

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BESSEMER TOWNSHIP BOARD: Monday, October 8, 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:, Jerry Grenfell-Treasurer, Jeff Randall-Supervisor, Debbie Janczak-Clerk, and John McLean-Trustee. ABSENT: Hope Tarnaski-Trustee. In addition there were three electors present.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES: **MOTION by Grenfell, supported by Randall to accept the minutes as presented from September 24, 2007. AYES: 4/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: The Clerk requested that item 10.F. Election Approval be added under *New Business*.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: **MOTION by Randall supported by McLean to accept the agenda as amended. AYES: 4/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PETITIONS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Supervisor:

- Notice from the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners regarding a public hearing.
- Agenda for September 26, 2007 and minutes from September 19, 2007 for the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.
- A copy of the City of Bessemer's "Land Use Plan" of which the Supervisor will give a copy to each of the Planning Commission members.
- Daily pumpage report for September, 2007.
- Notice from Northern States Power for a public hearing on October 25, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in Lansing, MI.
- Minutes from September 17, 2007 for the Gogebic County Road Commission.
- Agenda for October 13, 2007 and minutes from September 5, 2007 for the Bessemer Area Sewer Authority.

Clerk: None.

Treasurer: None.

McLean: None.

Tarnaski: None.

MOTION by Randall supported by Grenfell to place all correspondence on file. AYES: 4/NAYES: none. Motion carried.

REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BESSEMER AREA SEWER AUTHORITY (BASA) – Trustee McLean reported that the pole building has been started. The contractor hit bed rock and had to put some footings down in order to proceed with the project. There will be an extra cost of \$1190.00, which is for the materials only, not any labor costs. The Powderhorn Area Utility District has paid \$18,683 to KBK which satisfies the work done on the project. A renewal rate for the Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance was given to BASA and costs will be going down for the 2008 year.

The City of Bessemer is looking to purchase a *vactor* truck and they want BASA to finance part of the purchase. BASA only uses this type of equipment a few times a year. At this time they use Wakefield's equipment at no cost. If BASA does contribute it would be on a pro-rated basis.

A copy of the by-laws for BASA was received to be placed on file.

POWDERHORN AREA UTILITY DISTRICT (PAUD) – None.

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY (GRWA) – None.

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

E911 – None.

ASSESSOR – None.

OLD BUSINESS

ENBRIDGE ENERGY/CONSENT JUDGMENT – The Supervisor from Watersmeet is looking into the progress and problems regarding the judgment. The board discussed the issue. At this time no action will be taken.

SALE OF EXCESS INVENTORY – A revised list was provided by the Supervisor. Items #8 & #9 are to be removed, not sold. The board needs to go through the process of declaring excess inventory, advertising and receiving bids the items. **MOTION by McLean supported by Grenfell to declare items on the list as excess and those that should be removed as so; to place an ad and cover the cost of the ad; to accept bids for items with a cut off date of November 9, 2007. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

JUDY RONZANI/WATER BILL – The Treasurer reviewed the situation of the 499,920 gallons of lost water as of 12/1/06 and 500,000 as of 3/1/07. Treasurer Grenfell accepts responsibility for the first quarter and the owner also accepts partial responsibility for allowing the high billing not to be caught right away. The board reviewed the new billing that the Treasurer proposed. The new amount to be charged Mrs. Ronzani would be for the first quarter only at a rate of \$2695.68, plus \$135.00 for each quarter not paid since the incident, June and September 2007. (2 x \$135 = \$270.00) **MOTION by McLean supported by Janczak to accept the amended billing for Judy Ronzani, which is due to the negligence of the water department clerk; noting that this is not a precedent setting incident and is only being revised because the board is taking responsibility for the over charge. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYES: none. Motion carried.** Mrs. Ronzani thanked the board for the revision of her bill.

NEW BUSINESS

ROAD/GRAVEL LIFT CONTRACTS – The board reviewed the new contracts from the road commission for winter gravel lifts only. Treasurer Grenfell asked whether ditching would also be a part of the work done since it is very much needed. The board discussed the three streets to be worked on, East Harding Road, Harding Road from Blueberry Lane west for a ¼ mile and Stone Hill Road. **MOTION by McLean supported by Randall to accept the contracts with the stipulation on the ditching and forming of the road on all three proposed contracts. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Randall, Janczak, McLean, Grenfell. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

SSO ORDER – The Supervisor reviewed the history of the sanitary sewer overflow order which originated in 2000. Large rains and power outages still cause overflows of which there is no control over. He is still waiting to see if the township is compliant enough to lift the order or if a new increased rate will need to be charged Ramsay Sewer users for work on the lines. No action needs to be taken at this time.

GRWA TERM EXPIRATION/APPOINTMENT – The term currently held by Walter Rickard to the Gogebic Range Water Authority is expiring as of December 1, 2007. He has agreed to renew his term. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to re-appoint Walter Rickard to the GRWA board. AYES: 4/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

LOCAL APPROVAL NOTICE/LIQUOR LICENSE – This was a request that was taken care of during the last board meeting, however there was a name change to the transferring stockholder. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to accept the modified liquor license request. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

COMMUNITY INFORMATION GUIDE REVIEW/APPROVAL – The Clerk presented an updated version of the community guide for 2007-08. Changes in personnel and other additions were made. The board was asked for their input. Various changes were made. The Clerk will keep it open to corrections/additions/changes for another few weeks before publishing it again. It will also be put onto the website for convenience of residents wishing to view it there. The Clerk was thanked for her efforts.

Information was also requested in order to publish a newsletter with the winter tax mailing.

ELECTION APPROVAL – The Clerk reported that the Election Board had met and approved election workers (Fran Lauren and Sandy Richter) for the upcoming November 6, 2007 election. **MOTION by McLean supported by Randall to approve of the election workers and all costs associated with the above election. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, McLean, Grenfell, Randall. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Grenfell reviewed the cash account reports and replacement fund balances. The interest rate where the CDs are held is going down. A water use report was done and there are some significant losses. The quarter ending December 2006 showed a 10.24% loss; the quarter ending March 2007 showed a 29.10% loss and the quarter ending June 2007 showed 45.83% loss. He will be looking into the losses further.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE: The Clerk noted the following checks for payment: General Fund: Check#6042-6074- \$14,717.15; Anvil Sewer: Check #1011-1013-183.40; Ramsay Sewer: Check#2194-2196- \$892.87; West End Sewer: Check #1005-1009- \$5926.41; Water Fund Checks #18027-18046- \$12,736.14. **MOTION by McLean supported by Grenfell to approve payment of bills. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, McLean, Grenfell, Randall NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

The Clerk also noted that there was a payment received from Maria Mosconi for restitution of the fire hydrant in the amount of \$10.00, which leaves a balance of \$73.38.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: The Supervisor noted the Fire Department's financial summary for the month of September. Chimney cleaning has been going on. There is a Planning Commission meeting tomorrow at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. Ayes: 4/Nayes: none. Motion carried.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

Debra A. Janczak, Bessemer Township Clerk