

OAKFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
December 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Oakfield Township Board of Trustees held December 8, 2015 at 10300 14 Mile Road, Rockford, MI., was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Present were: Greg Dean, Roger Mason, Larry Parker, Bryan Porter, Ken Rittersdorf, Chad Sowerby and Linda VanHouten

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion to approve regular meeting minutes for November 10, 2015 offered by Sowerby second by Parker approved per a roll call vote 6-0. (Porter abstained due to prior absence).

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

Motion to approve the report of fund balances for November 2015 as presented offered by Porter second by Rittersdorf was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.

Motion to approve General Fund expenditures for the month of November 2015 in the amount of \$43,473.29 offered by Rittersdorf second by Sowerby was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.

Motion to approve Sewer Fund expenditures for the month of November 2015 in the amount of \$1,274.05 offered by Sowerby second by Parker was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Fire Department:

- 18 runs
- Chief Peterson informed us that he has stepped up billing for automobile accidents. He is trying to recover some of the costs we incur.
- Chief Peterson presented an email that was received by Troy Caswell. Caswell is requesting to be put back on the fire department. There was discussion from Chief Peterson and the board.
- Motion not to allow Troy Caswell on the Oakfield Township Fire department was offered by Dean second by Parker was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.
- Fire report on file

PCI Report: Report on file

Planning Commission: Meeting on December 15, 2015 @ 7:15 PM (Lake Special use) at the Township Hall. Regular meeting to follow at 7:30 PM.

Jason Black has been elected as the new Planning Commission Chair and Marla Platt the Secretary. At this time the Planning Commission will be meeting January 19 at 7:30 PM at the Township Hall.

Board of Zoning Appeals: No meeting last month.

Zoning Administrator: Report on file

CORRESPONDANCE RECEIVED:

- **Comcast Cable** – 3 letters, on file
- **Johnson Outdoor Digital Signs** – letter received on file
Johnson Sign still wants to install a digital billboard on M57/Lincoln Lake Rd. Letter states that the board's decision not to allow this is unconstitutional and they are willing to challenge this issue.

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CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Johnson Sign** – Billboard at Lincoln Lake and M-57
Dean stated he thinks the digital billboard could cause dangerous situations. Dean referred to Township Zoning Ordinance section 14.4 (d) that states “A billboard shall not be so illuminated that it obscures or interferes with the effectiveness of an official traffic sign, signal or device.” The board discussed the potential safety issues with allowing the digital billboard in this location since there are already two digital billboards at that intersection.
Motion to deny the digital billboard at Lincoln Lake and M-57 offered by Parker second by Rittersdorf was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.
- **Bovee Property:** Dean gave an update and said they are working on the property and it will be taken care of soon.
- **Birdsall Property:** Birdsall stated he is continuing to work on cleaning up the property. Has the frame left and a bit of trash and should be finished in about two weeks. Dean said that was fine and to try to finish within the next couple of weeks and before snow.
- **Township Office Hours and Holiday Hours for 2016:**
VanHouten read the proposed Holiday hours for the Township office for 2016.
Motion to approve the 2016 Oakfield Township Holiday Hours offered by Parker second by Sowerby was approved by a voice call vote 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Planning Commission Appointment** – James Tilton
Motion to recommend the appointment of James Tilton to the Oakfield Township Planning Commission offered by Dean second by Sowerby was approved per a voice call vote 7-0.
- **Fire Auxiliary:** April Decess gave a brief history of the Fire Auxiliary including the purpose of the auxiliary and the community service activities they are involved in. However the current auxiliary has decided to dissolve for 2 reasons, 1. Lack of participation 2. Finding out they need to get insurance since they are an outside entity. Decess stated they would be willing to donate their current funds to a new Fire Auxiliary. Three people were in attendance that are interested in becoming a Fire Commission. They could be under the umbrella of the township so they would not need their own insurance and the board would oversee their funds.
Dean suggested to Decess to bring the treasurer the balance of their funds after they pay off all current bills. Parker would then set up an account.
Motion to accept the Fire Auxiliary funds for the benefit of the Fire Department and have a three member Oakfield Township Fire Auxiliary Commission offered by Dean second by Parker was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.
- **Cadillac Court** – Private Road
New house going up.
- **Oakfield Township Historical Commission** – New Sign
- **Kent County Road Commission** – Budget and Five year Improvement Plan on file
- **Board of Review Training** –
Motion to pay for Board of Review training for 2016 offered by Dean second by Sowerby was approved per a roll call vote 7-0.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS: (limited to 5 minutes)

None

BOARD COMMENTS:

Mason stated the Kent County Fire Commission Meeting is Friday, December 11, 8:30 AM at the Kent County Road Commission offices.

Porter asked Chief Peterson the status of the AFG grant. Chief Peterson replied that it opened up yesterday and would be open for about 45 days.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM offered by Sowerby second by Parker approved per a voice call vote 7-0.

Linda L. VanHouten
Oakfield Township Clerk