

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD
October 12, 2015

Regular Board Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, October, 12, 2015

Members present: Sue Miller, Supervisor, Robbi Omo, Clerk, Shelly AcMoody, Treasurer, Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Members Absent: Larry Omo, Trustee

Others Present: Don Vrablic, George Baker, Greg Gemmill, Russ Jennings, Christine Forrister, and 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: Sampsel made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was supported by AcMoody. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: AcMoody noted a typographical error under New Business in section C in which the name "Miller" should be changed to "Matthias." Sampsel made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from the Ovid Township Board's regular meeting on September 14, 2015. Motion was supported by R. Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: AcMoody presented the Treasurer's Report for the month of September. Miller stated that an item for JPT was to repair a well pipe after it had been damaged (presumably) by a lawn mower. Miller stated that checks had been issued for road sealing and that the work came in under estimated costs. AcMoody clarified that the payment for the township's recent audit was for a smaller amount because partial payment had already been made. Miller asked if there were any questions or comments. There were none. Miller placed the Treasure's Report on file

PUBLIC COMMENT: Christine Forrister stated that last spring Bella Vista Golf Course owner/operator, Ron Carey, directed one of his employees to install a ramp leading from Par 3 Place to the public roadway. Forrister stated that a section of fence was removed so the ramp could be seen from the road and that it was being used for golf cart traffic. Forrister stated that under the terms of the PUD agreement there was to be no access to Blackberry Patch from Lake Drive. Forrister stated that her issue with the situation is that now there are two openings in the fence and that it's created a traffic situation. Forrister stated that she called Carey and he stated that he thinks the ramp is fine. Forrister stated the PUD agreement specifically states that there is to be no access from Lake Drive. Forristers stated the agreement also states that the opening was to allow only for foot traffic. Forrister stated that the PUD rules are not being followed and that the situation is irksome.

OLD BUSINESS

- A. Junk Complaint at 404 Warren Road follow up.** Miller stated that she viewed the property on Sunday,, October 11, 2015, and that the motorhome had been removed from the area. Miller stated that the property is now in compliance and the issue is closed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Bella Vista Golf Course and Blackberry PUD Discussion:** Miller stated the Ovid Township Board and the Planning Commission receive complaints on this issue on a monthly basis. Miller stated the Planning Commission has asked the Township Board to consider amending the PUD to address problems at Bella Vista Golf Course and Blackberry Patch. Sampsel asked if the board opens the issue, would the township incur costs associated with the process. Miller stated that the costs of publication, mailing, and legal counsel would be borne by the township if the board reopened the PUD issue. Sampsel asked if the PUD review would involve a singular issue, such as the golf cart traffic on the ramp at Par 3 Place, or if the review would encompass the entire PUD agreement. Miller stated that the full PUD, including the 1997 original agreement and the 2004 revised and amended agreement, would be reviewed and changes considered. AcMoody asked if the largest expense would be legal counsel. Miller stated that was probably the biggest expense that would be incurred. Sampsel stated he had some reservations about how costly the process could be to the township. Sampsel suggested some members of the board should have a discussion with the owners of the Bella Vista Golf Course before deciding whether to have the board reopen the PUD and commit township dollars to the process. Miller stated that Blackberry Patch PUD issues have been presented at nearly every board meeting for more than a year. Miller stated that she would contact Carey and discuss the matter with legal counsel and then report back on the matter at the November meeting. R. Omo stated that seemed a good place to begin the process.
- B. Winter Newsletter Input:** Board members reviewed a draft of the Ovid Township Board's Winter Newsletter. Miller pointed out election information provided by R. Omo and the tax collection information provided by AcMoody and asked if there were any changes or additions needed. There were none. Miller stated that she would begin working on finalizing the newsletter.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Forrister reiterated that the entire problem with Bella Vista Golf Course/Blackberry Patch PUD goes back to Carey's actions. She stated, "He seems like a reasonable guy, and then he does whatever he wants to do."

REPORTS:

ZONING-Russ Jennings issued 6 permits for the month of September. Jennings stated the Ovid Township Zoning Board of Appeals would meet on October 29, 2015 at 6:30 pm to hear a request for a variance for a sideyard. Following up on a reported nuisance on Kim Drive involving too many cats, Jennings said the resident sent him a letter stating that she has started a neutering program through the humane society. After the cats are neutered, the resident is placing them in homes. Jennings stated he would monitor the situation.

ASSESSING-Melissa Lane stated that in 2016 Branch County has been selected for AMAR – a 14 point review. The process includes a committee of people who review assessing records to show that land values are not being taken from the county or any other source. The review includes a look at all Board of Review petitions, minutes, documentation, the records availability policy and other related issues. Lane stated that this review is set up as a Pass/Fail. Lane stated there is a tribunal case that was brought

before the Board of Review in March. The case involves an uncapping issue linked to the transfer of a trust.

DPW-Paul Winbigler. NONE

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Don Vrablic presented the County Commissioner's report and covered issues of the new jail study, energy savings program, CHC and options being considered for a new Animal Control building. Miller asked Vrablic for an update on the GIS integration. Vrablic stated there were some issues between Branch County officials and the 9-1-1 Board. Vrablic said the Michigan State Police will no longer have its Coldwater lobby open to the public. Vrablic stated the same numbers of trooper will be on patrol. Vrablic stated there has been a delay in the DPW's plans to rebuild two of the lift stations on Iyopawa Island RD, and that the improvements will probably not happen until spring of 2016.

CEMETARY SEXTON: Sexton George Baker stated there was one burial in the month of September and that four plots were sold. Baker stated he would check on the removal of some downed trees at both Ovid Township cemeteries and report back.

CORRESPONDENCE: R. Omo presented two pieces of correspondence.

DEQ – Partial surface water replacement for Stanley Mayer at 936 Honey Lane Bronson, MI 49028

FOIA request for Township salary information was received and fulfilled from Open the Books.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 P.M. Motion was supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Robbi Omo, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes Prepared by Charlotte Knisely