

Thetford Township
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
September 26, 2016
4014 E Vienna Road
Clio, MI 48420

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

There was a moment of silence in observance of all military past and present.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Eileen Kerr, Clerk Leanne Pennington, Treasurer Shelly Ayotte, Trustee John Congdon, Trustee Gary Stevens, Trustee Eric Gunnels

MEMBERS ABSENT: Trustee Martin Cousineau

STAFF PRESENT: Attorney Robert Swartwood, Julia Wilson, Assessor

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to approve the August 22, 2016 Regular Board of Trustee minutes as presented. Vote 5-0-1 Clerk Pennington abstained.

Additions to the Agenda

Motion by Trustee Stevens, supported by Trustee Congdon to add under unfinished business requested by Trustee Gunnels b) law suits ~ township policy by which we handle law suits. Vote 6-0 Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comments

Public comments began at 6:33 p.m Ended at 6:40 p.m. Four comments were received

1. Lettering on the new police cruiser
 - o Lettering is standard and is used in other municipalities. Lettering does have to be and is reflective.
2. What is the date for the public safety committee meeting?
 - a. The date has not been decided.
3. Why is the impound fee bill so high?
 - a. Louie's helped with removing things from a residence. We have a lien on that resident's property and this bill will be added to the other bills on the lien.
4. Road Commission vehicles stopping just on the other side of a hill on Frances Road. He is afraid someone is going to get hurt.
 - a. The road foreman will be contacted

5. People dropping their garbage on the road and leaving it.
 - a. Really nothing we can do unless we happen to catch the people responsible.

6. How can you pay a bill if you don't know what it is for?
 - a. Clerk Pennington ~ I believe you are referencing the Louie's attorney bill, which is the bill from the Donald Reid property. They helped clean up the cars for the police department. We have a lien on the property and this bill will be added to it just like all the other bills that we have received on clean up.

7. Questions about the Planning Commission recommendation to approve the Consumers Energy Site Plan. Regarding the Planning Commission recommendation what about the water, the pond, who will fix our wells if our wells run dry, wild life, dust, mosquitos, we moved here for a county living, our property value will go down.
 - a. It was unfortunate these residents could not attend either of the public hearings because most of those issues were addressed and Consumers seemed very much aware of them.
 - b. The name of the contact person and phone number from Consumers Energy were made available to the interested parties.

Presentation: None

Correspondence: None

Supervisor Report:

Please take notice of the work being done by the parking lot by our Senior Center. This work is being funded by a CDBG grant, Community Development Block Grant.

If you remember we had to approve this program three times, due to miscommunications with the CDBG person. That person is no longer with the program. The new CDBG person has told us we still have \$27,000, which must be used on an existing approved project.

We are hiring a new assessor tonight due to the resignation of Dennis Miller. The assessor will be a probationary employee for 3 months.

I am working on a list of this board's achievements for 4 years and a history of Thetford Township.

The MTA, Michigan Townships Association, gave a dinner in honor of the county's elected officials retirees. I was one of 4 people to be honored for 26 years of service to Thetford Township. It was a very rewarding and positive evening.

Treasurer Report:

- End of August, 2016 book balance is \$275,510.58

Clerk Report:

- Fund balance as on September 30, 2016 ~ \$301,492.54
- Last day to register is October 11, 2016
- Halloween party in October 28, 2016 from 5:00-8:00. We are accepting donations at the township, senior center ~ bake goods, police station and fire station. Also going to try this year a trunk and treat. Looking for volunteers and cars.

Bills for Approval:

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

Building Inspector's Report:

Accepted

Chief Kenny and Building Official Stuart Worthing working on Ordinance Violations.

Committee Report:

- Senior Center ~ Given by Trustee Stevens
 - Casino trip planned of October
 - Supervisor Kerr said that the open house had a great turn out.
- Fire ~ Given by Trustee Congdon
 - New fire truck has been delivered
 - It seems like they are getting a lot of applications for firefighters
- Roads ~ Given by Supervisor Kerr
 - Center Road Culvert @ Dead Creek should be finished November 18, 2016
 - The Genesee County Road Commission gives yearly PASER ratings for each street in each municipality.
- Planning Commission ~ Given by Trustee Gunnels
 - There were two meetings, with one being a public hearing. Consumers Energy presented a very good presentation. It's a five year plan, they have to get permits from the Genesee County Drain Commission and the Genesee County Roads. Was very impressed that they are going to get a PASER rating for the Genesee Road, when the job is completed.

Genesee Road will be the same PASER rating as when they started the project. Trustee Gunnels recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the recommendation that is presented.

General Business:

A. Unfinished Business:

a) Lewis Road

Supervisor Kerr talked to Vienna Township Supervisor who told her that road restrictions was the Planning Commission jurisdiction but later corrected himself and said that the Board of Trustees are the ones that passed the resolution. Supervisor Kerr asked the board if anyone would have a problem if Trustee Gunnels represented Thetford Township on the Lewis Road issues that we are having. All agreed. The meeting will be October 11, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

b) law suits ~ township policy by which we handle law suits

The supervisor handles all problems and directs them to avenues of resolution. This is usually successful.

B. New Business

1. Approved township L-4029

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Clerk Pennington to approve the township L-4029 as presented for the taxable year 2016. Roll Call. 6-0 Motion Carried.

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Clerk Pennington to approve the special assessment for the taxable year 2016, garbage \$123.00, public safety residential \$75.00, commercial \$150.00 and industrial \$500.00, 1% service fee and \$103,488.86 delinquent sewer. Roll Call 5-1, Nay Trustee Gunnels. Motion Carried.

2. 6222 E Lake Road

Motion by Supervisor Kerr, supported by Trustee Gunnels to approve placing a bid in the paper "Thetford Township is accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a forfeited property at 6222 E Lake Road, Millington. The property is to be sold in as-is condition and house must be demolished. Thetford Township does not guarantee title on forfeited property. Suggest buyer to do their own title search. The home and property are assessed for \$40,800. The minimum bid will be \$12,000.

All bids should be mailed or taken to the Clio Area Law Center, PLC, 164 W Vienna Road, Suite 1, Clio, MI 48420

Deadline for submitting bids: October 19, 2016 by 5:00 p.m. Indicate on the sealed envelope: "BID." For further information, call Thetford Twp. 810-686-5200." Roll Call 5-1, Nay Trustee Stevens. Motion Carried

3. Planning Commission Recommendation

Motion by Trustee Gunnels, supported by Trustee Congdon to approve the recommendation of the Planning Commission. "Motion by Eric Gunnels, supported by Kari Gilbert to approve staging and storage of Material/Equipment and building accommodation in support of the company's Saginaw Trails Pipeline replacement plan." Roll Call 5-1, Nay Trustee Stevens. Motion Carried

Trustee Stevens explained his negative vote by explaining that we had never followed this procedure before with the Board of Trustees approving a not approving the Planning Commission's recommendation.

Supervisor Kerr explained that the Board of Trustees must always and have always approved or denied all Planning Commission recommendations. This is compared to the ZBA, Zoning Board of Appeals, is a higher committee and does not need Board of Trustees approval rather the only way a ZBA ruling may be overturned would be by the Circuit Court or Federal Court.

4. Hire Julia Wilson township assessor

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Trustee Stevens to hire Julia Wilson at \$50.00 hour as Thetford Township Assessor. Roll Call 6-0. Motion Carried.

5. Accept 2015-2016 audit

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Supervisor Kerr to accept the 2015-2016 audit that was presented September 22, 2016. Roll Call 6-0. Motion Carried.

6. Medical Marijuana licensing law

Summary was given by Attorney Robert Swartwood of the three new laws for Medical Marijuana. He is waiting for the official copy from the state before we discuss anything further.

Brief Public Comments:

Public comments began at 7:31 p.m Ended at 7:54 p.m. Six comments were received.

- Center Road Culvert will township portion be less, will we have to borrow from our Sewer Fund,
 - Clerk Pennington since the culvert was under budget then our portion should be less expensive. We will pay what the bill says, we have

budgeted for this culvert there will be no borrowing from the sewer fund, which was never listed as an option

- Questioned hours for assessor and category of employment
 - Attorney Swartwood will consider all the legal options in developing the contract.
- Pulled from Consumer's web site, there are 272 acres, will have a high volume of gas and electric going out and in this plant, it will service 445 thousands of customers.
- L-4029, public safety was supposed to be voted on, petitions were turned in. Why didn't it go to a vote?

The petitions were illegal as has previously been discussed on numerous occasions. Before the petitions were circulated it was made clear to the petition circulators that each owner had to sign on a separate line. That was not done. When we turned the petitions in to have them validated they were declared illegal.
- Trucks going down Lewis Road way too fast
- What about the ditch that is being built between the property and the wall at the consumers is purposing? How do the residents keep their kids away from it and not to get hurt?

Trustee Gunnels the so called ditch will be a shallow swale something that you can mow. Nothing that anybody can get hurt.

- Doesn't understand how we can pay for a dumpster on house 6222 Lake Road, lost the buyer at 2080 Dodge Road, has encouraged family to sue the township because Dodge Road title is still not cleared, supports public safety but wants a vote like the board said they were going to do, don't trust the word of the board anymore.
 - Losing the buyer at 2080 Dodge Road was a private not a public matter
 - Anyone can sue anyone at anytime
 - Our public safety committee is addressing the issue of funding public safety.
 - This is unfortunate if someone who has had many dealings with our township board no longer trusts us over an issue, which involves another party. It is always this board's intent to operate in the most transparent manner and ethical conduct. That being said, rudeness and name calling from a resident will not be tolerated since that is clearly out of order behavior.

Board Member Comments were received

Announcement: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m

Leanne Pennington, Clerk
Thetford Township