

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD
June 9, 2014

Regular Board Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, June 9, 2014

Members present: Sue Miller, Supervisor, Judy Sabaitis, Clerk, Shelly AcMoody, Treasurer, Larry Omo, Trustee, and Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Also in attendance were 23 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: A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Omo, supported by Sampsel.
MOTION CARRIED.

MINUTES: A motion to approve minutes as presented from the May 12th, 2014 meeting was made by Sampsel, supported by Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer's report was presented by AcMoody. Miller asked if everyone reviewed the Treasurer's Report and if there were any questions or comments. Upon having no questions or comments, Miller stated that the Treasurer's Report would be placed on file.

Miller made a motion to pay the McKenna and Associates invoice for \$36, supported by Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

A. NEWSLETTER

Miller presented the Ovid Township Board Newsletter and stated 2,000 were printed and will be inserted with the summer tax notices.

B. MUTE SWAN CONCERNS AND INFORMATION UPDATE

Miller reminded those in attendance that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will hold a meeting on the issue of mute swans for the Chain of Lakes on June 14 at 10 A.M. at the Quincy Middle School. Sara Schaefer with the DNR will be on hand for discussion of the invasive mute swan species and the DNR's five year plan to eradicate mute swans from area lakes. Miller added that the mute swan issue will also be addressed on June 21st at the Coldwater Lake Association Building on Warren Road at 9 A.M. Miller encouraged anyone wishing to learn more about the issue to attend the meetings.

C. DUST CONTROL UPDATE

Miller informed the Board that all the local gravel and private drives have received the dust control application by Michigan Mineral Resources. She stated that she received several calls praising the company for doing a very effective job. Omo agreed and said that the dust control efforts were complimented by good weather conditions and recent grading of local roads by the

Branch County Road Commission. Miller said the overall impression is that everyone is pleased with the job. Miller confirmed that Michigan Mineral Resources applied an additional 500 gallons of treatment per mile at no additional cost to Ovid Township.

D. ZONING VIOLATION FOLLOW-UP AND EXTENSIONS AT 401 SUNNY SHORES.

Property owner Shirley Bodine informed the Board that she had failed to comply with the Board's direction that the non-compliant shed located at 401 Sunny Shores Drive be moved. Bodine stated she did not move the shed because she is waiting for surveyors to measure the property and added that weather conditions have also been too wet. Miller asked Bodine to recall the terms of the extension granted to her at the May 12th meeting. Bodine said that she had been instructed to move the shed and then report back to the Board. Omo stated that he had driven by the property the previous week and that he believed that the area was not too wet to move the shed. Bodine disagreed and said that water was standing in her yard. Omo stated that Bodine has repeatedly ignored the Board's directions to move the shed and that the issue has dragged on for more than a year. Miller made a motion to proceed with the municipal infraction ticket, supported by Omo. MOTION CARRIED. Bodine asked what would happen if she put a for sale sign on the shed. Miller stated that the ticket would still be issued and reiterated that Bodine had been granted over a year of extensions and had failed to bring the property into compliancy.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. COLDWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION FIREWORKS PERMIT

Dennis Babjack of the Coldwater Lake Association informed the Board that Lake Associations must now apply for fireworks permits through municipalities. Babjack presented the Board with the DNR application. Miller stated she would fill out the application and make a copy for liability insurance purposes. Miller stated she would have the packet completed by Tuesday, June 10th and that Babjack could pick up the paperwork at Miller's assessing office in Coldwater. Miller made a motion to approve the application, supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.

B. CLEANING OF TOWNSHIP HALL – As Jan Ross recently retired, Miller suggested contracting a new person to clean the hall bi-monthly, with additional cleanings required for elections. Miller recommended Larissa Vorce be contracted at a rate of \$15 per hour. Sabaitis estimates the hall takes approximately four hours to clean. Miller inquired if the Board wanted to advertise the position. Sabaitis suggested hiring Vorce based on Miller's personal recommendation and the Board agreed. Miller made a motion to contract Larissa Vorce to clean the Township Hall as outlined above, supported by Sabaitis. MOTION CARRIED. Miller will contact Vorce with the details and keys to the Township Hall.

C. PETITION TO CREATE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT – WEED CONTROL – SHADY OAKS

Miller informed the Board that petitions had been circulated and turned into the Assessor's office to create a special assessment district for weed control in the Shady Oaks section of Ovid Township. Following the instructions of Public Act 188, as Supervisor and representative of the Assessing Office of Branch County, Miller reported she had checked the petitions for proposed weed control in Shady Oaks Subdivisions and found 72 percent of the total properties (148)

signed the petitions. There is a total of 204 properties in the district. Miller made a motion to accept the petitions as presented, supported by AcMoody. MOTION CARRIED.

Miller stated the next step is to hold two public hearings. Miller explained to the Shady Oaks residents in attendance that under PA 18, any changes made would have unlimited terms and be in effect indefinitely unless action is taken to stop or alter the plans. Miller stated that all residents impacted will receive notification of the public hearings. She further explained that, if approved, the cost of weed control will go on residents' winter tax bills in 2014. Miller informed Shady Oaks residents that the Board's practice is to hold special assessment public hearings a half hour before regular township board meetings at Ovid Township Hall. The special assessment hearings will be advertised in newspaper and residents will be sent notices. The first public hearing to discuss setting up a special district was scheduled for July 14th at 7pm. The second meeting to confirm the special assessment district was scheduled on August 11th at 7pm. Omo asked if the weed control proposal includes the entire Shady Oaks area. Miller confirmed that it includes the swimming pond, three channels and the lakefront areas of Shady Oaks. Miller stated that anyone opposed to Shady Oaks' special assessment district for weed control should attend the meetings to express their opinions or questions.

D. POSSIBLE ZONING VIOLATION AT 388 QUIMBY ROAD – STRASSBURGER PROPERTY

The Board discussed a reported unlicensed camping area being operated at 388 Quimby Road and owned by John Strassburger. Bruce Knisely stated that Strassburger had discussed renting seasonal campsites with him. Knisely also told the Board that he had provided Zoning Administrator Russ Jennings with a copy of a Shopper's Guide advertisement for seasonal campsites on Strassburger's property. Miller stated that the Ovid Township Planning Commission had requested the Township Board review the situation as the property involved is zoned as waterfront residential. Andy AcMoody, Chair of the Ovid Township Planning Commission, stated that Section 14.14 of the Ovid Township Zoning Ordinance pertains to storage of recreational and commercial vehicles on residential lots. AcMoody stated that the intent of the ordinance was not to allow operation of an unlicensed campground, and that in his opinion, advertising for campsites made the current situation an unlicensed business. AcMoody stated that several of the neighbors aren't happy with the campers moving in and that there had been issues with obscene language, disposal of human waste, and loud parties being held at the campsites. A discussion was held on the Zoning Ordinance and potential court proceedings. Sampsel stated that the intent of the Zoning Ordinance is to allow for temporary housing or family overflow, and not for operation of an unlicensed for-profit business. Sampsel made a motion that a stop action letter be sent to the property owner and that violation signs be posted at all of the campsites. Motion was supported by AcMoody. MOTION CARRIED.

E. BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND LANDSCAPING

The Board discussed the items that need to be addressed including loose siding, a loose soffit, power washing of the building's exterior, painting of exterior doors, landscaping stones, installation of a new weed barrier, and other general landscaping improvements. Sabaitis made a motion to contact George Baker regarding the landscaping items and to contact Bruce Knisely regarding the maintenance items, supported by Sampsel. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tim Hart Haberl introduced himself as a candidate for State Representative and shared his experience and qualifications for the position.

Jeff Jacques introduced himself as a candidate for State Representative and shared his experience and qualifications for the position.

Omo asked if a decision had been made about a drop box at the Township Hall. Treasurer AcMoody said that there were three possible boxes that would work. The most preferred is the largest size box that would be mounted on the outside of the building. The Board members agreed to select a site outside the building for mounting a drop box. The desired install date for the drop box is July 1st. Bruce Knisely volunteered to install the box free of charge for the township

REPORTS:

- A. ZONING –Russ Jennings issued 8 permits for the month of May. A discussion was held on the Rick and Carol Gilmer property who built a non-compliant deck without permits. Russ Jennings will follow-up on the situation.
- B. ASSESSING – Sue Miller stated that the PRE values as of June 1st, and the names and addresses have been turned over to County Equalization Department in preparation of running the tax rolls. Miller asked County Commissioner Don Vrablic about the Register of Deeds issues and if the county has changed the software used for processing the deeds. Vrablic stated the software has already been changed. Miller said she was informed that from the assessor’s side that she will now be required to print her own deeds. Vrablic said he was unsure about the new process and stated that he would find out more and report back to Miller after meeting with the Register of Deeds before the July 14th meeting.
Miller asked about the Equalization Department’s appraisal studies that need to be done and wondered if the open position had been filled. Vrablic said some people have been moved around and that a person has been assigned to work 20 hours per week to help with the process.

DPW – PAUL WINBIGLER - No Report

C. COUNTY COMMISSIONER

Don Vrablic presented the County Commissioner Report including the following subjects:

- CHC Strategic Partnership
- COA Millage
- Minimum Wage Change
- Scrap Tire Recycling Event
- Coldwater State Park

Greg Gemmill asked Vrablic if fines collected from the newly opened weigh station will help the Branch District Library meet their financial needs. Vrablic said that District Court Judges have the power to decide where the funds are spent and added that the libraries may see some increase in funding. He added that any increase they may receive is not likely to be the amount needed to maintain hours and make desired improvements.

CEMETERY SEXTON – GEORGE BAKER. – No report

CORRESPONDENCE:

Publication received from St. Joseph River Basin Commission.

County Treasurer's office correspondence regarding local government agencies purchasing tax foreclosed properties. There are three properties in Ovid Township available with a minimum bid of \$6,600 each.

Letter from Fiesta Shores regarding their special assessment district for grading and snow removal. After discussion, Miller stated that she will take the calls from Fiesta Shores' residents to determine when plowing and grading are necessary. Fiesta Shores will not be able to contact the Road Commission independently.

ADJOURNMENT: Larry Omo made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 P.M., supported by Sabaitis.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes Prepared by Charlotte Knisely