

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2009, 6:00 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

MINUTES

Supervisor Wester called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Jane Wright, Treasurer Pat Knikelbine, Trustee Chris Roerig, and Trustee Jim Hanson.

Members absent: None.

Also present: Manager Phil Quade.

Public Comment:

- A. Ben Williams, Allegan County Resource Recovery Coordinator spoke regarding the proposed renewal of the Allied Waste curbside recycling contract. He stated it would extend the current service for three more years. Board reviewed the contract noting it is a joint agreement with the City of Douglas and questioned what would happen if the Township approved the contract but the City did not. Williams noted there may be an increase to the price under those circumstances. Board asked if it could be separate and Williams agreed to submit an individual agreement.

Motion by Roerig, seconded by Hanson to approve the Memorandum Agreement between Allied Waste Services, as represented by Resource Recovery, and Saugatuck Township; and authorize the Clerk to sign the agreement. Carried unanimously. Williams verified the township desires to continue with an annual household hazardous waste collection at the Fire Barn, but not to pay for an electronics collection.

- B. Alan Kercinik, stated the County did a great job cleaning the culverts and cutting the grass along Old Allegan Road.

Approval of Agenda: Wester asked for any additions, deletions, or removal of items from the consent agenda, and Wright presented additional bills for a total to be approved of \$36,157.09. She also requested to add under *Correspondence, Item B. David Swan*. Hanson requested to add under *New Business, Item C. Letter to Legislators*, and *Item D. Historical Society Cemetery Project*. Hearing no further changes, Wester brought the consent agenda to the floor for approval.

- A. Accounts Payable
- i. AQUA-TEC IRRIGATION through VAN DRAGT LAND
Total to be paid \$29,136.37
 - ii. Checks issued to be post-audited
(check register attached)
- B. Payroll (check register attached)
- C. Approval of Minutes
- i. August 5, 2009 Regular Board Meeting

Motion by Wright seconded by Knikelbine, to approve the agenda as amended. Carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

- A. Al Ellingsen, request for share of educational expense. Wright stated this is an annual request not to exceed \$240. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Wester to approve up to \$240 for a share in the cost of required educational credits for the Zoning Administrator.** Carried unanimously.
- B. David Swan, Singapore LLC continued tax tribunal lawsuit. Wester read the memo which stated the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance continues to support the Township in its tax tribunal lawsuits and is committed to assist the Township financially. Roerig clarified the Township does not accept specifically earmarked contributions, but thanked SDCA for their continued donations to the General Fund.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- A. Street Light at the Dog Park. Wright stated the idea of installing the street light is supported by the Parks Commission and is being paid from dog park donations, so there will be no cost to the General Fund. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Hanson to approve the resolution authorizing Consumers Energy to change the Streetlighting Contract by adding one street light at the entrance to the dog park.** Carried unanimously.
- B. City of the Village of Douglas, Update on Cemetery Agreement. Wester noted the chronological paper trail between Douglas and the Township, going back to 2005, detailing the communications regarding an agreement for equitable sharing of cemetery maintenance expenses. He declared disappointment with Douglas and their refusal to pay a share of 2008 expenses and continued stalemate for a 2009 agreement. Roerig stated Douglas has a moral obligation to their residents to maintain the final resting place of their ancestors and we are just asking them to continue sharing the costs to do so. Wright added these are community cemeteries with city and township residents sharing in equal rights. Hanson stated the proposed agreement that Douglas refuses to sign is based on taxable valuation which is the most equitable calculation method as opposed to a contribution dollar amount based on nothing. Knikelbine wondered how informed Douglas Council Members are as they are depending solely on their Manager to come to an agreement. Wester stated Mayor Balmer is aware but has delegated the responsibility to Manager Kowal. Board discussed the potential to have a joint meeting between the full Board and Council. Wester will try to orchestrate the meeting. Wright noted that as of now, Douglas residents are considered out-of-district and will not share in equal burial rights. Manager Quade stated equitable sharing is based on taxable value of the municipality and is what the City of Saugatuck has agreed to and the community has done for over 150 years.
- C. Letter to Legislators. Hanson suggested writing a letter asking for budgetary cuts to be made equitably and not deeper from local government revenue sharing. Board discussed the request be in resolution form. **Resolution 2009-03, a resolution advocating cuts to local government revenue sharing not be disproportionately deeper than other functional areas, was offered by Hanson and seconded by Knikelbine.** Roll call vote: Knikelbine-yes, Roerig-yes, Wright-yes, Hanson-yes, Wester-yes. Resolution 2009-03 declared adopted.
- D. Cemetery Historical Information. Hanson noted the township website has links from cemetery records to obituaries, newspaper articles about the deceased, and grave photos. He stated the information was extremely helpful in locating ancestral information.

Calling of Closed Session. Wester stated the Township Attorney is present to discuss the ongoing tax tribunal litigation case and asked for a motion to go into closed session. **Motion by Roerig, seconded by Wester to enter into closed session to discuss ongoing litigation with the township attorney.** Roll call vote: Roerig-yes, Hanson-yes, Wright-yes, Knikelbine-yes, Wester-yes. Motion carried unanimously and the board left open session at 6:40 p.m. Board reconvened open session at 7:16 p.m.

Committee Reports:

- A. Planning Commission. Hanson reported the Joint Planning Committee met on August 19th and they discussed the City of Saugatuck rental ordinance and harbor area land planning. He added the Planning Commission met on August 24th when they discussed a sand mining SAU request on 63rd St. (old Valleau brass factory) with no decision given at that time. Other PC issues included the requirement of a performance bond for infrastructures at the Whispering Waters site condo, and a proposed “mixed-use” PUD ordinance to be presented by Stephen Neumer representing SDLLC
- B. Road Commission. No report.
- C. Interurban. Knikelbine reported ridership for July was 10,566 and represents record ridership.
- D. Fire Authority. Wright stated the fall open house is coming up with a possible pig roast this year.
- E. Supervisors Report. Wester stated the township will continue with the tax tribunal lawsuit.
- F. County Commissioner Report. Terry Burns reported visiting the House of Representatives with the MAC super committee where they postponed the decision to cut revenue sharing.

Public comment was offered. Hearing none, public comment was closed.

Wester stated having no further business to come before the board we stand adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date