

Thetford Township
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
December 12, 2016
6:30 p.m.
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 Stevens at 6:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Stevens, Clerk Pennington, Treasurer Ayotte, Trustee Congdon, Trustee Gunnels, Trustee Stanke, Trustee Piechnik

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Chief Kenny

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Piechnik to approve the November 28, 2016, Regular Board of Trustee minutes that was presented. Vote 6-1, Nay Trustee Gunnels Motion Carried

Addition to the Agenda:

Motion by Trustee Gunnels, what is the board attending to do about my house and property?

Trustee Gunnels wants to know if he has support on the discussion of my lawsuit.

Supervisor Stevens ~ I believe at this time it's between you and the courts. This board has no obligation on fulling that either way. It's in the process and it's your process, it's not the board process.

Denied due to lack of support.

Brief Public Comments

Public comments began at 6:39 p.m Ended at 6:45 p.m. Three comments were received.

- Ordinance on Medical Marijuana has the board been looking into it? I have an attorney that has drawn up an ordinance that I have paid for out of my pocket and I am willing to give you the copy free and you can just have your attorney look into it

Supervisor Stevens ~ not at this time, we are in a process of changing attorneys right now and he is up on this matter. We will look into it as time goes on. This is also the time for comments on Agenda Matters only and this matter is not on the agenda.

- A trustee handed out some materials to Trustee Congdon and Stanke, mentioned that he had given the other board members with the exclusion of Leanne, over the weekend. Wanted the board to be aware of what is going on, I understand on where you stand, I understand it's in the courts, I understand that. My issue is a lot bigger than that, it's about policy, it's about this community and how we are going to live our lives and the next full term, the next four years. Serious issues I want you all informed and that's why you all were giving a board packet and that is why Leanne didn't receive one because this decision at this time is up to the five of you. I will recuse me with any decision at this time and me except Leanne to do the same. Just look at the packet I gave Gary, Shelly and Stan theirs over the weekend. I want the board to look into it, dive into it, and recognize on what is happening there and what is happening to me. I would like to put this to rest.

Supervisor Stevens ~ this is for agenda items only and for only 3 minutes. This board cannot act on anything in litigations. This is between you, the court, the judge and the attorneys.

You have been given bad advice bad attorney advice.

Supervisor Stevens ~ Well Attorney Swartwood is done on the 16th and we hopefully will be hiring another one tonight. I will have him look further into this.

Wanted to give this information to you and I will be doing a press release tonight.

- Asking township to file a complaint with the State Mobile Home Commission. Sent a letter to everyone here asking that the complaint be filed. Have not heard if any complaints have been filed with the Mobile Home Commission. They have ignored building codes, building official and getting building permits

Supervisor Stevens ~ comments at the beginning is for agenda items only

Presentation: None

Correspondence: None

Supervisor Report

- Collecting taxes December 1st to the end of February
- The agreement for the campground for the living space for consumers has been signed

- Clerk worked with great diligence on the recount for the state and that is over with

Treasurer Report

- Taxes are being collected, this year you are able to make payment weekly, monthly and partial whatever works with your budget.
- November report will be given in the January meeting.

Clerk Report

- Fund balance as of December 6th ~ \$268,758.39

Bills for Approval

Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Trustee Gunnels to approve the bills as presented. Roll Call Vote 7-0 Motion Carried

Building Inspector's Report

Accepted

Committee Reports:

Police Report

- Waiting on the arson report on the Lake Road house
- Has 3 CSC, Child Protective Service, cases that have been put on my desk this week, have set interviews downtown in their interview room
- Residents it's that time of year, thieves are out watching. Secure your belongings and watch out for your neighbors. If you see anything suspicious call 911 it doesn't hurt to have things checked out
- Still in the process of switching over report system, will be cheaper for me. This system will allow us to look up a person and see if they have been involved with the law anywhere else.

General Business

A. Unfinished Business

1. Township Attorney

Motion by Treasurer Ayotte, supported by Trustee Piechnik to hire Attorney Michael Gildner for a one year contract at the amount of \$1,500.00 a month. Roll Call 4-3, Nay ~ Trustee Gunnels, Trustee Congdon, Trustee Stanke, Motion Carried

B. New Business

1. Board of Review

- a) Motion by Supervisor Stevens, supported by Trustee Piechnik to appoint Alice Oliver to a 2 year term on the Board of Review. Roll Call 4-3 Nay ~ Trustee Congdon, Clerk Pennington, Treasurer Ayotte. Motion Carried
- b) Motion by Supervisor Stevens, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to appoint Mike Niec to a 2 year term on the Board of Review. Roll Call 6-1, Nay ~ Clerk Pennington. Motion Carried
- c) Motion by Supervisor Stevens, supported by Treasurer Ayotte to re-appoint Michelle Voorhies. Roll Call 7-0. Motion Carried

2. Remove Special

- a) Motion by Clerk Pennington, supported by Supervisor Stevens to remove the \$75.00 public safety assessment from parcel 17.14.400.015. Roll Call 7-0, Motion Carried
- b) Motion by Trustee Congdon, supported by Supervisor Stevens to remove the \$75.00 public safety assessment and the \$46.75 for lights from parcel 17.30.551.016 Roll Call 7-0, Motion Carried

3. Township Property

- a) Motion by Supervisor Stevens, supported by Clerk Pennington to deem uncollectable taxes for the 2014, 2015, and 2016 tax years for parcel 17.12.100.016. Roll Call 7-0. Motion Carried
- b) Motion by Supervisor Stevens, supported by Clerk Pennington to pay \$1.83, county drain on parcel 17.10.100.022. Roll Call 7-0 Motion Carried.

Brief Public Comments

Public comments began at 7:16 p.m Ended at 7:21 p.m. Two comments were received

- If you would look on your front cover of the board packet on number #3 it says "At open board meetings, it is inappropriate to make personal attacks against township personnel, citizens and board members. If the comments do

constitute a legitimate complaint against an employee or a board member, the speaker is urged to present the complaint to the supervisor prior to requesting board consideration.” You are a very professional board and handling yourself very well and it’s not easy. You have one board member that really upset me, by his continued unprofessional conduct. There was a court case, which he started, he lost, it was decided and it was finished. Everyone has the right to appeal that is their right if they have the means for an appeal and an attorney to file the appeal then the appeal is filed. What that individual is asking this board to settle it, but the courts have settled it and this individual was awarded Zero dollars. If anyone of you as a board member use tax payer money to give him money to settle his case after the court has settled it, I will personally begin a recall against any board member that would vote to give him money. That is out of your jurisdiction, you cannot do that. Also please do not think it is ok for this trustee to stand here and say things like Judge Rosen is blind and corrupt, I am sorry Judge Rosen is a highly respected judge. Talking about Mr. Swartwood he served us well for eight years some people liked him and some didn’t. That is irrelevant and this trustee is out of order with his comment. You have a wonderful Clerk who knows her job and does it well. If this trustee is so upset he is to do what is required of every other board member and resident make an appointment and discuss it privately with Supervisor Stevens.

- I have given you a board packet that has the facts to my case, along testimony, and along with a lot of other information you need to look at. You need to look at the whole scope of this issue. I have done everything I could with the previous administration that was in this township to resolve this issue. I am going to quote Bob with his letter of resignation that he gave to the township “getting their feelings hurt and wanting justice. I see it every day. The courthouse is the worst place to resolve differences...” that’s a quote from our own attorney. I see you all are stonewalled right now and that’s ok, I will only put up with that for so long but the facts of this case and the facts will speak for themselves. Bob Swartwood says some folks just want to waste their money and yours. That’s what I am here to do, to protect this township on wasting money. This township has already spent \$65,000 on defending a boggiest warrant, a warrant that you can clearly see in the packet. I know its unpleasant thing to do, I know it’s an unpleasant thing to face, especially for new board members. It’s not going away and I am not going away.

Board Member Comments were received

Announcement: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m

Leanne Pennington, Clerk
Thetford Township