

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD
June 8, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, June 8, 2015

Members Present: Sue Miller, Supervisor, Robbi Omo, Clerk, Shelly AcMoody, Treasurer, Larry Omo, Trustee

Members Not Present: Ron Sampsel, Trustee

Also in Attendance: Russ Jennings, George Baker, Greg Gemmill, Don Vrablic, Lloyd Barrows, Melissa Lane, Rhonda Stuckey, Larry Stuckey, Bruce Knisely, Charlotte Knisely

The Ovid Township Regular Board Meeting was called to order by Sue Miller at 7:30 P.M.

The Board led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA: L. Omo made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Motion was supported by AcMoody. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Miller made a motion to approve minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on May 11, 2015. Motion was supported by L. Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Miller asked if there were questions or comments about the Treasurer's Report. R. Omo clarified that a payment to Coldwater Township was for accuracy testing in the August 2014 election. She explained that Coldwater Township divides the cost of the testing among all participating townships. R. Omo stated that two checks were not in the report, because she received invoices/bills after the report had been completed. The checks were to Charlotte Knisely for transcription services, and to the fire department. The Treasurer's Report was placed on file.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

A. NEW FOIA PROCEDURES and GUIDELINES COMPLIANCY

Miller stated that the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) had a new Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy that, if adopted by Ovid Township, must be in place by July 1st, 2015. Miller stated MTA FOIA packets had been distributed to board members in April, 2015 for review on changes in guidelines and policies. Miller suggested that Ovid Township adopt the MTA FOIA Procedures and Guidelines because the material has already been researched and designed to be legally sound. L. Omo asked which board member is responsible for FOIA compliance. Miller said that FOIA policy was last adopted by Ovid Township in 2006, and at that time the Ovid Township Clerk was appointed as FOIA coordinator. Miller suggested the board continue in this manner. R. Omo said she has already been filling out the FOIA forms, and that Board needs to establish hourly pay rates for FOIA requests for Ovid Township, which can be based on lowest paid employee rate provided for election workers. Rate of pay was determined to be \$12.50 per hour. Board members discussed what information should be made available online. Miller

reminded the board that all FOIA information must be available at two locations. Board members confirmed that FOIA information was available both on the township's website, at www.ovidtownship.org, and at the Ovid Township Hall. Miller made a motion to prepare and adopt the MTA recommended FOIA Procedures and Guidelines Compliance. Motion was supported by R. Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. REFERRAL FROM PLANNING COMMISSION PERTAINING TO WATERFRONT LOT COVERAGE FOR TOWNSHIP BOARD INPUT: Miller reviewed information from Chris Khorey regarding possible changes to the current 40% lot coverage ordinance regarding permeable and impermeable surfaces. Jennings explained that the issue is that there is contradictory information in zoning regarding limitations for lot coverage, and no permits being required for structures that are less than 9 inches in height. Jennings explained that the situation leads to people constructing decks and other types of surfaces that are no higher than 9-inches in height exceeding the 40% lot coverage limitation. The Planning Commission has been researching whether changes to the ordinance that allows more specific review on a case-by-case basis would create more compliant properties, and be more effective at reducing runoff than the current 40% rule. L. Omo stated that he feels changing the ordinance would complicate the regulations and would be even more difficult to enforce than the existing ordinance. Miller stated that, if such a change were to happen, then the "less than 9-inch height rule" would have to be removed. There was general discussion between board members and guests about runoff and water quality on the local lakes. L. Omo made a motion that the changes not be adopted, and that the township continue with the current 40% lot coverage ordinance. Motion was supported by AcMoody. MOTION CARRIED.
- B. JUNK COMPLAINT AT 404 WARREN ROAD: Miller read aloud from a letter sent to the township from a neighbor about the property on 404 Warren Road. The property includes a 2 story farmhouse and two large barns. The neighbors are concerned about the amount of old and unused agricultural equipment and other large items that are located out in the open on the property. Items include: a manure spreader, small tractor, shipping pallets, truck, horse trailer, and a motorhome. All items appear to be inoperable and have not been moved for several years. L. Omo suggested sending a letter asking the property owners and residents to attend the July board meeting to discuss the issue. Miller stated that she would send letters to involved parties.

PUBLIC COMMENT Jennings asked if there had been any developments with a property on Central Road owned by Brock Batters that was in process of being sold to Barry Batters. There had been issues with junk violation and alleged illegal activity involving drug manufacturing at the property. Jennings stated that the house on the property had been demolished. Miller stated that the court had ruled that Barry Batters had to pay off the land contract on the property or vacate the premises by July 17, 2015. Miller stated that Barry Batters is currently incarcerated. Jennings stated his primary concern is what will happen with the destroyed house materials. B. Knisely asked the board if the county requires a demolition permit for pulling down a house. Jennings and Miller both stated that demolition permits are required by Branch County. Jennings stated that, to his knowledge, a demolition permit has not been issued for property. Jennings asked if there was any update on a situation involving William Kemp regarding a deck and ramp built without a zoning permit at 477 E Pearl Road. Miller stated the

township's lawyer has suggested that, because Kemp is currently incarcerated, the board may wish to address the issue with Kemp's wife. Miller stated that the lawyer is following up on the matter. Lloyd Barrows asked the board if they had considered refunding him \$500 in fees that he paid for a ZBA meeting. Barrows stated that he was instructed by township officials to take his issue to the wrong board, and that it cost him \$500 and all that he was told was that he needed to go to a different board. Miller stated that the board needs to review minutes from the ZBA meetings and that Barrow's issue will be placed on the Ovid Township Board July meeting agenda. Barrows asked if he would be required to attend the July meeting. Millers suggested that Barrows attend the meeting to further explain and discuss the issue.

REPORTS:

- A. ZONING-Russ Jennings presented his report for the month of May, 2015. Eight permits were issued. Jennings made note that a permit issued to Dave and Nancy Haylett for an accessory building at 359 Quimby Road will include several amenities, but will not have living quarters. Jennings added that he had just received a request from DMCI to put up a tower near East Central Rd and Lawrence Rd.
- B. ASSESSING – Melissa Lane presented the Assessing Report. Lane stated that the BS&A conversion was completed on June 4, 2015. The conversion of data bases took approximately four hours. Lane stated that the focus now is on everyone involved learning and mastering the new software.
- C. DPW – NONE
- D. COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Don Vrablic presented the County Commissioner's Report and covered the topics including:
 - a. A fire on May 28th at the Animal Control building on Ray Quincy Rd. The situation is still under investigation, and there is no word yet from the insurance company on whether or not the building is a total loss. – stated that the Humane Society has been helping out. No word if building is a total loss.
 - b. Reduced liquor tax revenues for Branch County for the 2015/2016 year. (An estimated \$121,000 reduction.)
 - c. Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for April was reported at 5.4%.
 - d. Department of Natural Resources is asking people to report any sightings of the Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake.
 - e. Branch County was recently encouraged to support Bay County's Resolution on Measles Vaccinations which encourages state legislation to make law changes so that all children would be required to receive measles vaccinations unless there is a legitimate medical waiver.
- E. CEMETARY SEXTON – George Baker stated there was one burial in the past month. Baker said he had placed some new U.S. Armed Forces Veteran markers on graves. Baker explained the markers are all identical and made of bronze, but some of the markers were more expensive because they were purchased more recently than the others, and cost of the markers had increased by about \$10 each. (From approximately \$43 to \$53) Miller stated that the cemetery looked great for Memorial Day. Baker stated that he will send the Township a bill for the markers.

CORRESPONDENCE-

The State of Michigan, Notice for Natural Gas Customers. A public hearing to approve and reconcile revenues and surcharges will be held on June 17th at 9am.

R. Omo reminded board members that the township's financial audit is scheduled for June 30 and July 1 2015.

ADJOURNMENT: L. Omo made motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M., supported by R. Omo.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robbi Omo, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes Prepared by Charlotte Knisely