

**Township of Thetford  
Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Board of Trustees  
August 24, 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 and present.

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, Trustee Congdon

**MEMBERS ABSENT: None**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Chief Robert Kenny, Attorney Robert Swartwood, Officer Jason Pletscher, Maintenance Roy Hatchett

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Cousineau to approve the July 22, 2015 Public Hearing Meeting Minutes on Codification of Ordinances. Vote 7-0. Motion Carried.

Motion by Trustee Cousineau, supported by Trustee Congdon to approve the July 22, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Vote 7-0 Motion Carried.

**ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA:** None

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Public comments began at 6:31 p.m. Ended at 6:51 p.m. Fourteen comments were received from the public.

- Special Assessment, concern of losing fire/police, her home owners insurance going up, asking residents in the audience to please speak for or against the special assessment the board has to know where we as residents stand.
- Supports the special assessment, also checked with her insurance company to see how much it will raise
- Supports the special assessment
- Agrees with the special assessment
- Supports the special assessment, supports Police/fire, believes all should have a voice
- Not just about the money it's about the lives being saved, was against the police but now behind them, have seen them in action and how professional they are, encourage everyone to keep Police/Fire
- Supports the special assessment, for police and fire
- Had a rock thrown into her house window when they first moved in called the police department they were there in five minutes, the officer was very nice and

understood how scared I was. The officer said call anytime that you need house checked when you are home and we will be there. Has called a couple other times for them to come out and they have been there. Feels safe and supports the special assessment

- Supports police and fire, had something traumatic happen to her and it was comforting to see a familiar face from the police department show up, I am all for it and just pray that it goes through
- Like the idea of the coffee with the Chief, very informal and educating, sees that the police department is lacking equipment in the cars, asked about assessment now can it later go to the vote of the people, Thanked the board for some driving through North Morris it is being noted and believes it is helping on getting it cleaned up.
- What hasn't been touched on is the lives that have been saved in the last 20 years, property damage. money I am sure it is astronomical lives that have been saved has to be in the hundreds, if we don't have our own the cost recovery for another department on an average starts out at \$500 dollars if you call it in or a passerby being a good Samaritan, as a citizen of this community and worked in the fire and police service for more than 20 years I fully support it
- Supports the special assessment, with living in both Vienna and Thetford, Vienna township taxes are more than double, I ,too, have had a house fire was very grateful on having a fire department come and save my house
- My husband and I have 21 parcels that we farm, we are totally against the special assessment on our farm properties we can barely afford farming now *The plan is to assess only those parcels with buildings on them. We do not plan to assess vacant land.*
- My husband was supervisor for many years, as some of you know he had always wanted a police department he was very proud of the fire department, when my daughter's house was destroyed by the tornado the fire department was there and I am very grateful for them. My family has been in Thetford Township for 150 years and very involved with this community

### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

Presentation given by County Commissioner Mike Lynch, our 7<sup>th</sup> District Commissioner. Updated on Animal Control that they did have 100 to 200 complaints, so they have replaced the director and co-director now only a couple complaints. Some of the updates at Animal Control No kill, program for spayed and neuter animals and they have new cages. They are keeping the Senior Budget the same as last year there will be no cuts in that funding. Road Commission board is going to be an elected board. Their salaries are to be established. Right now the Road Commission Board Members are appointed to 6 year terms.

Commissioner Lynch is part of the Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Building Trade Council. The council is hosting a free hunter's safety at Ed's Archery Saturday, August 29, 2015.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

At the end of June 2015 ~ adjusted book balance is \$310,116.31

### **CLERK'S REPORT:**

As of July 17, 2015 Fund Balance ~ \$312,260.40, which does not include \$150,000 which was borrowed from the sewer fund.

Ordinance Summaries went into the Genesee County Herald, August 19, 2015 the ordinances will become law on September 19, 2015

### **BILLS FOR APPROVAL:**

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Clerk Pennington to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call Vote. Vote 5-2, Nays Trustee Cousineau and Trustee Stevens. Motion Carried.

### **BUILDING INSPECTOR'S REPORT:**

Was presented

### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Reports from the following committees were reviewed:

- Special Assessment
- Fire
- Road
- Clio Park and Rec

### **GENERAL BUSINESS:**

#### **A): UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 1): Appoint Board of Appeals Member

Motion by Supervisor Kerr, supported by Trustee Stevens to appoint Theo Gantos to a three year term on the Board of Appeals. Motion Carried

B): **NEW BUSINESS:**

1): Ordinance 2015-06-00

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Cousineau to adopt the Ordinance 2015-06-00 Chapter System for the Townships' Ordinances. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

2): CDBG ~ Resolution Conflict of Interest

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Cousineau to adopt the Resolution for Conflict of Interest for the CDBG funds.. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

3): Capital Assets ~ Increase the amount for capitulations from \$500 to \$2500, which was the auditors suggestion.

Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Trustee Cousineau to change the Township Capital Assets amount to \$2500.. Roll Call 6-1 Nay Trustee Stevens Motion Carried

4): Amend General Fund – Cemetery

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Trustee Congdon to amend 101-276.100-702.300 Cemetery Part Time for the amount \$963.27. Roll Call 7-0. Motion Carried

5): Insurance Renewal

Motion by Trustee Cousineau, supported by Trustee Gunnels to approve the renewal for township insurance from Burnham and Flowers for the amount of \$35,139.00. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

The board would like to see this insurance contract be put out for bids next year.

6): Discussion of Police/Fire funding 2016

Motion Treasurer Ayotte, support by Supervisor Kerr, BE IT RESOLVED the township board of the Township of Thetford will conduct a public hearing at the township hall at Thetford, Michigan on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 6:30 p.m to consider the creation of a special assessment district for purpose of specially assessing benefitted property for the cost of fire protection and police protection in the township for the calendar year of 2016. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, support by Supervisor Kerr, BE IT RESOLVED that the township board of the Township of Thetford will conduct a public hearing at the township hall at Thetford, Michigan on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. to consider the proposed special assessment roll prepared by the township assessor pursuant to the direction of the township board, concerning the Public Safety District

previously created. WHEREAS, the Public Safety Assessment District within which the cost of fire protection and police protection are proposed to be assessed and the estimated cost of providing fire protection and police protection within the special assessment district for the calendar year 2016 is approximately \$375,000. The amount of the special assessment is based upon the special benefit to real property from the nature and level of fire and police protection to be provided by the township. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried.

**BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Started at 7:56 p.m, Ended at 8:12 p.m with three comments

1): Was a trustee and when he was on the board he told them we, as a township, were running out of money and that we needed to cut costs. Mad about two public hearings in one night, looks like we are trying to pull a fast one, Police toys, no cost cutting and increasing government.

2): wanted to make sure she understood what exactly the two public hearings entailed, would like to see the vote from the board that night believes the residents who showed up that night deserve to know that night, if there is a building on a vacant land will they get the special assessment? They will use it just as much as I would. If we would go to an election we can try to join another election to keep cost down. Mil vs a special election comments on that. Without an agreement on October 1<sup>st</sup> we would lose the fire department

Supervisor Kerr said according to our agreement we would have to give the Clio Area Fire Authority one year's notice. So yes, I would send them a notice

Within that year if we had come up with a plan can we tell the Clio Fire Authority we changed our mind and want to stay in?

So if we get the special assessment how much more would Chief Kenny get for his department? Answer: \$75,000

What does he plan on doing with that money? Answer: hiring a clerk and another full time officer

We have been taking these services out of our general fund, we have depleted it from roads and other things we needed.

3): likes the idea of two meetings in one day because sometimes it's hard to get the residents out for two meetings, just wants to know why on a Wednesday not a Monday? When he tells people the meeting has been changed they think you, as a board, are pulling a fast one on the people. Answer: The Monday and Tuesday of the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> Treasurer's department has other duties.

Would like to see the cost of a special assessment go on the ballot in 2016 as a millage for long term funding not an assessment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Leanne Pennington, Clerk  
Thetford Township