

Ovid Township Board

November 12, 2012

Regular Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, November 12, 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 6 guests.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:29 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 be approved. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Ron Sampsel supported by Larry Omo, that the October 8th, 2012 regular board meeting minutes be accepted. MOTION CARRIED.

The Treasurer's report was presented including payment of bills. Board members had a brief discussion regarding the Sportsman restaurant sign, and then discussed the original bill for work done at the Lockwood Cemetery, and subsequently decided to discuss it during OLD BUSINESS discussion.

Two checks were submitted for approval. Sue Miller moved to approve and supported by Nancy Price. MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT - Sue Miller opened discussion for public comment. There were no public comments.

OLD BUSINESS – Landscaping in Lockwood Cemetery: The original invoice for landscaping was \$1,100 with an additional \$100 for digging and placing stone. Judy Sabaitis expressed concern that George Baker was donating too much of his labor to the project. She stated that the Lockwood Cemetery landscaping project turned out very nice and wanted to ensure that Mr. Baker was compensated accordingly for the work he had completed. Board members concurred with Judy's comments and Sue Miller asked George Baker to submit a new bill for the next board meeting reflecting the additional work he had done at the Lockwood Cemetery. Mr. Baker agreed to do so and a brief board discussion ensued regarding the completion of the project and how nice it turned out.

Sue Miller stated that the board needed to approved the original \$1,100 plus the additional \$100 submitted by George Baker. Sue Miller moved supported by Ron Sampsel, to approve the original \$1,100 and the additional \$100. MOTION CARRIED.

CEMETERY REPORT – Sue Miller moved forward to the cemetery report to accommodate George Baker's schedule. George Baker discussed the supply of Veteran's flag, prompted by a question from Ron Sampsel. Mr. Baker stated that Ovid Township had an ample supply of flags for the township cemeteries.

Larry Omo inquired about pulling pumps from the cemeteries to which George Baker commented that he would begin that process tomorrow. Mr. Baker further stated that he may need to look at repairing one pump in the spring.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sue Miller opened the floor for public comment. Don Vrablic commended the election staff for the outstanding job they did during the November 6th election. Sue Miller stated that the staff did a great job and they were well organized.

John Pollack discussed the fact that the millage did not pass for the Sherriff's department and stated that the Sherriff's department would still provide the best service possible to Branch County. Officer Pollack encouraged members to call him with concerns and stated that he would be meeting with the commissioners to seek a resolution for the department's financial issues.

NEW BUSINESS – Election Report: Judy Sabaitis stated that the public accuracy testing held on October 15th took several hours longer than the usual testing due to the size of the ballot and the various proposals.

On Election Day, the inspectors reported at the Ovid Township Hall at 6:30 AM, at which time they were met at the door by a challenger. Ms. Sabaitis explained the duties of a challenger and added that he was a nice gentleman who created no distractions or issues.

Judy Sabaitis further detailed the events throughout the day including a jam with the tabulator and the audit process to tie the tabulator to the poll book at the end of the evening. The process to balance and close the polls was very lengthy resulting in the election staff completing the last details at 5:00 AM on November 7th. Board members discussed the dedication and commitment of the election staff and thanked Judy Sabaitis for their service.

B.C.R.C. – Local Maintenance Breakdown for Ovid Township. Sue Miller moved discussion to the Branch County Road Commission and the local maintenance breakdown for Ovid Township. She was concerned with her conversation with Trent Arver from the Road Commission regarding the township's forecasted overage of \$109,969.71. Extensive discussion among board members followed regarding the significant deficit faced by Ovid Township, the lack of communication from the Road Commission, and inconsistent billing. Don Vrablic recommended that the Sue Miller contact Julie at the Road Commission to be added to the Road Commission's agenda. Judy Sabaitis inquired as to whether or not Don Vrablic would be at the meeting and asked if other townships had similar issues. Don Vrablic stated that he would be at the meeting, but additional discussion among board members regarding the Road Commission and maintaining the MTF fund and the maintenance of Ovid Township roads ensued before Mr. Vrablic answered the question regarding others having issues with the Road Commission.

OATH OF OFFICE – Sue Miller stated that all board members would take the Oath of Office at the close of the meeting to assist in expediting the meeting for attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Sue Miller again asked for public comment (due to George Baker's need to leave early, the agenda was slightly out of order and some tasks were repeated). There were no public comments.

REPORTS –

ZONING – Russ Jennings stated that there were two zoning permits and that October was a slow month. He further stated that the violation for Jesse Furote, 227 E. Rose Rd., was closed and that Mr. Furote has to file for a permit with the Road Commission. He also stated that Jesse Furote's residence is non-conforming on two sides, and there is no need to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals but he does need a zoning permit or he will be fined.

Russ Jennings stated that he has the list of final inspections for January through July.

DPW – No report

COUNTY COMMISSIONER – Don Vrablic discussed a recent accident at the intersection of M-60 and M-66, resulting in fatalities, and that the intersection was being investigated by MDOT.

Don Vrablic stated that the Sheriff Department’s millage proposal was defeated in the election and discussed the lack of funding for the department. A lengthy discussion was held on the 2013 budget, funding the secondary road patrol and a possible millage proposal for 2013.

Don Vrablic reported that the Veteran’s Memorial is open.

Don Vrablic discussed the tire collection on October 27th and stated that it was very successful.

CORRESPONDENCE –Sue Miller read the Lakeland fire run report to members of the board and attendees.

Sue Miller read the State of Michigan public service communication regarding the November 15th public hearing at 9:00AM – approved no refund as pursuant with respect to provisional rates.

Sue Miller stated that those who were interested in reading the St. Joe River Basin 2012 fall edition, it would be made available at the Ovid Township Hall.

Judy Sabaitis reviewed three DEQs including one for water withdraw outside of the township, one for farmland space and one for notice of authorization for dredging.

ADJORNMENT – Larry Omo moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 PM, Nancy Price supported.
MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis, Ovid Township Clerk
Minutes prepared by Robbi Omo