

**ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP BOARD REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER. 7, 2010, 9 A.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Supervisor David Meister.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Members present: Trustee James Wisniski, Trustee Roland Clement, Treasurer LaVonne Schafer-Beebe, Clerk Helen Mathieu.

**MINUTES: Motion** by Beebe, second by Wisniski, to accept the minutes of the November 1, 2010 regular meeting. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Beebe reported that the balance of the General Fund as of November 30, 2010 is \$378,721.52; the balance of the Fire Fund as of November 30, 2010 is \$262,849.77. She reported that a township newsletter was inserted in the tax bills sent out in December. In response to inquiries from some residents who have their bills sent directly to their mortgage company, she explained that through the new computer system, she mails the tax bills directly to the mortgage company off the computer. The property owners received an identical tax bill for their information only.

**AMEND AGENDA:** Add liquor control and revenue sharing under New Business; remove escrow and policy for purchasing from the agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**COMMISSIONER ED HAIK:** The board will send a letter to Haik thanking him for his service to the township as a county commissioner.

**COMMISSIONER KEN HILLIARD:** He discussed the use of building inspectors for both Benzie and Manistee County. The board requested more information on this issue. The county commissioners' meeting is Thursday, December 9 at 1 p.m.

**FIRE/RESCUE:** Tom Kleinsorge reported specifications from Rosenhauer are being worked on for the new fire truck; gloves are needed, battery has been ordered; trucks and Argo and pumps are all winterized; Christmas party is Dec. 20. Fire fighter classes begin in January; the classes he teaches will be in the township hall. He submitted information on the time in and out and how long trucks and crew were at Consumer's Energy-related incidents. Report received for November: 3 meetings, 4 runs and air pack inspections for fire; 7 rescues, 1 meeting and 1 run to Brown Township for rescue.

**ONEKAMA COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMISSION:** Mary Lou Millard summarized the commission's minutes: Jim Trout and Roger Cody met with DNRE officials regarding lake wetland and bottomland questions; Consultant John Iagoangeli explained the draft zoning ordinance his company prepared and how it evolved. Planning Commission teams have been assigned to assess both the township and village ordinances and the draft from the consultant.

Report is placed on file.

Meister read a letter of resignation from Dan Behring resigning his position as Chairman of the Onekama Community Planning Commission. **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Clement to accept the resignation letter. Motion carried.

**Motion** by Mathieu, second by Clement, to appoint Al Taylor to fill Behring's unexpired

term , which expires in 2012. Roll call vote: Wisniski, yes; Clement, yes; Mathieu, yes; Beebe, no; Meister, yes. Motion carried.

At Trout's request, Meister will contact Iacoangeli to obtain either a PDF or E-mail of the draft zoning ordinance for each planning commission member.

Trout was thanked by the board for his efforts in obtaining permission and installing an enclosed informational box at the post office, for use by the village and township.

**SEWER PROJECT:** John DeVol of Fleis & Vandenbrink Engineers said grants for a sewer project could be available in 2011, and could pay up to 90 percent of the project. The township could outline the project and submit a preliminary application for a grant. Preliminary work for the application would cost \$2,000. He suggested the township get its name in for possible consideration. Consensus of the board is to get the application in, at a cost of \$2,000.

**BOARD OF REVIEW:** Assessor Ginny Martz said the Board of Review will meet Tuesday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. in the township hall to correct clerical errors or mutual mistakes of fact.

**ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS:** Chairman Tom Gerhardt said the ZBA has scheduled a public hearing on Monday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. in the township hall for Galen Miller and Susan Neeb who seek three variances on property at 8701 S. Portage Point Drive. Gerhardt pointed out that his term and the term of member Dennis Beebe expire this month. **Motion** by Meister, second by Mathieu to extend their terms for one year, or until a new community zoning board is formed. Motion carried.

**ZONING ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:** Zoning Administrator Dana Schindler reported five land use permits, one violation for the month of November. Report placed on file.

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** Mary Reed reported the 2010 report from Jennifer Jones of Lakeshore Environmental should be received in January and the committee will meet in January to review the report. This committee may combine the January meeting with the Watershed January meeting. Grant Pool and Al Taylor will meet to update goals of the watershed and will discuss status of storm drain monitoring.

**PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE:** Vice Chairman Mary Lou Millard reported the group is looking into signs warning about swimming hazards in the Channel during rough waters, Glen Park Michigan Historical Marker-Historic Site Application has been received by the Michigan History Foundation. Consensus of the board that members of the committee who wish to voluntarily meet in January, February or March can do so. Those able to attend will meet Thursday, Jan. 13 at 8 a.m. in the township hall.

**COMMUNITY DOCKS:** No action or decision until Spring.

**MTA:** Those attending the annual MTA Conference Jan. 26-28 in Grand Rapids will be Mathieu, Beebe, Wisniski, Amber Flippen, Mary Kuipers, Millard.

**PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION:** Mathieu reported the bill for the lighthouse project is \$106.88 over the allotted \$6,500. The board agreed to pay the \$106.88 and said that this is the final township payment for the lighthouse.

**PORTAGE LAKE ASSOCIATION:** Meister read a letter from Margaret Panches, PLA president, outlining the group's activities for 2010. Consensus of board to send a thank you letter to the group for its efforts on behalf of the township.

**DEQ:** Meister read a copy of letter sent regarding John Adams property for sale in Onekama Township which stated the DNRE is not interested in purchasing land in Block 27 or other land along Outlot 6, and reminded him that the DNRE will not authorize placement of docks, boardwalks or improvements on Outlot 6.

**RECYCLE:** Meister asked to board to include purchase of a camera for the recycling area in the budget for next year.

**COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION:** Wisniski reported that the County Road commission has placed a “dead end” sign on Avenue E at the pierhead.

**ROAD MILLAGE:** Millage passed in the November election is approved by Board of Canvassers.

**CRESCENT BEACH:** Complaints received on the type of gravel used. Meister will ask Road Commission Director Jerry Peterson for copies of a grade sample for the gravel which was supplied to Onekama Township this fall by the Onekama County Road Commission.

**PORTAGE LAKE AVE., SUNNYSIDE, LAKEVIEW (DIRKSEN, BROWN):** Status conference held Nov. 15 on Dirksen/Brown; no report.

**DDA:** Place on January agenda.

**ORV: Motion** by Wisniski, second by Beebe to correct the ORV Ordinance No. 2010-1 as follows: Add to Section 2, Page 1: “This also includes access on Portage Point Drive from Herkelrath to Bayview. Motion carried. The board also chose not to include 8 Mile Road in the ordinance, and Section 3 will remain in the ordinance.

**VILLAGE-TRASH DAY:** Letter received from village regarding Trash Day. The village said it will provide space, pay its driver, and for a front end loader.

**SAFE ROUTE TO SCHOOL GRANT: Motion** by Clement, second by Wisniski to approve \$750 for the Safe Route to School Grant process for Onekama Schools to be considered in the program directed by Michigan State University. The university has been awarded a grant from the Michigan Fitness Foundation and MDOT to assist up to 12 schools to develop a Safe Routes to School.

**CONSOLIDATION:** Consensus of board to proceed with the Shared Services Initiative involving an assessment of options for the Village of Onekama and the Township of Onekama to consolidate into one governmental entity.

**ALICE HENDRICKS:** Hendricks will arrange a meeting with Village Council President Bob Blackmore, herself, Meister and Tom Koon. They will arrange a township meeting for all groups to share ideas and plans for the future.

**JOINT VILLAGE/TOWNSHIP MEETING:** Meeting will be scheduled for sometime in February.

**LIQUOR CONTROL:** Meister read a letter from the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission which announces that the sale of spirits, mixed spirit drinks ,beer and wine between 7 a.m. on Sunday and 2 a.m. on Monday will become effective Dec. 16, unless prohibited by resolution from the local legislative body. No action was taken by the Onekama Township Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**BILLS: Motion** by Wisniski, second by Beebe to pay all regular and incoming bills, including the salaries for the fire department. Motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

---USDA

---County Plan Comm.

---Charter Communications

---Cty Board of Commissioners

---Headsets.com

**ADJOURN:** 12:25 P.M.

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David Meister, Supervisor

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Helen Mathieu, Clerk

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LaVonne Schafer-Beebe, Treasurer

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Roland Clement, Trustee

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James Wisniski, Trustee