

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BESSEMER TOWNSHIP BOARD: Monday, October 22, 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: Jeff Randall-Supervisor, Debbie Janczak-Clerk, and John McLean-Trustee, Hope Tarnaski-Trustee, Jerry Grenfell-Treasurer. In addition there were six electors present.

PRESENTATION OF THE MINUTES: **MOTION by Grenfell, supported by Randall to accept the minutes as presented from October 8, 2007. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: None.

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

PETITIONS: The Supervisor reported two addresses on Horseshoe Bend that are considered to be in a state of blight. (E8137 and E8154) He is looking for the board's support on having the building inspector look at the buildings and proceed with a letter of condemnation. **MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to have the Supervisor proceed with process and communication with Roman Tauer on the next steps to be taken. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

Supervisor:

- Agenda for September 20, 2007 and minutes from September 20, 2007 for the Gogebic Range Solid Waste Management Authority.
- Invitation to Lansing for a State Trails & Greenways Alliance meeting October 10, 2007
- Minutes from October 1, 2007 for the Gogebic County Road Commission.
- MTA flyer for an Introduction to Township Laws for December in Lansing & Grayling.
- Agenda for October 10, 2007 and minutes from September 26, 2007 for the Gogebic County Board of Commissioners.
- 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 Tarnaski to place all correspondence on file. AYES: 5/NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

REPORTS – BOARDS & COMMITTEES

BESSEMER AREA SEWER AUTHORITY (BASA) – None.

POWDERHORN AREA UTILITY DISTRICT (PAUD) – Supervisor Randall reported on the October 18, 2007 meeting. There are some property liens happening in the Powdermill Inn area. There is a unit there looking for exemption and a very short one was granted. They decided to have a new rate study done and hired Stowder and Bark, public financial consultants to do the study at a cost of \$16,500.

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY (GRWA) – Treasurer Grenfell reported on the October 11, 2007 meeting. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality invited the GRWA Chairmen to their meeting in Lansing. The authority is still working on the Black Jack claim and the GRWA attorney sent another letter to Northern States Power (X Cel energy).

Appointments to the board also took place with Walt Rickard being re-appointed as chair person, Doug Olsen (Bessemer City), Pat Pikka (Wakefield Township), Gayla Salmi (Ironwood Township), and John Ozzello (Wakefield City). They received correspondence from USDA commending them for their documentation on the Grand View water tank project.

GOGEBIC RANGE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (GRSWMA) – Trustee McLean reported that at the October 18, 2007 meeting they approved new hire. Also that auditor Roger Kolehmainen will be in next week to do the audit.

E911 – None.

ASSESSOR – None.

#### OLD BUSINESS

ENBRIDGE ENERGY/CONSENT JUDGMENT – The Supervisor reported that on Friday the attorney for Enbridge did return his call. He had asked where our board stood on the issue and noted that Enbridge is taking a hard stand on the repayments and not forgiving any penalties. At this time 80-90% of those involved have signed the agreement. The board discussed the issue and will continue to wait before making any decision on payments.

SSO ORDER – The Supervisor has not successfully gotten a hold of Steve Casey as of yet. November 15 is the set date to have an increase of sewer fees in place. It was recommended to be \$11/month or \$33/quarter. **MOTION by Randall supported by Grenfell to publish and pay for the cost of an ad for a Public Hearing on November 12, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. for the discussion of a rate increase to satisfy the SSO with a regular board meeting to follow. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

PROPERTY LIEN APPROVAL – The Treasurer provided the board with a list of properties that are to be sent to the Equalization Department for addition to the winter tax roll. The total delinquent utilities are in the amount of \$15,291.69. **MOTION by Tarnaski supported by McLean to send the list to the Equalization Department. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Tarnaski, Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

POVERTY EXEMPTIONS – The Supervisor reported that the township needs to have something in place. Per Public Act 390 of 1994 all municipalities shall have something in writing. The board reviewed the act and MTA's sample application. Paperwork needs to be in place for the December 2006 Board of Review meeting. Supervisor Randall will have a draft/suggestions by the November 12 meeting for finalization at the November 26 board meeting.

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE – The Clerk provided the board with an update of the increase in rates. The new rates will see an increase of \$1833.48 per year for single coverage and \$1683.12 for family coverage per year. A breakdown of coverage was also provided. This will be an issue to look at come union negotiation time. A check needs to be made regarding the "open" versus "closed" drug coverage. The Clerk will look into this.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Grenfell noted that revenue sharing will be coming in for \$19,134 by early November. Accounts receivable for utility bills in around \$16,000 still outstanding. He noted that Landmark will be at the township during the first week of November for a final review. There is approximately \$23,000 balance left to pay on the re-appraisal.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS, PAYROLL & MILEAGE: The Clerk noted the following checks for payment: General Fund: Check#6075-6099- \$29,854.82; Anvil Sewer: Check #-; Ramsay Sewer: Check#2197- \$8.82; West End Sewer: Check #-; Water Fund Checks #18047-18059- \$2,309.32.

**MOTION by Grenfell supported by McLean to approve payment of bills. ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Grenfell, Randall, Janczak, McLean, Tarnaski. NAYES: none. Motion carried.**

The Clerk noted that the enclosed Profit & Loss statement still has some entries to be made and she will be contacting auditor and working with the Treasurer.

PUBLIC COMMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS: The Supervisor reminded the board of the MTA meeting tomorrow in Wakefield Township at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION by Grenfell supported by Randall to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Ayes: 4/Nayes: none. Motion carried.**

These minutes are respectfully submitted:

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Debra A. Janczak, Bessemer Township Clerk