Ovid Township Board January 14, 2013

Regular Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, January 14, 2013. The following members were present: Sue Miller, Supervisor; Larry Omo, Trustee; Judy Sabaitis, Clerk; and Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Absent: Nancy Price, Treasurer. Also in attendance were 9 guests.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

Sue Miller led board members and guests in the Pledge to the Flag.

Motion by Ron Sampsel seconded by Larry Omo, that the agenda is approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Larry Omo supported by Sue Miller, that the December 10th, 2012 regular board meeting minutes be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Sue Miller. She asked if there were any questions on the balance sheet, payments or expense reports. There were no questions and the Treasurer's report was placed on file.

Sue Miller presented an additional invoice from McKenna and Associates for \$31. Sue Miller made a motion for payment, supported by Ron Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Sue Miller opened discussion for public comment. Sheriff John Pollack addressed the board and guests to inform them of the ongoing plan for the Branch County Sherriff's Department. Due to budget cuts and a reduction in his work force, the Department has established new procedures to provide service to the citizens of Branch County. Three officers are covering the day shift Monday through Friday when businesses are open and the midnight shift is covered by two 1-man patrol cars. Evening and weekend hours are covered by the State Police. Sheriff Pollack explained that there are several groups interested in another millage proposal, which he is hoping that the parties work together on this effort.

He further stated that courthouse security is being covered by the Bailiff. The duties of the three officers assigned to the day shift include transporting prisoners to and from court when other emergency situations do not take precedence. A brief discussion regarding the use of video arraignment and the possibility of using it more also took place.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS -

A. Update from McKenna & Associates on upcoming change of new consultant, Andy Miller: Sue Miller stated that McKenna & Associates has informed her that they will be replacing Ovid Township's current consultant, Chris Khorey with Andy Miller. Chris will continue to work with Andy to get him up to speed. Sue Miller expressed her satisfaction with the work Chris has done via an email to McKenna & Associates.

B. Appointment of Board of Review Members:

Motion by Sue Miller, supported by Larry Omo, that Jim Mikolajczyk, Greg Gemmill and Chris Donbrock are appointed to the Ovid Township Board of Review. MOTION CARRIED.

C. Branch County Road Commission 2013 Policies and Annual Meeting schedule with the Township:

Sue Miller stated that the BCRC's 2013 allocation to local roads for seal coating is \$550K. The allocation to each township is based on the percentage of their road tax, of which Ovid Township is 6.9%. Sue Miller asked Board Members to keep Branch County Road Commission-related questions in mind for the annual meeting scheduled on February 6th at 2:00 PM.

- D. Re-Appointments to the Ovid Township Planning Commission:
- Motion by Sue Miller, supported by Ron Sampsel, that Andy AcMoody and Sean Groves be reappointed to the Ovid Township Planning Commission. MOTION CARRIED.
- E. Re-Appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals:

Motion by Sue Miller, supported by Larry Omo, that Andy AcMoody is re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals. MOTION CARRIED.

F. Budget Workshop – January 30th or January 31st The Board scheduled a budget workshop on January 30th at 5:00 PM. Larry Omo volunteered to provide pizza and soda.

REPORTS -

ZONING: Russ Jennings stated that 1 zoning permit and 2 violations were issued in December. Larry Jones was in attendance to address a violation letter he received due to a tent structure on his property, which was used to store hay. Mr. Jones informed the Board Members and Russ Jennings that the structure has since been removed. He also asked for clarification of what requires a permit. He was informed that anything larger than 100 square feet would need a permit and must meet setbacks. Sue Miller asked when the structure was removed to which Mr. Jones informed her January 12th 2013. Sue Miller thanked Mr. Jones for accommodating the notice and meeting ordinance requirements by removing the structure in a timely manner.

ASSESSING: Sue Miller stated that they had completed the sales study for residential with a 2% decrease in value and a 15% increase in agricultural overall. A discussion was held on the issues and challenges associated with the poverty exemption level for property taxes.

DPW – No Report.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER: Don Vrablic presented all board members and attendees with the County Commissioner report which included the following topics:

- New Board The new board was reduced from 8 to 5 commissioners. Don Vrablic was voted as board chair.
- New Officials John Pollack and Ann Vrablic assumed their duties as Sheriff and Treasurer. Also, Probate Judge Kirk Kashian and Prosecuting Attorney Ralph Kimble took office.

- Budget Adjustments The 2013 budget was one of the most challenging budgets in recent history and resulted in personnel reductions.
- Resolutions Support The 4-H fair Board sent a resolution of support to the Board of Commissioners to keep the posse and reserves. There was a disagreement about keeping the posse and reserves with the reduction in force.

CEMETERY SEXTON: George Baker informed the Board that he recently attended a training class on the updated Pontem cemetery software. He described the enhanced software capabilities and was enthusiastic about the possibilities. He stated that a scanner is needed to perform some of the operations, which would be his personal purchase since it would be used for several townships. He requested consideration to attend a cemetery management conference around the end of June or first of July and would like Ovid Township, in conjunction with the other townships for which he works, to financially support his attendance to the conference. Sue Miller stated that they would be working on the budget and if anything else comes to mind to let the Board Members know.

CORRESPONDENCE-

Judy Sabaitis the following correspondence:

- One DEQ for large quantity water withdraw for Adam Richmond.
- One DEQ for Jerry Sweet to dredge existing boat well.
- One DEQ for Susie Fisher at Coldwater Lake to replace existing seawall.
- Grant management workshop information.
- Sue Miller shared a magazine titled, "The Review", for anyone interested.

ADJORNMENT: Ron Sampsel moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM, Larry Omo supported. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis, Ovid Township Clerk Minutes prepared by Robbi Omo