

OVID TOWNSHIP BOARD

July 13, 2009

Regular Meeting

The Ovid Township Board met at the Township Hall on Monday, July 13, 2009. 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 14 guests.

The regular meeting was called to order by Sue Miller.

The Board led the guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Motion by Ron Sampsel seconded by Larry Omo, that the June 8, 2009 Regular Board minutes be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

The Treasurer's report was presented including payment of bills. The Board approved the reports and placed them on file. Motion by Nancy Price seconded by Sue Miller, that the McKenna invoice for \$182.00 be approved for payment. MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

Representative Kurtz gave an update on the budget crisis for the State of Michigan.

Pam Stratos addressed the Board on an open fire pit on a lot within 25 feet of their home. She stated her concerns regarding the smoke and a potential fire hazard to the neighboring homes. The Township does not have an ordinance on open burning and suggested that she contact the Lakeland Fire Department Chief. Mrs. Stratos also addressed her concerns with a neighbor fishing in front of their property. She stated the neighbor walks in the water to their property to fish and that they have asked him to not fish outside of a boat. At this point the neighbor states he will continue to fish. The Board informed her that the Township does not have jurisdiction over the water.

Resolution by Ron Sampsel seconded by Sue Miller that the Branch County Road Commission Resolution to ditch and correct the drainage issue on West Channel Drive is adopted. The estimate is \$4,000.

Upon a roll call vote, the result was as follows:
AYE: Miller, Omo, Price, Sabaitis, Sampsel
NAY: None
MOTION CARRIED.

Sue Miller stated that the West Channel Drive project is completed. The final cost is \$5,066.75. Motion by Larry Omo seconded by Ron Sampsel, that the balance of the Branch County Road Commission's invoice for \$3,466.75 be approved for payment. MOTION CARRIED.

The Sheriff Department representative provided information and answered questions.

Since the Haylett family was not present, no action was taken on their request to plant flowering trees in the Lockwood Cemetery.

The Board reviewed the junk complaint at 290 Beverly Drive and acknowledged that the owners have started to clean up the property. The property owner addressed the Board to apologize to their neighbors and stated that they are in the process of condensing items. Motion by Larry Omo seconded by Nancy Price, to grant a sixty day extension to complete the clean up and to follow up on the progress at the September meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board received the 2008-2009 Township audit prepared by Rumsey & Watkins. Sue Miller will contact Rumsey & Watkins to attend the August or September meeting to review the report with the Board.

The Board reviewed the Township's public access on Hickory Drive off Smith Road and the complaint of ruts on the property. On June 22nd Sue Miller, Larry Omo and George Baker met at the property to assess the damage and resolve the issue of it happening again. Larry Smith, current owner of the family farm by the public access, presented a letter and pictures of the public access and volunteered to assist the Township to resolve the public access issues. The Board requested that George Baker, Sexton, obtain prices for cable and posts to stake the public access. Larry Omo will contact M. Modert and Sue Miller will research the property title when the access property was given to the Township by the Smith family. The Board will review the information at the August Board meeting.

The Board reviewed the letter regarding the Peppiatt family burial sites at the Sorter Cemetery. Motion by Larry Omo seconded by Sue Miller, that George Baker removes two evergreen trees, a lilac bush and yucca plants. MOTION CARRIED.

The Board reviewed the junk complaint at 613 Center Lane and 412 East Russell Drive. The 613 Center Lane property has been mowed and cleaned up. The property is in compliance. The 412 East Russell Drive property appears to be vacant and the lawn has not been mowed. Sue Miller will contact Erin Wilson, property owner, on the current status of the property.

The 2009 Tax Rate Request – Millage Request Report to County Board of Commissioners was approved and signed by Clerk and Supervisor. The 2009 tax rate millage for the township is .7509.

The Board reviewed the letter inquiring about the status of the noise ordinance for Ovid Township. Don Vrablic, County Commissioner, will follow up with the County Commissioners and the Sheriff Department on the status of a county noise ordinance. He will report his findings at the August meeting.

The Board reviewed the petition from residents on Kim and Zale Drives requesting Ovid Township deny a burning permit to Randy Odell of Quimby Road. The residents present at the meeting addressed their concerns and stated that they had contacted the Lakeland

Fire Department three times. Ron Sampsel will contact the Lakeland Fire Department Chief to set up a date and time to meet with the Board to discuss this concern.

Public Comment:

There was a concern voiced about the overgrown weeds and installing a Hidden Drive sign on West Channel Drive. Don Vrablic will address both items at the Branch County Road Commission meeting.

Zoning – Jim Mikolajczyk reported 5 permits were issued during June.

Assessing – Sue Miller reported that the July Board of Review meets Tuesday July 21st at 1 P.M.

BPW – No report.

County Commissioner – Commissioner Vrablic reported on downsizing the BPW Board members from nine to seven members, renovations at the Commission on Aging Building, the Freedom Shrines, intern positions through Michigan Works and a new boat for the Marine Patrol.

Cemetery – George Baker reported that he received the bid for \$3,900 to add all Ovid Township cemetery maps to the Pontem software. He will check out the system requirements for the maps and report back at the September meeting.

Correspondence reviewed.

Motion made by Larry Omo seconded by Ron Sampsel, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Sabaitis
Ovid Township Clerk