



# SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP

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## SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD

Wednesday March 7, 2018, 6:00 p.m.  
Saugatuck Township Hall  
3461 Blue Star Hwy, Saugatuck, MI 49453

### APPROVED MINUTES

Supervisor Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., with the pledge of allegiance.

**Members Present:** Jon Phillips, Lori Babinski, Brad Rudich, Doug Lane, Roy McIlwaine.

**Absent:** None.

**Also Present:** Manager Aaron Sheridan

**Public Comment:** Al Meshkin, 3965 65<sup>th</sup> St. Laketown Township Manager spoke encouraging bike paths. There's 11 miles of bike paths in Laketown and the maintenance is not expensive. Typically they budget 1,000 per mile, so about 11,000 annually, which includes mowing, plowing and replacing pieces as needed. They have only exceeded that once by about \$2,000 once in 11 years.

Cindy Osman, Township Resident. Concerned about a closed session (Item 9) could violate the Michigan Open Meetings Act. She believes Emergency Access Plan should be developed with the Saugatuck Township Fire District.

Kathy Sturm, Township Resident, March 2<sup>nd</sup> Invoice Approval report reflected a reimbursement request to Township Manager Aaron Sheridan for \$270 for an advertisement place in the Commercial Record. Later this reimbursement was removed from same report. Please address this under item 5 on agenda.

Chris Roerig, Deputy Supervisor and Fire Board Representative. Minor changes to the Bylaws for the Fire District will be coming for approval.

**Approval of Agenda:** Phillips asked for any additions or deletions. Rudich states that there are several additions to Item 7 Correspondence-

- Dana Burd's letter in support of the Blue Star Trail was included in package, but not listed
- Kirk Harrier, City of Saugatuck sent a list of updated concerns regarding Blue Star Trail
- Sonya Hill sent an email regarding her support of the Blue Star Trail
- Kirk Harrier sent an email asking for a change to minutes.

McIlwaine made the motion to approve the agenda as amended with additions to correspondence, seconded by Rudich. Agenda approved by roll call 5-0.

**Approval of Invoices and Minutes:**

Comment by Rudich regarding Sheridan's reimbursement- Rudich submitted for reimbursement since the advertisement was to update the public on behalf of the board and asked the board for approval of the expense, but Sheridan did not want reimbursement and withdrew the request. Accounts payable reflects this change. Ck. 633 is cancelled. Sheridan stated he never asked the board for reimbursement nor did he expect any.

- A. Accounts Payable Invoices to be paid.
  - i. Consumers Energy through Commercial Record. Total to be paid \$ 47,326.36.
- B. A/P check register to be post-audited.
- C. Payroll (check register attached).

Phillips asks for questions on invoices. Rudich moved to approve invoices for payment in the amount of \$47,326.36, McIlwaine supported. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.

Approval of the Minutes- Phillips asks for questions on the minutes. Sheridan- Page 2 Item A on new business- misspelling of Fleis. Lane motions to approve minutes as amended. Rudich seconds; Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.

McIlwaine makes Motion to approve the draft minutes of Special Meeting Feb. 21, 2018. Phillips seconds; Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.

**Correspondence:**

- A. Ross Hanley, Saugatuck Township.
- B. James Cook, Saugatuck Township.
- C. David Frey, Pottawatomie Gun Club.
- D. Andy Diaz, Parks Commissioner.
- E. Jeffrey Bianchi, Douglas.
- F. Maurice Decoster.
- G. Michelle Overweg-Spans, Saugatuck Township.
- H. Ken Smalligan, Sherman Township
- I. Dana Burd's letter in support of the Blue Star Trail.
- J. Kirk Harrier, Saugatuck Township.
- K. Soyna Hill.
- L. Kirk Harrier, City of Saugatuck.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. None.

**New Business:**

- A. Public Hearing – MDOT and TAP Grant Applications “North Connections of The Blue Star Trail” and “Expansion of Non-Motorized Trail Way” in Saugatuck Township
  - a. Alex Frasier from Hurley and Stewart discusses North and South portions of the Blue Star Trail up for approval. Numerous comments in support of the trails. It appears MDOT is also pushing to support these trails.
  - b. Dana Burd, Township Resident and Parks Commissioner- Has worked with “*Friends of the Blue Star Trail*” and Hurley and Stewart Civil Engineers, for years with very positive results.
  - c. Kirk Harrier, Township Resident- followed the project for 12 years and expressed concerns about the long-term legacy costs *Rails and Trails Conservancy* study included in the package which suggests 1,971 per mile maintenance cost figure. A portion of the trail that was repaired south of Laketown Township was much higher. He believes the maintenance, replacement and long term legacy cost to taxpayers have been severely underestimated.
  - d. Mike McGuigan -Saugatuck Township- Discovered literally thousands of papers that discuss the maintenance cost and he couldn't find certain instances where the costs exceed the budget. Believes Trail brings economic growth and raises property values.

- e. Jeanne Van Zoeren Resident of Casco Township. The Friends of the Blue Star Trail have been working on the project since 2008. The Friends have surveyed several Townships to get an idea of the Maintenance cost. They came up with a figure from those people that have been servicing trail ways for 10 years or more. They have a 20 year plan for Casco and Ganges Twp.
  - f. Rudich- Clearbrook golf paths seem to be similar use as the bike paths, so yes, he has considered legacy costs. Discussion of legacy costs ensued. Motion by Phillips to close public comment; Rudich seconds; Motion passed unanimously.
- B. Resolution “North Connections of the Blue Star Trail”
- a. Memo from Sheridan outlining the project. Jeanne Van Zoeren spoke on behalf of “*Friends of the Blue Star Trail.*” She believes they will continue to meet their obligations as stated.
  - b. Phillips makes a motion to support and adopt **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT and adopt grant application entitled, “North Connections of The Blue Star Trail” to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Department of Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP") and to commit to the financial obligation of public local matching funds for the acquisition/development of 0.50 miles of non-motorized trail way in Saugatuck Township.**  
Rudich seconds; Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
- C. McIlwaine makes a motion to support and adopt Resolution “Expansion of the Non-Motorized Trail Way in Saugatuck Township”.
- a. **RESOLUTION TO APPROVE the submission of grant application entitled, “Expansion of Non-Motorized Trail Way in Saugatuck Township” to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Department of Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP") and to commit to the financial obligation of public local matching funds for the acquisition/development of 0.63 miles of non-motorized trail way in Saugatuck Township to be constructed along Blue Star Highway South of the City of the Village of Douglas in Township Sections 29 and 32 from Exit 36 of I-196 to the Saugatuck Woods Sub Division Residential Housing Development.**  
Phillips Seconds; Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
- D. Resolution Mute Swan Control.
- a. Multiple complaints from residents, DNR is present to answer questions.
  - b. McIlwaine was just informed it was the mouth of silver lake but it includes the Kalamazoo River. Board felt the language needed to be more specific as to areas they are looking to control and to include a map. East of the Interstate to the 60<sup>th</sup> street boundary. Also needs to include an estimated time frame. Sheridan states once the permit is obtained and they can give as much notice as you want. Rudich suggests doing a special meeting regarding this and present it to the public in 3 weeks. An audience member objects to this being voted on without public comment. There was to be a list of complaints from Maria of Township members which is missing.
  - c. DNR- 2 active permits in the county- Allegan State Game Area and a private permit.
  - d. Board wants to table it until April as information previously requested is missing. Phillips motions make this an item public hearing on the agenda at the board meeting in April, 6:00 p.m. Rudich seconds. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
- E. Cemetery Maintenance Contract.
- a. Sheridan found a compromise with current vendor slight increased based on inflation (Two rates were used and it was proposed to split it). Needs board and legal counsel review and approval. Increase based only on inflation; same terms as prior contract with the exception of the inflation increase and the terms went from 3 to 6 years. Terms expire at the end of the month. RFP was done a short time ago.
  - b. Rudich motions to approve the Cemetery Maintenance Contract- Babinski Seconds. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.

- F. Resolution to Approve Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation for the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority.
  - a. Sheridan- this is going to all the partners of Kal Lake. Has been over a year cleaning up old addresses; name change to Kal Lakes since bond has been paid off. Should be on the agenda for Cities of Saugatuck and Douglas to approve it and then sign it. Kal Lake Board has approved it. Rudich motions that we approve the Resolution to Approve Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation for the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority. Phillips seconds. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
- G. Closed Session – Lakeshore Drive Emergency Access Road Plan. It is anticipated that the board will go into closed session to discuss possible legal agreement. Phillips motions to go into a closed session. Rudich seconds. McIlwaine would like on the record in regards to the legal reasons for going into a closed session. Sheridan elaborates- Owners involved and easements acquisition discussion and potential legal agreement and ramifications. Out of respect to the land owners. Board is determining if they should go ahead at all and if engineers agree, then bring in the Fire Department and other interested parties. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
  - a. Motion to come out of closed session by Phillips, Second by Rudich. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
- H. Traffic Study Holland Street- At request of Bruce Labrie, County Road Commission to take on cost in respect to traffic study of speed limits at the request of a resident. Speed limit goes from 25 to 45 and would like the speed limit reduced. Looking for speed, volume, access points, traffic use, and commercial v. residential zoning. Lane makes a motion to approve Traffic Study on Holland Street; Second by Rudich. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
- I. Motion to Amend Agenda by Phillips to add item I).Lakeshore Drive Study Second by Rudich. Motion passes. Rudich makes a motion to have Prein & Newhof put together a study of easements on Lakeshore Drive and show possible cost and scope of project. Lane seconds. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.

**-Committee Reports:**

- A. Planning Commission. Phillips reported the Planning Commission has not met; Zoning Board of Appeals is April 9<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Road Commission. Lane reported that the 126<sup>th</sup> Ave is first priority.
- C. Interurban. Babinski Audit book is here at the township hall and the new bus came in to replace the trolley. Should be on the road in April or May. Seats 17. Hiring one more full time person.
- D. Fire Board. Call report submitted by the Chief.
- E. Open Board Report. Babinski – since recall reached out to 5 people- 4 didn't know what they were signing and fifth one thought they were signing to save the dunes. Babinski notes that Fire Chief Janik has signed it twice, which is against Michigan Election Law. Rudich believes it's been misconstrued that the Township doesn't work with the fire department when it's really the Chief that's not working with the Township. Lots of misinformation was put in the newspaper this past week by the multiple sources, including the Chief. McIlwaine requests that ZBA Kushion and Township Manager Sheridan to respond to the article and it's extremely misleading to the public. Township is being blamed in part for the break away from the Police Department and the Township was told to stay out of it. No comment from the Chief Janik. Motion by McIlwaine to have ZBA Kushion and Township Manager Sheridan look into and respond to this article in the paper; Rudich seconds- Motion passes 5-0

**Public Comment:** None

Phillips declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Brenda Williams  
Recording Secretary

1. Amended Agenda approved by roll call 5-0.
2. Motion to approve invoices for payment. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0
3. Approval of the Minutes as amended. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0
4. Motion to approve the draft minutes of Special Meeting Feb. 21, 2018.
5. Motion to support and adopt “RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT and adopt grant application entitled, “North Connections of The Blue Star Trail” to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Department of Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP") and to commit to the financial obligation of public local matching funds for the acquisition/development of 0.50 miles of non-motorized trail way in Saugatuck Township.”  
Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
6. Motion to support and adopt Resolution “Expansion of the Non-Motorized Trail Way in Saugatuck Township. “RESOLUTION TO APPROVE the submission of grant application entitled, “Expansion of Non-Motorized Trail Way in Saugatuck Township” to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Michigan Department of Transportation Alternative Program ("TAP") and to commit to the financial obligation of public local matching funds for the acquisition/development of 0.63 miles of non-motorized trail way in Saugatuck Township to be constructed along Blue Star Highway South of the City of the Village of Douglas in Township Sections 29 and 32 from Exit 36 off I-196 to the Saugatuck Woods Sub Division Residential Housing Development.”  
Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
7. Mute Swan Control- Tabled until April Meeting. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0
8. Motion to approve the Cemetery Maintenance Contract. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0
9. Motion to approve and adopt “Resolution to Approve Amended and Restated Articles of Incorporation for the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority.” Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0
10. Motion to go into closed session. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
11. Motion to come out of closed session. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
12. Motion to approve Traffic Study on Holland Street. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
13. Motion to Amend Agenda to add item I. Lakeshore Drive Study; Motion passes.
14. Motion to have Prein & Newhof put together a study of easements on Lakeshore Drive and show possible cost and scope of project. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.
15. Motion to have ZBA Kushion and Township Manager Sheridan look into and respond to misleading articles in the paper. Motion passes by roll call vote 5-0.