

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BESSEMER TOWNSHIP BOARD: Monday, August 13, 2007, 5:00 p.m. Meeting was called to order by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL:, Debbie Janczak-Clerk, John McLean-Trustee, Hope Tarnaski-Trustee, Jerry Grenfell-Treasurer, and Jeff Randall-Supervisor. In addition there were four electors present.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES: **MOTION by McLean, supported by Tarnaski to accept the minutes as presented from July 23, 2007. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: The Supervisor added 10. I. Under *New Business* for “Authorize signatures for deeds.” Also, Trustee McLean requested that 10.J. be added for “Assessor’s Report.”

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to accept the agenda as amended. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PETITIONS: Supervisor Randall received a letter regarding the re-naming of a street from Jeffrey Wilkinson that is located near Black River Road. The board discussed the issue. Apparently this was a request made several years ago. The Supervisor will do some follow-up on this issue.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Supervisor:

- Minutes of July 23, 2007 from the Gogebic County Road Commissioners. Also noted in these minutes was that the road commission will be contacted John Hellman regarding some road work on Cedar Lane that they will be responsible for repairing (this was a road listed on the Township’s “to be paved” for 2007)
- Notice from the USDA regarding a prior map sent for the Scenic Rivers program.
- Notice from Charter Communications regarding rate/channel changes.
- Letter from the Michigan AFSCME Council 25 noting their awareness of prior payroll issues.
- Daily pumpage report for July 2007.
- August 1, 2007 agenda and July 5, 2007 minutes from the Bessemer Area Sewer Authority.
- Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority agenda for July 26, 2007 and minutes from June 28, 2007.
- July 9, 2007 minutes of the Gogebic County Board of County Road Commissioners.
- July 25, 2007 and August 8, 2007 agendas and July 11, 2007 and July 25, 2007 minutes from the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.

Clerk: None.

Treasurer: None.

McLean: None.

Tarnaski: None.

MOTION by Randall supported by Grenfell to place all correspondence on file. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.

REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BESSEMER AREA SEWER AUTHORITY (BASA) – Trustee McLean noted that the committee approved the purchase of a pole building for \$18,573. Otherwise, it was regular business.

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY (GRWA) – Treasurer Grenfell reported on the August 9, 2007 meeting. The chairman signed papers to proceed with the Grand View tank project as well as the Anvil/Indianhead and Ironwood Township projects.

POWDERHORN AREA UTILITY DISTRICT (PAUD) – None.

GOGEBIC RANGE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (GRSWMA) – None.

E911 – None.

OLD BUSINESS

ROAD REPAIR CONTRACTS – The board reviewed the letter received by Supervisor Randall regarding winter lift costs. The Supervisor put together a cost sheet comparing prices for road repair done during the regular season versus winter. The question of what is the road commission's responsibility regarding road repair was discussed. Research will be done further to see about the contract the township has with the road commission.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIT PRESENTATION FOR 2007 FISCAL YEAR – Auditor Roger Kolehmainen presented the board with the 2007 year end audit. This is an unqualified opinion, which is in the township's favor. The auditor went on to explain various aspects of the audit report and the new means in which reporting has to take place. He noted that the township has approximately \$573,500 in cash available. Also, that four out of the five funds made a profit. There was one reportable condition this year in the area of inventory. The board will be working on this for the next audit. The board thanked Mr. Kolehmainen for his report. The board reviewed and discussed the bill received from the auditor and noted that there was originally \$7,000 approved for the audit expense. The total bill is for \$8225.00. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to accept the audit report and approve payment for Roger Kolehmainen's bill. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYS: none. Motion carried.**

ENBRIDGE ENERGY/CONSENT JUDGMENT – A discussion took place regarding the current situation with Enbridge regarding the valuation tables used in figuring out taxes. A letter from Larry Merrill, Director of the Michigan Townships Association noted that any further legal proceedings would not end in favor of the townships. He also enclosed the settlement given to Wakeshma Township (the test parcel) that is now being offered to other townships. A copy of the consent judgement was given for review as well. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by McLean to authorize the supervisor to write a letter in consultation with the DPW Director requesting leniency in the payment to Enbridge asking them to forgive all or part of the amount owed. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

AUTHROIZE SIGNATURE FOR PROPOSED SEWER APPLICATION – This was done via voice poll to the board. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by McLean to approve of the prior authorization to poll the board for moving forward on the proposed Sewer Application for Sanders Road, Third & Fourth Street, River Road and Spring Street. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski. NAYS: none. Motion carried.**

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING PROPOSAL – This was given to the board at the request of an elector. The board discussed the document. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Randall to place on file with no action. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

RESTITUTION PAYMENTS DUE – The Clerk gave background information regarding the claim with Maria Mosconi for the restitution to a fire hydrant she did damage to in 2005. A letter from Judge Tingstad suggested that the township go into civil action for the remaining money owed. The amount still owed is \$83.38. The board discussed the issue. This would not be cost

effective if the township were to pursue this money through a civil action suit. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Janczak to file the letter with no action. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

USE BY SPECIAL APPROVAL VARIANCE – The board reviewed the application provided by Dean Tangedal for a Marine and Sled rental/service business located at N10593 Puritan Road. The Zoning and Planning Commission reviewed the request and gave it their approval with four stipulations, which are noted on the application. The board discussed the request. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Grenfell to approve the application. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

APEX PROGRAM PURCHASE – The Treasurer provided a quote for the program that will be used on the assessor's computer in order to keep current after the reassessment. The cost is \$545.00 for the first year, which includes maintenance. **MOTION by McLean supported by Tarnaski to approve the purchase of the APEX program. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

MTA PLANNING COMMITTEE BOOK PURCHASE – The Supervisor requested that the township purchase “The Township Guide to Planning and Zoning” for each of the newly appointed Zoning commission members. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Randall to approve the purchase of five books at a cost of \$45.00 each to be kept as township property. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

AUTHORIZE SIGNATURES FOR WARRANTY DEEDS – The Gogebic Range Water Authority is required to hold the deeds to the property within the township that have Sander Road and Anvil Road booster stations. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Tarnaski to authorize the Supervisor with a notary's stamp to sign the deeds. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

Jean Verbos will notify Hannula Insurance to remove these from the township's billing.

ASSESSOR'S REPORT – Supervisor Randall reported that he has been working with Brad and believes he will be taking the assessment test in early September. He (Brad) has been doing regular business and has been keeping in touch with Landmark as they are completing the township's reassessment. Permits that have been processed so far this year will be reviewed in the near future. The Supervisor will request that Brad come in at least once a month for an update to the board.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Grenfell noted that there was \$40,000 transferred from a CD into the General Fund checking account. There was \$25,010.60 also transferred for the purchase of the Fire Department's new tanker. There will be a substantial water department deposit made and revenue sharing should be in around September 11 for \$18,000. The Treasurer also noted that an amended tax bill was sent to Enbridge Energy.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE: The Clerk noted the following checks for payment: General Fund: Check#5924-5964-- \$14,680.51; Anvil Sewer: Check # - \$; Ramsay Sewer: Check#, \$; West End Sewer: Check #- \$; Water Fund Checks #17971-17975- \$12,925.71. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Randall to approve payment of bills. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: The Clerk provided the most current copy of the reimbursement form in the agenda packet and asked that board and committee members fill these out when requesting reimbursements.

A financial summary from the fire department was provided by the Supervisor.

The Treasurer noted a problem with Brian Vukusich's water bill. He received a letter from him asking for the township to look into a discrepancy with his billing. The Treasurer and Jean Verbos will be looking into the issue further.

Trustee McLean questioned what the status was with the poverty exemption resolution. The Supervisor is still researching this issue. Trustee McLean did contact MTA for further clarification. Copies of other township's resolutions in this area are being sought.

Louis Sworab requested extra cold patch be ordered. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Tarnaski to authorize the DPW Leadman to order what is needed. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Randall to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m. Ayes: 5/Nayes: none. Motion carried.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Janczak, Bessemer Township Clerk