

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD
September 14, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, September 14, 2015

Members present: Sue Miller, Supervisor, Robbi Omo, Clerk, Shelly AcMoody, Treasurer, Larry Omo, Trustee, Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Also in attendance were 7 guests.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: L. Omo made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 10, 2015 Ovid Township Board meeting. Motion was supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: AcMoody presented the Treasurer's Report for August. Miller asked if there were any questions. AcMoody stated that the double billing issue with Frontier Communication was corrected on August 18th, 2015. Miller placed the Treasurer's Report on file.

TOWNSHIP AUDIT: Jim Frenndt of Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. presented a synopsis of the Ovid Township Board's recent audit. Frenndt reported that the audit went smoothly and thanked R.Omo and AcMoody for their cooperation in the process. Frenndt reported the formal opinion of the audit is that that Ovid Township's financial statements present fairly. Frenndt explained the terminology used is a "clean" opinion, which is the best opinion that can be given by an auditing company. The financial situation of Ovid Township as of March 31st shows a ratio of assets to liability of 6.6 to 1. Frenndt stated that is considered more-than-adequate assets on hand to take care of liabilities. Frenndt stated the total fund is just under \$1.1 million. Frenndt stated that the activity for this year is nearly identical from last year. Total expenditures are approximately \$367,000 compared to \$390,000 in the previous year. Frenndt explained that public works spending is the primary difference between the years. Frenndt stated that Ovid Township has been able to add to the overall fund balance successively over the past five years..

PUBLIC COMMENT: Sheriff J. Pollack stated that the budgeting process for Branch County has begun. Pollack has requested funding for more deputies. Pollack also gave a synopsis of his recent tour of a new regional law enforcement center in Marshall, MI. Pollack gave highlights of recent arrests and current conditions and statistics at the Branch County Jail, including the number of prisoners being detained. Pollack stated that the issue of constructing a new Branch County Jail is to be placed on the August, 2016 election ballot. Pollack discussed conversion of the existing prison facility to a jail, and the challenges that would be created if that facility was used instead of constructing a new building. Pollack stated the Coldwater Lake Association donated a side scan sonar to the Branch County Marine Patrol. Pollack gave an update on the Branch County Animal Control facility, stating that the burned facility will be fixed for temporary use and that construction on a new building must begin within the year.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Junk Complaint at 404 Warren Road follow up.** Miller stated a letter was sent to the property owners inviting them to attend the meeting. Miller stated Mr. Eichmann was unable to attend as he is at the Cleveland Clinic and would not be home in time for the meeting. Miller said that Eichmann is trying to find a tow company with large enough bed to haul the motorhome off the property. Eichmann estimates it will take two weeks. Miller asked if the time frame was acceptable to board members. L. Omo made a motion to give the property owner 10 days, beginning on 09/15/2015, to have the motorhome moved or face the violation process. Motion was supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.
- B. Zoning violation update at 477 East Pearl Road – Kemp.** Miller presented a letter from the courts stating that the property is now in compliance, as the property owner has now obtained a zoning permit. L. Omo asked if there were expenses related to the case. AcMoody stated \$1030.18 in legal fees had been incurred. L. Omo asked if the township could try to reclaim the fees. Miller stated the fees can't be recovered because the case did not go to court and that the issue is closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Request to split lot in platted subdivision in Iyopawa Island.** Miller stated the current parcel has 3 lots, numbers 40, 41, 42. Miller explained that the property owner, Dennis Miller, would like to split it into 2 lots. Each new lot will measure 75 feet on both road and water sides. Miller asked if there was one sewer tap for the property. Norris confirmed there is one sewer tap. Miller asked if the intent is to remove the existing home and garage. Norris confirmed that he plans to remove the home and garage and an additional shed that is located on the property. Norris stated that he would like to sell the property. Miller asked what the time frame for removal of the buildings would be if the request were approved. Norris stated he planned to begin removing the buildings during the first week of October. Miller stated that under the stand alone ordinance for lots in a planned subdivision – it meets the requirements. Omo made a motion to approve the request for a lot split. Sampsel stated the motion should include the condition that Norris will remove the house and garage prior to the sale of either lot. Board members and Norris an appropriate time limitation for removal of the buildings. Omo rescinded his motion. Omo made a new motion to approve the lot split, with the requirement that the house be removed from the property by December 31, 2015. Motion was supported by Miller. MOTION CARRIED.
- B. Bid Proposal from Two Fellers Tree Service:** Miller shared bid proposal for removal of large tree at Lockwood Cemetery for \$675 and another for removal of an elm tree at Wilson Cemetery for \$385. The estimates include stump grinding. L. Omo made a motion to approve to hire Two Fellers. Motion was supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.
- C. Planning Commission Recommendation to re-zone a portion of property under parcel code #110-018-400-002-04 from Rural Residential to Waterfront Residential.** Miller asked if property owner, Toby Matthias, had any new drawings to present to the board members. Matthias said that, under the guidance of the Planning Commission, he made a few changes to his plans for the property. Matthias gave some background on the property on the north side of Rose Lake, which has been owned by his family for approximately 50 years. Matthias stated that during the past few years, several owners of neighboring cottages have expressed interest in buying his

property to construct accessory buildings. Miller asked if Matthias' request only involves accessory structures. Matthias said yes. Miller asked if the re-zoning would allow Matthias to meet yard setbacks. Matthias said yes. L. Omo asked how many lots he was going to create. Matthias said there were 6 or 7 lots created. Miller asked if the lots would be sold to people who own adjoining property. Miller said yes. Miller asked board members if this might be considered spot zoning. Sampsel stated the request is not any different than numerous other situations around area lakes involving properties that are adjacent to waterfront residential. Zoning administrator R. Jennings added that some of the nearby property has already been made waterfront residential. Sampsel made a motion to approve the request for re-zoning of parcel code #110-018-400-002-04 from Rural Residential to Waterfront Residential. Motion was supported by L Omo. MOTION CARRIED. Miller made a note that the map needs to be updated.

PUBLIC COMMENT: R. Omo stated that the clerks of Branch County met with vendors for updated election equipment. R. Omo stated the new systems are tentatively scheduled to be in place in 2017. L. Omo inquired about the cost of the new equipment. R. Omo stated the estimated cost was approximately \$6500.

REPORTS:

ZONING-Russ Jennings submitted the zoning report for August, 2015. Six permits were issued. Jennings stated that a violation letter had been sent to the residents of 607 Kim Drive about an excessive number of cats being kept on the property. Jennings and the board members reviewed Ordinance 14.23 B – regarding pets becoming a hazard or nuisance. The property is owned by Larry Metcalf. His wife, Karen Metcalf, resides in the home. K. Metcalf has sent a letter stating that she is going contact the Humane Society in hopes of rehoming some of the cats. Jennings said that he would follow the situation and provide an update at the next board meeting.

ASSESSING-Melissa Lane stated that the township has three Michigan Tax Tribunals from past year. Two of the cases are appeals and will be held on November 18 in Marshall. Lane stated the special assessment roll is completed.

DPW-Paul Winbigler. NONE

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Don Vrablic presented the County Commissioner's report and covered issues of the proposed new jail study, energy savings program, and the tire recycling day that was held in August.

CEMETARY SEXTON: Sexton George Baker. NONE

CORRESPONDENCE: R. Omo shared one piece of Township correspondence received in the past month.

Michigan Public Service Commission Notice of Hearing for the Customers of Michigan Gas Utilities Corporation seeking approval to true up its Un-collectibles Expense Tracking Mechanism (UETM) for 2012 and 2013. Hearing will be held on Tuesday September 29th, 2015 at 9am.

ADJOURNMENT: L. Omo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 P.M., supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Robbi Omo, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes Prepared by Charlotte Knisely