

## ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017, 9 A.M.

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Supervisor David Meister.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present: Robert Blackmore, James Wisniski, Shelli Johnson, LaVonne Beebe, Meister.

**MINUTES:** **Motion** by Blackmore second by Wisniski to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 Regular Meeting with the following correction: Page 2, under Langland Park Sign, change "Planning Commission" to "Parks & Recreation Committee". Motion carried. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Special Meeting with the following corrections: Under BS & A add the word "program" after "general ledger"; under Adjourn change "p.m." to "a.m.". Motion carried.

**CLERK'S REPORT:** Clerk Johnson presented the Profit & Loss Budget Report. She asked the board to change the meeting date from Tuesday, March 7, 2017 to Monday, March 6, 2017 at 9 a.m., due to election training. Consensus to change the meeting date. She and Deputy Clerk Mary Lou Millard attended a clerk's meeting in Manistee at which each township clerk approved its School District Election Plan. They also attended a clerk's meeting to view a presentation on new election equipment.

Johnson informed the board that by law and because of her new position, she had to resign from the fire department, but the board can delegate her to the fire department.

A Special Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22 at 9:30 a.m. in the township hall. The kayak launch is on the agenda. After adjournment of the Special Meeting, the board will have a work session for the 2017-2018 budget.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Treasurer Beebe reported a balance of \$225,641.21 in the General Fund for the month ending January, 2017; there is a balance of \$69,503.09 in the Fire Fund for the month ending January, 2017.

**AMEND AGENDA:** Add Collaborative Sewer Project Resolution, after Maintenance Contract.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MARK SOHLDEN, COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION:** Mark Sohlden, Manistee County Road Commission Manager, presented the Annual Report. He outlined 2016 local projects/work completed; 2016 federal and locally funded projects completed. Sohlden listed proposed federal and state funded projects; and proposed 2017 local projects/work. He said the township should submit a list of projects to the MCRC so estimates can be prepared (if not done already.) He said also proposed is Onekama Township road re-graveling (various roads). This project was moved to 2017 due to other priorities in late 2016.

Other items discussed: summary of 2016 Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating for federal aid paved primary roads; transportation funding update, information on maintenance and equipment, winter

guidelines and information. Two new full-time truck drivers were hired and three seasonal employees were also hired.

Al Taylor reported that MDOT is reviewing the M-22 "Scenic By-Way" signs before deciding to install them.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER PAULINE JAQUISH:** Jaquish reported that the Michigan Land Bank for foreclosed, blighted properties, is looking into property at Bear Lake.

**COUNTY COMMISSIONER JEFF DONTZ:** Dontz is the re-elected chairman of the commissioners. He said the audit showed a positive of \$235,000. He warned about a "Ransomware" hacker. The hacker hit on computers at the courthouse but it was caught in time to prevent problems. Meetings are continuing on a Collaborative Sewer Initiative. He said the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians will open the old casino building by the end of February as a child development center.

**MRA:** Ken Kott of the Manistee Recreation Association said Onekama Township has 39 residents participating in MRA activities. He requested Onekama Township to contribute an amount between \$2,721.16 and \$2,993.27 or match the 2016 contribution of \$3,000. The contribution contract request was scheduled for discussion during the budget work session.

**PLANNING COMMISSION:** Vice Chairman Al Taylor said the commission is still awaiting experts' reports on Traffic, Marina and Zoning for consideration of the amendment to the SUP for Portage Point Inn.

**ASSESSOR:** Meister reported the Onekama roll has been turned in. Notices will be mailed on Feb. 22.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:** Chairman Tom Gerhardt reported the group had an organizational meeting at which the current officers were re-elected. They are Gerhardt, chairman; Dennis Beebe, vice chairman, Jim Trout, secretary. Alternates are Alice Hendricks and Joann Hilliard. The ZBA approved minutes of a hearing Nov. 15, 2016 for John Bigler.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:** Meister read Zoning Administrator Kris Philpot's report for January, 2017. No land use permits issued in January; ZBA organizational meeting was held Jan. 30, 2017.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Amor Sign Studios in Manistee submitted a bid for a "Leave only footsteps, take only photos"-type sign for Langland Park. The bids were \$491 for a 12 inch by 46 inch sign; and \$860.80 for an 18 inch by 96 inch sign. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve the sign bid of \$860.80. Motion carried.

**C & W TOILETS:** Contract was reviewed; Clerk Johnson to arrange a definitive work schedule with the company.

**KAYAK LAUNCH:** Placed on the Feb. 22 Special Meeting agenda.

**CONTRACT APPROVAL FOR TOWNSHIP RESIDENT'S HOOK-UP TO VILLAGE SEWER SYSTEM:** Village President Roger Burger explained the need for the township approval of the hook-up. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to have Meister sign the contract. Motion carried.

Meister left the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Blackmore conducted the meeting.

**MTA:** No report.

**PLA:** Taylor said fireworks this year may be launched from a pontoon boat. Petunia plantings and concerts are being scheduled. Banners need replacing.

**FIRE/RESCUE:** Fire Chief Clinton Osborn reported 23 Fire/Rescue runs and 2 meetings for January. He is preparing paperwork for review by the ISO to help further achieve a lower fire rating. He attended the Manistee County Fire Chiefs meeting in January. Fire Marshal Julie Secontine gave a presentation on the Mutual Aid Box alarm system. The chiefs will meet on Feb. 16 to finalize a plan to present to the County Board of Commissioners on how to use funds from the sale of jaws. He will request that Onekama Township get air bags and chains. He has received all the items from the Miscellaneous Adapters Grant of \$3,500 for the new truck. He is submitting a revenue sharing board grant application for pediatric mannequins for \$450.

**Motion** by Wisniski, second by Beebe to reinstate Johnson to the Fire Department. Motion carried.

Meister returned at 11:45 a.m.

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** Chairman Mary Reed reported the committee reviewed the Lake Management Plan for 2016 which will be available online in March, hard copies will be distributed in the community. Committee member Herb Lenon prepared a summary of the report. The complete report contains charts and graphs to show the current status. Exotic invasive species have been monitored for eight years. The survey shows 164 acres of Eurasian water milfoil were treated in 2009, to 21.35 acres in 2016; 83 acres of phragmites were treated in 2009 and it was less than an acre this year. She presented the State of the Lake Report, chart examples, spreadsheets of costs. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to have Meister sign the Invasive Species Contract. Motion carried.

**WATERSHED:** Chairman Taylor said the group discussed priorities and plan to update and get approval for a new Watershed Plan.

**ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS:** Taylor said AES is helping with the M-22 Corridor.

**ROADS:** Wisniski said the road commission has a new pickup truck and has ordered a new blade truck.

**PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION:** No report.

**HAZARDOUS WASTE CONTRACT:** **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Beebe to have Meister sign the \$350 contract. Motion carried.

**DEQ/TENNANT:** Application denied by the DEQ.

**ONEKAMA AND MANISTEE ISD SCHOOLS RESOLUTIONS:** Resolutions to be filed in treasurer's school records.

**PHELPS CASE:** No action.

**MAINTENANCE CONTRACT:** Place on March agenda.

**COLLABORATIVE SEWER PROJECT RESOLUTION:** **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to approve Resolution No. 2017-02.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2017-02**  
**COLLABORATIVE SEWER PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, Onekama Township has participated in a preliminary collaborative sewer project involving Onekama Township, Arcadia Township, Bear Lake Township, Pleasanton Township, the Village of Bear Lake and the Little River band of Ottawa Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the project is to assess the economic and practical viability and benefits of developing a sewer system that would connect the participating local governments with the wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians; and

**WHEREAS**, the potential benefits for constructing such a sewer system include: creating infrastructure to develop and expand businesses and create jobs; protecting surface and ground waters and Lake Michigan from pollution caused by septic system failure; protecting three critically important watersheds; and achieving an economy of scale in completing such a project through collaboration; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the potential benefits of the project the participants believe that their respective governments should proceed to the next phase of the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the next phase of the project involves two steps: (1) the formation of a sewer authority involving all local governments and (2) an application by the sewer authority to USDA Rural Development to finance the construction of the sewer system which would result in a definitive financing proposal involving grant and loan funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost for the next phase of the project includes legal fees of \$10,000 to establish the sewer authority (Attorney Eric Williams) and \$30,000 in fees to complete the application to USDA Rural Development (Wade Trim/Brian Sousa), a total of \$40,000; and

**WHEREAS**, a USDA Rural Development Planning grant could be sought by the participants that could cover \$23,000 of the \$40,000 in costs to establish the authority and complete the financing application, leaving a balance of \$17,000; and

**WHEREAS**, if all five local governments continue to participate in the next phase, each local government would contribute a sum of \$3,400 if the planning grant is secured or \$8,000 if it is not secured, with an understanding that the sum (\$3,400 of \$8,000) could be financed through the financing provided by USDA Rural Development for the sewer project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Onekama Township shall make an initial payment of \$3,400 toward establishing the sewer authority and submitting a complete financing application to USDA Rural Development with the understanding the participants will make their best efforts to secure a planning grant, with the payment made to \_\_\_\_\_, who shall coordinate completion of the planning grant application and prepare and oversee agreements on behalf of the participating local governments with Attorney Eric Williams and the firm Wade Trim to complete the formation of the sewer authority and the sewer construction grant application to USDA Rural Development; and

**FURTHER**, that we shall be provided copies of all agreements and other documents executed, prepared or completed as part of this phase; and

**FURTHER**, that our current representative (s) on the collaborative sewer ad-hoc committee continue to be our representative(s) to develop the proposed sewer authority and funding application with final approval by our governing body.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: James Wisniski, yes; Robert Blackmore, yes; Shelli Johnsonm yes; LaVonne Beebe, yes; David Meister, yes.

Nays: None.

Absent: None.

Supervisor Meister declared the Resolution adopted.

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Shelli Johnson, Clerk

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I Shelli Johnson, hereby certify that the foregoing is a Resolution duly made and passed by the Board of Trustees of Onekama Township at its meeting held on February 7, 2017 in Onekama Township Hall with a quorum present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelli Johnson, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**BILLS: Motion** by Wisniski, second by Blackmore to pay all regular and incoming bills, but withhold the current bill from Running, wise and Ford. Motion carried.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

---MRA	Consumer's Energy	Dan Behring
---Army Corps of Engineers		Michigan Land Bank

**ADJOURN:** 12:50 p.m.

Shelli Johnson, Clerk

Onekama Township