund \$150,000, \$50,000 from account 101-101.000-800.100 and transfer \$100,000 CD from the General Fund to the Sewer Fund on January 25, 2016. The loan will be paid in full. Roll Call 5-1. Nay ~ Supervisor Kerr. Motion Carried

3): **Representatives for Genesess County Alliance**

Motion by Supervisor Kerr, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to appoint Trustee Martin Cousineau to the Genesee County Alliance. Roll Call 6-0. Motion Carried.

4): **CDBG**

Motion by Supervisor Kerr, supported by Trustee Cousineau to use the CDBG amount \$7,250.00 for Police Code Enforcement. Roll Call 6-0. Motion Carried.

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Clerk Pennington to amend the budget with the CDBG amount showing, Revenue 101-000.000-529.000, expense 101-301.000-981.200 and on the police side Revenue 301-000.000-690.200, expense 301-301.200-702.300. Roll Call 6-0. Motion Carried.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Started at 7:56 p.m, Ended at 7:48 p.m with three comments

- On our letter we got back that we didn't have enough signatures to put this petition on the ballot, I would like to know what happened to the other 345 signatures that was not counted.

Supervisor Kerr ~ this is finished, they were insufficient

- They weren't insufficient if you didn't turn in all the signatures into the company. They only list 91 people

Supervisor Kerr ~ You do not have the full report. The night Attorney William Fahey came to explain your insufficient petitions we only handed out the list of names that did not count. Again, you do not have the full report list otherwise you could not make that statement. All your petitions were promptly turned into the civil engineer.

- You have all the rest of them

Supervisor Kerr ~ what we gave out that night was the simple form on what didn't count due to the rule that for a signature to count everyone who owns the property must sign the petition. If not everyone who was an owner signed the petition those signatures would not count.

- Still leaves a lot in the air, because I count 345 signatures that were on the ballots that didn't get counted.

Supervisor Kerr ~ Let me make this clear. There is nothing up in the air. As previously stated the civil engineer who verified the insufficiency of the petitions received all petitions with all the signatures.

- Then why didn't he list them? I know for sure there was at least 5 on the petition that would not qualify and I didn't even find them discounted.

Supervisor Kerr ~ that night I was not about to run off all the submitted petitions. While attorney Fahey was addressing why a signature would not count I ran off the page that indicated all the signatures that did not count. If you come in tomorrow I will give you the whole report with the signatures that were sent to him.

- What is the Genesee County Alliance do? Knowing the additional cost of the insurance on offering liquor, I think on having liquor would make it more rental. There is a sign here now that says no alcohol in the hall, so anyone that has even been in the hall knows that it is not an option. So if someone wanting to have liquor they wouldn't even call.

Supervisor Kerr ~ that's what I was thinking that historically we have never had liquor so people would know that we don't have liquor. We are still thinking about it.

- Another point I want to make it that it doesn't mean they are not in their cars drinking liquor. When we are having a wedding receptions here, let's be realistic. We don't have security here for the people in the parking lot. I am looking at it for a revenue for our police department. .

Attorney Swartwood ~ I am neutral, there is something called the dram shop, bars get sued all the time if you over serve someone. Then everyone gets sued, first thing that will happen and we have already found out that our insurance is going to go up then for the tenant we are going to have to demand a one day insurance from them,, which you can get that from your home owner insurance for a million dollars and there's another fee. Usually both companies are going to require security.. I believe that liability outweighs any potential. If the people want to pay the cost and the board wants to do it I am not opposed to it. I just think we are increasing our risk tremendously. And it's usually done with a hall much bigger than this, better set up then this for a wedding. Before you pay all the costs it may not pay off

- What is the cost of renting the hall?

Clerk Pennington ~ same for both resident and nonresident:, \$300.00 all day, \$150.00 four hours and less, I think \$50.00 week nights and \$10.00 during business hours. You can get in the night before for \$50.00.

- Somebody mentioned there was no bar, you could put a bar in-between both bathrooms in the back.. Fairly easily, there's water and a drain right there. So as a thought

- I talked to Mr. Congdon about renting the rec hall with alcohol.. If you serve beer you get more flushes. I was told years ago that our septic system wouldn't handle the extra flushes you would get with serving alcohol. Something to consider.

Board Member Comments were received.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Leanne Pennington, Clerk
Thetford Township