

MINUTES

Pentwater Township Board

Regular Meeting of December 11, 2013

Members Present: Smith, Flynn, Siska, Holub, Ruggles

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Damon Crumb, Terry Cluchey – PFD, Rich Johnson – Zoning Administrator, Linda Lewis, Randy Hepworth, Amy LaBarge, Earl Raczkowski, Duane Hamburger, Larry Doran, Rhonda Bateson, Mr. & Mrs. Moore

Call to Order: Supervisor Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review & Action: Meeting Agenda – The agenda was approved as amended by adding item VII b., “Communication from attorney regarding the Wishing Well”; and item XIV d., “Review & Action: Purchase of New Computer for Deputy Treasurer” by unanimous consent.

Review & Action: Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 13, 2013 – The Minutes of the Meeting of November 13, 2013 were approved as submitted by unanimous consent.

Public Comments on Agenda Items - None

Supervisor’s Report

a. Status Report: Longbridge Road Fishing Deck Project – Mr. Smith stated that a pre-construction meeting was held and the contractor is intending to begin and continue construction of the project throughout the winter as weather permits. He said that completion of the project is expected in May.

b. Status Report: Wishing Well – Mr. Smith referred members to a letter from the Township Attorney regarding the status of the Wishing Well. He stated that the attorney did receive contact as a result of the communication although he could not provide any further information as to future plans for the commercial site.

Clerk’s Report – No Report

Treasurer's Report – The Treasurers report was received and filed.

Staff Reports

- a. **Zoning Administrator** – The Zoning Administrator's report was received and filed.
- b. **Assessor's Report** – The Assessor's report was received and filed.
- c. **Cemetery Sexton** – No Report
- d. **Transfer Site Attendant** – The Transfer Site Attendant's stated that the Transfer Station was closed for the winter. He said that improvements have been made for access to the brush pile and that the leaf pile will be removed in the spring.

Committee/Department Reports

- a. **Planning Commission** – Chairman Hamburger stated that the Planning Commission had met the evening prior and welcomed a new member, elected a new vice-chairman, and approved a special land use for expansion of the Hill And Hollow Campground.
- b. **Cemetery Advisory Committee** – Chairman Crumb stated that the CAC met recently to finalize revisions to the Cemetery Ordinance and Landscape Design Plan and would be presenting both to the Board later in the meeting under New Business.
- c. **Fire Department** – Fire Department report was received and filed. Supervisor Smith stated that a special meeting of the Board would be held on Thursday, December 19th at 2:00 p.m. to discuss the purchase of a new vehicle for the Fire Department. He said that the Township Attorney would also be present.
- d. **Library** – Library report was received and filed.
- e. **Pentwater Lake Improvement Board** – No Report
- f. **Road Committee** – No Report

Review & Action: Invoices

- a. **Township** - A motion was made by Ruggles and seconded by Siska that the Township bills in the amount of \$1,306.52 be approved as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- b. **Cemetery** – A motion was made by Flynn and seconded by Siska that the Cemetery bills in the amount of \$122.91 be approved as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

- c. **Fire Department** – A motion was made by Siska and seconded by Smith that Fire Department bills in the amount of \$6,723.48 be approved as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.
- d. **Longbridge Road Fishing Deck Project** – A motion was made by Flynn and seconded by Siska that the invoice for the Longbridge Road Fishing Deck Project in the amount of \$1,938.27 be approved as submitted. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Old Business - None

New Business

- a. **Review & Discussion: Proposed Ordinance Regulating Outdoor Furnaces** – Supervisor Smith referred members to the proposed ordinance regulating outdoor furnaces transmitted from the Planning Commission. He outlined several suggested modifications to the ordinance, specifically to Sections 1, 3A. & B., 8A, and 9A. Mr. Hamburger discussed the background for initiating the subject ordinance. He stated that the township is becoming more “urban” and lots are being split and smaller in size. In reply to the proposed chimney height, Mr. Hamburger said that the recommended 15’ was the result of examining several other outdoor furnace ordinances. There was considerable discussion amongst members and sentiment to keep the ordinance as simple as possible. Members also expressed concern regarding the recommended setback distance of 150’ from property lines. After further discussion, a motion was made by Holub and seconded by Flynn to refer the proposed Outdoor Furnace ordinance back to the Planning Commission for further review and revisions. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.
- b. **Review & Discussion: Proposed Revisions to Cemetery Ordinance & Fee Schedule** – Supervisor Smith referred members to the proposed ordinance containing revisions to the Cemetery Ordinance. He said that the revisions were drafted by the Cemetery Advisory Committee for review and consideration by the Board. Mr. Smith stated that he was in agreement with all of the proposed revisions with the exception of Section III a. He said that in his opinion, the sale of cemetery lots should be available to anyone, regardless of being a Pentwater Township taxpayer or not. He stated that there should be a higher rate for cemetery lots for non-property taxpayers. Mr. Smith’s comments were echoed by Siska. Cemetery Advisory Committee Chairman Damon Crumb provided background from Committee discussion regarding the sale of lots to non-property owners in the Township. There was discussion regarding the current provision that lots could be sold to others with the review and approval of the Clerk. Members felt that one person should not be saddled with having to make such a decision. Holub pointed to the

revisions in the Fee Schedule. After more discussion, a motion was made by Siska and seconded by Holub to table action on the proposed revisions to the Cemetery Ordinance until the next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

- c. Review & Action: Proposed Landscape Design Plan for the Cemetery** – Cemetery Advisory Committee Chairman Crumb outlined the proposed Landscape Design Plan for the Cemetery. He stated that the Plan was prepared by a subcommittee and the Cemetery Advisory Committee with the assistance of Progressive AE. Mr. Crumb said that the Plan would be implemented in phases depending upon financial outlays each year. He said that it would likely take some 5-7 years for full implementation. There was some discussion by members and concurrence that the plan was needed, particularly in light of the recent additional burial areas which do not have any landscaping. A motion was then made by Siska and seconded by Holub to accept the Landscape Design Plan for the Pentwater Township Cemetery. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.
- d. Review & Action: Purchase of New Computer for Deputy Treasurer** – Supervisor Smith referred members to a replacement schedule for office computers. Siska stated that the computer for the Deputy Treasurer was experiencing significant problems and needed to be replaced. There was discussion regarding the replacement schedule and a recommendation that computers be replaced every six (6) years, while this computer was last replaced in 2007. A motion was made by Smith and seconded by Siska to approve the purchase of a new computer for the Deputy Treasurer in the amount of \$849.00. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Public Comments

Randy Hepworth – 5774 Wayne Road – Mr. Hepworth stated that there were four outdoor furnaces along on Wayne Road and that the proposed outdoor furnace ordinance would have a severe negative effect on existing outdoor furnaces particularly in the event any one of them needed replacement. He said that the term “nuisance” needed to be defined. He stated that outdoor furnaces typically do not generate any more smoke than a wood burning fireplace or furnace. He concluded by stating that the proposed setback distance should be measured from neighboring homes rather than property lines.

Rhonda Bateson – 5897 Wayne Road – Ms. Bateson stated that she concurred with the comments of Mr. Hepworth. She also said that outdoor furnaces provide a reasonable heating alternative for people on fixed incomes.

Larry Doran – Mr. Doran stated that the setback distance in the proposed ordinance should be further examined. He said that the distance should be measured from the nearest home and not property lines. He also said that outdoor furnaces do have a monetary benefit for users.

Amy LaBarge – Ms. LaBarge reiterated her request that the Township contribute funds toward the dredging of the Pentwater Channel.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Siska and seconded by Flynn to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting of the Pentwater Township Board of Trustees will be on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dean Holub, Clerk
Pentwater Township

Date