

Ovid Township Board

December 10, 2012

Regular Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, December 10, 2012. The following members were present: Sue Miller, Supervisor; Larry Omo, Trustee; Nancy Price, Treasurer; Judy Sabaitis, Clerk; and Ron Sampsel, Trustee. Also in attendance were 5 guests.

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

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

Motion by Ron Sampsel seconded by Nancy Price, that the agenda be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Ron Sampsel supported by Larry Omo, that the November 12, 2012 regular board meeting minutes be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

The Treasurer's report was presented including payment of bills. Sue Miller asked if there were any questions on the balance sheet, payments or expense reports. Nancy Price stated that there were potential issues related to the W2s. At this time she is working with the auditors to resolve the software issues, which have been ongoing since May. She added that the auditing firm is working diligently to correct all of the issues. At this time it is not known what the cost will be to the Township. A brief discussion was held on the retirement program, social security, and how the information transfers to the W2s. The Treasurer's report was placed on file.

One bill from Abraham and Gaffney in the amount of \$350 was submitted for payment. Brief discussion followed about Abraham and Gaffney being contracted to complete the F65 due to its complexity. Sue Miller moved to approve payment, supported by Larry Omo. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Sue Miller opened discussion for public comment. Thomas Romine introduced himself and inquired as to why he was not able to get his acreage corrected. He further stated that it was corrected on his assessment, but not on his tax bill. Sue Miller informed him that his issue was one that should be discussed at the assessor's office and not during an Ovid Township Board meeting. After further discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Romine would contact the assessor after 4 PM on the following Thursday (December 13, 2012).

OLD BUSINESS – Additional compensation for work on the Lockwood Cemetery landscaping project by G. Baker: George Baker submitted a \$300 invoice for additional work completed on the landscaping project. After a brief discussion regarding the wording of the invoice, Nancy Price moved to approve payment, Judy Sabaitis supported. MOTION CARRIED.

Township Board Meeting with Branch County Road Commission: Sue Miller reported that she, Nancy Price and Judy Sabaitis met with the Road Commission representatives on Friday, November 16. Topics of discussion included cost savings ideas, including sealcoat methods, the estimated proposed budget and concerted effort from all parties to maintain better communication. Board members briefly discussed the gas tax and how that money impacts and helps to support

Ovid Township as well as how it fluctuates each year. Don Vrablic, who was in attendance at the Ovid Township Board Meeting, stated that the Road Commission was trying to establish costs earlier in an effort to get the information to Townships for budgeting purposes.

NEW BUSINESS – Update from the Planning Commission regarding meeting with Chris Khorey, McKenna and Associates: Sue Miller turned this topic over to Ron Sampsel who stated that he would run through topics covered during the meeting with Chris Khorey, but would not be submitting anything to the board as they were waiting for clarification and answers regarding a few key items. Ron Sampsel continued on by reviewing a list of items covered during the Planning Commission Meeting:

- Dwelling units – the issue of using accessory building as dwellings would be policed by complaints. This is an effort to prevent people from renting out building that are not deemed dwelling units.
- Ag District – will be doing away with requiring fence permits.
- Transmitter Towers – Township is required to comply with state law. This requires a wording change in the ordinance.
- Road End – This is another subject that is state-law mandated.
- Political Signage – Signs must be removed 10 days after an election. The issue was that signs were left up between the primary and the general. It was determined that this would become an issue of policing, so the ordinance will remain as is.
- Lot Coverage – Waterfront residential is where the biggest issue exists. It was determined that the ordinance would be reworded to define permeable materials for clarification.
- Purchase Agreement - Larry Omo asked for clarification to which Ron Sampsel explained that it consisted of rezoning prior to purchasing and that it was another state-mandated item. Don Vrablic inquired about the ZBA's role and Ron Sampsel explained that the purchaser wouldn't necessarily need ZBA approval. Don Vrablic ask whether the verbiage reflected that and Ron Sampsel stated that it would.

Ron Sampsel concluded by stating that the Planning Commission would be submitting several recommendations to the Ovid Township Board in the near future.

Chris Khorey, McKenna and Associates: Sue Miller stated that she contacted McKenna and Associates on behalf of Ovid Township to let them know what a great job he had done. Board Members discussed how impressed they are with him.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sue Miller again asked for public comment. There were no public comments.

REPORTS –

ZONING – Russ Jennings stated that he issued 3 permits; Jessie Furote, David Egolf, and Michael Hawk. He stated that both the Jessie Furote and Mark Paradine issues were closed. Stop work orders were discussed.

ASSESSING – Sue Miller reported that the December Board of Review is scheduled and will meet at the Township Hall.

DPW – Paul Winbigler read the minutes from the last DPW meeting which included information about system tanks that need replaced or the system needs to be hooked into Lake George and lift

station upgrades. Mr. Winbigler also stated that the DPW would have three positions expiring on 12/31 and that he has re-submitted for his position.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Don Vrablic presented all board members and attendees with the county commissioner report which included the following topics:

- K-9 retired – Mick was retired as of 11/01/12.
- Deputy of the year – Scott Jaye, secondary road patrol deputy of the year.
- Appointment report – the appointment report was approved by the Board of Commissioners. Taxable value is up by 1.27% for an approximate amount value of \$77,347.30.
- Child Care Costs – The County’s appropriation for DHS Child Care Costs has risen in the last year and continues to increase going into 2013, which presents concerns for the county. Senator Caswell is supportive of the issues and trying to provide understanding and assistance.
- 2013 budget issues – Don Vrablic discussed the failure of the road patrol services millage during the November election. The Sheriff proposed a 2013 budget that uses the Jail Millage funds to support keeping the Road Patrol at approximately 75% of the 2012 level. The proposal includes taking funds from the Jail Millage to cover corrections and moving the General Fund to cover Road Patrol. This creates concern with an aging Jail Facility that may require expensive maintenance improvements. This information sparked a lengthy discussion regarding the deficit and the issues surrounding the use of funds that were earmarked for other items and how to replenish those funds once they are gone. Don Vrablic additionally stated that the Sheriff could consider another millage proposal in 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE –

Judy Sabaitis read the following:

- Department of Agriculture’s farm land development rights agreement for Thomas and Lynne Cranson.
- DEQ for water withdraw assessment for Lonnie Eichler, from the St. Joe Water Basin.
- Miscellaneous notices including 2013 Conference invitation and annual meeting notices from Michigan Gas and Consumers Energy.

ADJORNMENT – Nancy Price moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 PM, Larry Omo supported.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes prepared by Robbi Omo