

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE BESSEMER TOWNSHIP BOARD: Monday, November 12, 2007, 5:00 p.m. The hearing was called to order by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Eight electors were present for the public hearing.

Supervisor Randall gave the public in attendance the “purpose” of the public hearing. This was “to hear public comment on the proposed Ramsay Sewer monthly fee increase in order to create set aside accounts that will comply with the State of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO) order.”

The state’s suggestion was to charge an addition \$11.00 per month for the set-aside account. After reviewing the budget and conferring with the DPW director, *per discussion with Steve Casy with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality*, it was suggested that only a \$6.00 per month increase be instituted. Before becoming finalized and accepted it must be approved by the DEQ. The proposed budget along with the work that has been done thus far will be sent to the State and the board will wait for their response before proceeding. The new rate would be effective January 2008.

Public comment was taken at this time.

DPW director Jean Verbos gave an overview on the projects that have been done thus far to comply with the order.

The board then moved into their regular meeting.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BESSEMER TOWNSHIP BOARD: Monday, November 12, 2007, 5:20 p.m. Meeting was called to order by the Supervisor and began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES: **MOTION by Grenfell, supported by Tarnaski to accept the minutes as presented from October 22, 2007. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: The Supervisor requested that item 10.H. Fire Department Applicant be added under *New Business*.

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

PETITIONS: The Supervisor referred to a set of pictures taken by neighbors of the *house* (who is a renter only) located at N10436 Belmont Drive. The board reviewed the pictures and discussed the situation with the neighbors present. A letter was presented to the board from Debbie Re, the daughter of one of the direct neighbors. This is a formal complaint. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Tarnaski to have the Supervisor consult with the township’s attorney for a letter to be drafted, approve and then sent be certified mail to both the tenant**

**and owner requiring that they clean up the property. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

Supervisor:

- Ottawa National Forest quarterly report for October –December 2007.
- An October 29, 2007 letter form Charter Communications notification regarding rate increases.
- October 2007 Daily Pumpage report.
- Letter of thanks for support from the Gogebic County Economic Development Commission.
- UP Engineers & Architects invitation to celebrate 50 years of business in Houghton November 9, 2007.
- Notice of Public Hearing from the Northern States Power Company for November 13, 2007 in Lansing, MI.
- Minutes from October 15, 2007 for the Gogebic County Road Commission.
- Truth & Taxation Resolution from the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners from their public hearing on October 24, 2007.
- Agenda for October 24, 2007 and minutes from October 10, 2007 for the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.
- November 7, 2007 Public Hearing notice from the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners for ISDA Rural Development Grant.
- Agenda for November 7, 2007 and minutes from October 24, 2007 for the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.

Clerk:

- Minutes from the September 11 and October 9, 2007 Bessemer Township Planning Commission.

Treasurer: None.

McLean: None.

Tarnaski: None.

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

REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BESSEMER AREA SEWER AUTHORITY (BASA) – Trustee McLean reported on the November 1, 2007 meeting. Auditor David Traczyk presented the 2006-07 audit, which was a clean audit. This auditor was also hired to look at the methodology for the billing and presented an updated rate schedule to be taken into effect January 1, 2008. (a breakdown of the rates was provided) Because of the way in which the PAUD project was handled, the authority was able to pay off their new tractor, pole building and put \$12,000 into debt retirement. Also, there was \$123,000 left to put into a fund for equipment replacement.

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY (GRWA) – Treasurer Grenfell reported on the November 8, 2007 meeting. The USDA came through with a \$2,250,000 grant and a \$2,378,000 grant for Ironwood Township. GRWA also received appointments from Ironwood Township for Gayla Salmi and from Wakefield Township for Pat Pikka to the GRWA board. The Black Jack issue between Northern States power is still not resolved. There are deed issues for the storage tank at Grand View Hospital that are being worked on.

POWDERHORN AREA UTILITY DISTRICT (PAUD) – None.

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

E911 – None.

ASSESSOR – None.

OLD BUSINESS

ENBRIDGE ENERGY/CONSENT JUDGMENT – Letters and e-mail copies were provided to the board that were sent from Frank Kuchevar (Watersmeet Supervisor) regarding the consent order. The board discussed the situation and what to do at this point. **MOTION by McLean supported by Tarnaski to have a letter sent to the Michigan State representatives and to the Governor in support of Frank Kuchevar's efforts. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

SSO ORDER – The Supervisor needs to write a letter to follow through with presentation of the budget.

POVERTY EXEMPTIONS – No forms were presented at this time, however the Supervisor provided a letter from the Michigan Township's Association from November 2, 2007 regarding this issue. The board discussed the guidelines and federal requirements. December *II*, 2007 is the next Board of Review meeting. **MOTION by Janczak supported by McLean to have Supervisor Randall work on a form and get it out to the board via e-mail.**

PROPERTY LIEN APPROVAL – Treasurer Grenfell had a revised lien listing. Three people have been removed and one has been added. **MOTION by Randall supported by McLean to accept the list as presented/revised. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

PAUD PROPERTY LIEN APPROVAL - A list was provided to the board from Jean Verbos for purchase. Per the agreement with the Powderhorn Area Utility District and the township it is presented at this time since PAUD does not have lien abilities. These are people who have made no payments for six months. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to approve the purchase of the liens totally \$5455.04. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PLANNING COMMISSION FEE STRUCTURE – The Supervisor reviewed the fee structure presented by the commission, who meets once every month. The board reviewed the fees for special use *variance applications*. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Randall to approve of the resolution provided with fees. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYES: none. Motion carried.** The commission is also discussing by-laws and the US 2 corridor study.

EXCESS INVENTORY – The Supervisor opened the bids that had been received by mail for the purchase of excess inventory. The deadline was November 9, 2007. The following were read:

Tanker Truck

\*Powderhorn Lodging - \$951.00

Wintery Winds - \$625.00

***Delich - \$600.00***

Okidata Printer

\*Pisani Company - \$77.00

Lawn Mower

\*John McLean - \$106.00

Jeff Randall - \$76

Another sealed bid was received for several pieces of inventory, however there was not a name on the envelope, nor on the actual bid so it was discarded.

**MOTION by Grenfell supported by Tarnaski to offer the equipment to the highest bidder (\*). ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall. NAYES: none. ABSTAIN: McLean. Motion carried.**

**MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Randall to dispose of the other items of excess inventory as seen fit. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

GRWA ALTERNATE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS – These were omitted from the last meeting's approval for appointment to the GRWA. Alternates are John McLean and Mike Peterson. **MOTION by Randall supported by Tarnaski to appoint John McLean as Bessemer Township Board member and Mike Peterson as Member at large. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

ROAD NAMING – Supervisor Randall sent out the required letter to residents on the proposed new road for any opposition or comment. The road is located at the northeast quarter, of the northeast quarter, section 4, township 47, north 4, range 46 west. **MOTION by Randall supported by Tarnaski to name the above road SCHLOSS LANE. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.** The proper authorities will be notified.

**MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Janczak to approve the cost of a new road sign for the newly named lane and have the road commission choose the placement. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

MILITARY KITS – The GRWA in conjunction with Bessemer Township is offering to be a drop off location for any donations people in the community would like to send to soldiers over seas. The cost for the box will be \$8.95. A press release will be sent to the Daily Globe to inform the public. **MOTION by Randall supported by Tarnaski to support this project. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

GARBAGE COLLECTION NOTICE – Since the Thanksgiving holiday falls on a Thursday, garbage pick-up needs to be moved to Tuesday. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Grenfell to approve the cost of the ad regarding the change in pick-up**

**day. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

FIRE DEPARTMENT APPLICATION – An application was received and approved by the township Fire Department for Richard Kinnunen. The board discussed the past relationship with the former chief. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Randall to approve the appointment with the understanding that all practices in the fire hall and interactions with township employees be kept professional. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: McLean, Tarnaski, Randall, Janczak. NAYES: Grenfell. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Grenfell reviewed the cash account reports and replacement fund balances. He did get a review from Landmark Appraisal and got the updated cards. The township still has a balance with them of approximately \$23,000. Utility bills still have a \$4900 receivable balance. Tax bills will be printed beginning next week. The newsletter will be going out with them.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE: The Clerk noted the following checks for payment: General Fund: Check#6100-6144- \$13,518.19; Anvil Sewer: Check #1014-1016-\$4147.77; Ramsay Sewer: Check#2198-2202- \$5948.48; West End Sewer: Check #1010-\$1965.00; Water Fund Checks #18060-18083- \$18,567.79. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by Grenfell to approve payment of bills. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, McLean, Grenfell, Randall NAYES: none. Motion carried.** The Clerk noted that both the Community Information Guide and the Voter Information flyer will be posted on the website, as well as the winter newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: The Supervisor noted that he will be checking with the assessor to make sure that everything is ready for the taxes.

A reminder was given about the December 4, 2007 MTA Christmas party. There will be no meeting in November.

Michael Wells requested that the board take another look at the possibility of have a dog walking path on the east side of the river. He has seen the use of “mutt mitts” for clean up of dog waste and will pass on information.

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION by McLean supported by Randall to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Ayes: 5/Nayes: none. Motion carried.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debra A. Janczak, Bessemer Township Clerk