

## **Ovid Township Board**

**September 10, 2012**

### **Public Hearing**

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, August 13, 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 thirteen guests.

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Board led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sue Miller explained the purpose of the Public Hearing is to confirm a special assessment district for aquatic weed control in channel areas abutting Buckeye and JoJo Lanes. Ms. Miller reviewed the estimated costs of the project, outlining the total payouts spread over the course of five years; \$2,697, \$2,832, \$2,974.30, \$3,123, and \$3,279 for a total of \$14,905.30. There are 34 lots in the special assessment district with an estimated cost of \$87.68 per year. The weed control application will start in 2013.

Sue Miller gave an update on the concerns discussed at the August Public Hearing as follows:

- Contacted Joe Haas, Township Attorney, who advised that the Township does not regulate the type of chemicals used in the treatment but that the chemicals must meet the DEQ requirements.
- Contacted Paul Hausler, Progress A.E., who stated that there have been only two issues related to property damage over the past ten years.
- Contacted Scott Banfield, Aquatic Enhancement, who assured that copper sulfate will not be used in this area.
- Sue Miller emailed Mr. Matthews regarding his concerns. She stated that he was pleased with the updated information. Mr. Matthews was not present at tonight's meeting.
- Sue Miller encouraged people with concerns to work with Scott Banfield and the DEQ.

The public hearing closed at 7:15 P.M.

### **Regular Meeting**

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

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

Motion by Ron Sampsel seconded by Nancy Price, that the August 13, 2012 Public Hearing minutes be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Motion by Ron Sampsel seconded by Larry Omo, that the August 13, 2012 minutes be accepted as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

Sue Miller complimented Robbi Omo on the minutes she prepared for the August Public Hearing and regular Board Meeting. She stated the minutes were complete and accurate.

The Treasurer's report was presented including payment of bills. The Board approved the reports and placed them on file. Motion by Sue Miller seconded by Nancy Price, that Two Fellers Tree Service invoice for \$1,050 is approved for payment. MOTION CARRIED.

Sue Miller moved into the Public Comment portion of the meeting and asked if anyone wanted to address the board. After a short pause Ms. Miller stated guests would have another opportunity to address the board at a later point in the meeting, and moved onto old business.

The Board reviewed the junk complaint at 416 W. Russell Drive. Sue Miller stated that she met with the owners on Saturday and confirmed that the property is now compliant.

A resolution by Ron Sampsel seconded by Larry Omo, to create a special assessment district for Aquatic Weed Control in the channel areas abutting Buckeye and JoJo Lanes.

Upon a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

AYE: Miller, Price, Omo, Sabaitis, Sampsel

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

Steve Kirinovic, auditor with Abraham & Gaffney, presented the audit for 2011-2012. Report placed on file.

The Board discussed items for the newsletter including cemetery decorations, zoning setbacks, email address for the Zoning Administrator and tax collection. The newsletter will be on the October agenda for approval.

A resolution by Ron Sampsel seconded by Larry Omo, to confirm a special assessment district for Aquatic Weed Control in the channel areas abutting Buckeye and JoJo Lanes starting in 2013.

Upon a roll call vote, the result was as follows:

AYE: Miller, Price, Omo, Sabaitis, Sampsel

NAY: None

MOTION CARRIED.

The Board reviewed George Baker's landscape proposal to construct a three-foot high red brick accent wall at Lockwood Cemetery. It will be part of the landscaping around the rock that George Baker donated. The Board reviewed the \$1,100 quote and asked if it included all labor costs. George stated that he would be donating a portion of his labor. Motion by Sue Miller seconded by Nancy Price, that the landscape quote for \$1,100 is accepted. The Board further requested that if the price of the brick is higher than the cost submitted on the quote, that he to bring it back to the Board. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board discussed the Planning Commission's request to meet with a McKenna Planning Consultant to review several items including zoning permits under 100 square feet, fences in agricultural districts, lot coverage, and purchase agreements. The Board agreed that Sue Miller contact McKenna to set a date for a consultant to meet with the Planning Commission prior to their October or November meeting.

The Board requested that Judy Sabaitis contact Robbi Omo in regards to assuming the responsibility of Recording Secretary for the Township Board meetings. The Board agreed that a Recording Secretary would allow the Clerk to actively participate in the Board meetings.

Public Comment:

Senator Bruce Caswell updated the Board on various State issues including changes to MPSERS Pension-Senate Bill 1040, the Governor's proposed transportation infrastructure package and the proposal to eliminate personal property tax.

Deputy John Pollack, representative for the Sheriff's Department, addressed the Board in regards to the upcoming November millage proposal. The proposal is for a  $\frac{3}{4}$  mill for five years to fund the non-mandated services provided by their department. He further explained the current financial situation of the department, the budget cuts, and reduction in man-hours and services to the citizens.

Jeremy Miller, representative for the State Police, updated the Board on additional troopers being added in our area and throughout the state.

Sue Paradine, Derik Paradine and Cindy Hann were present at the meeting. Sue Paradine addressed the Board for consideration to allow extra time to remove the horses from the property located at 306 Fillmore Road. She stated

that they were housing the horses for a friend, that they did not realize they were in violation of the Zoning Ordinance, that they had attended and requested the Planning Commission to consider six month extra time to relocate the horses (March 2013), and have been working with Russ Jennings to remedy the situation. The Board thoroughly discussed various options including requesting a ZBA hearing. Since the ZBA is a request for a permanent variance and this request is only temporary, Sue Paradine stated that it would be a waste of their \$500. A discussion was held on the first zoning violation letter issued by Russ Jennings and that Ms. Paradine stated was not received. Sue Paradine and Nancy Price voiced differing viewpoints of a previous discussion between the Price's and Paradine's about the horses, the shelter for the horses, the fence, the roof and the request for an extension. Cindy Hann, owner of the horses, addressed the Board that she purchased and boarded the horses from a lady who owned property owner, the owner subsequently died; the property was sold and was no longer available for boarding her horses. The Paradine family was doing her a favor to temporarily house her horses and that she never intended to cause any problems.

After a lengthy discussion Ron Sampsel suggested a 90-day extension to allow time to relocate the horses (December 15, 2012) be considered. Motion by Sue Miller seconded by Ron Sampsel, that an extension is granted until December 15, 2012. If the horses are not removed by that date, a municipal civil infraction ticket will be issued. MOTION CARRIED. The Board requested that Russ Jennings send a certified letter to both the property owners and the owner of the horses regarding the above motion.

Reports:

Zoning – Russ Jennings reported on zoning permits issued, gave an update on the Jessie Furote violation and that a ZBA meeting is scheduled on September 20, 2012.

Assessing – Sue Miller stated that the special assessment rolls have been prepared and will be turned over next month to the Branch County Treasurer, Township Treasurer and Township Clerk.

DPW – No report.

County Commissioner – Don Vrablic distributed the commissioner report and discussed the Planning Council, Sheriff issues, building inspection relocation, Veteran's Memorial, and the tire collection.

Cemetery Sexton – Cemetery landscaping discussed earlier in the meeting.

Correspondence reviewed included 2 DEQ letters for water withdrawal for the Carpenter Farms at 1040 Lukesport Road, Quincy and the Barnes Farms at 894 Walker Road Coldwater and one State of Michigan Farmland Development Rights Agreement for William and Marjorie Geiger.

Motion made by Nancy Price seconded by Larry Omo to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted:

Judy Sabaitis  
Ovid Township Clerk