

DRAFT DRAFT

ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012, 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: Trustee James Wisniski,, Trustee Roland Clement, Treasurer LaVonne Schafer-Beebe, Clerk Helen Mathieu.

Also present: County Road Commission Manager Jerry Peterson and Road Commission Chairman Bill Eckhardt, in addition to 28 members of the public.

MINUTES: Motion by Wisniski, second by Clement to accept the minutes of the Jan. 9 Special Meeting with the following correction: change “Land Use Application” to “Land Use Application Permit”. Motion carried.

Motion by Wisniski, second by Clement to accept the Jan. 3, 2012 Regular Meeting as presented. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Beebe reported the balance in the General Fund as of Jan. 31, 2012 is \$617,922.92; balance in the Fire Fund as of Jan. 31, 2012 is \$255,315.61. She reported that she collected \$4.5 million in summer taxes, with \$300,000 uncollected, and collected \$1 million in winter, with \$300,000 uncollected. She received a Form 1099 from W. W. Energy Corp. showing it had sent the Township a check for \$8,573.

AMEND AGENDA: Remove Manistee Recreation Association from the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ROADS: Peterson presented a maintenance report for 2011, which shows that \$176,538.88 was spent in 2011 for Onekama. He said he will ask the DEQ to look at the work needed on the Dyke Street culvert then turn it over to the village.

Other projects and estimated costs are : Rogers Memorial Drive overlay-\$31,962.70 match from township, \$13,698.30 from road commission for a total estimated cost of \$45,661. Second Street shoulder paving-\$10, 673.90 match from township, \$7,15.93 match from road commission for a total estimated cost of \$17,789.83. Erdman Road shoulder paving--\$97,507.20 match from township, \$65,004.80 match from road commission for a total estimated cost of \$162,512. Thirteen Mile Road drain repair and walking deck--\$10,015.50 match from township, \$6,677 match from road commission, for a total estimated cost of \$16,692.50. Farr Road—on hold, awaiting decision if Manistee Township will work with Onekama Township on costs. Portage Point Drive (Angel Slide) retaining wall—approximate cost is \$140,000.

Pierport resident Jon Phillips asked the board what can be done to repair the Langland Park (Turn-Around) wash-out. Peterson will discuss this with the Army Corps of Engineers. Peterson also said the road commission is working on Angel Slide repairs.

Meister said the Disincorporation Commission, referring to the \$630,000 “wish list” is requesting a list of immediate road needs in the village, placed in the order to be done. Peterson will do this.

Bids for the listed local road improvement projects will be decided at the next board meeting.

COMMISSIONER KEN HILLIARD: Hilliard said the commission discussed the lack of police coverage on the roads and is looking for ways to fill the gap with the least

amount of money. The county went from having 13 officers down to six or seven. Public Safety meetings are now on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the first Friday

COMMISSIONER DUANE ANDERSON: Pointed out the Revenue Sharing money will continue to dwindle. Meister thanked the Revenue Sharing Board and County Commissioners for their help on grants for the new fire truck.

FIRE/RESECUE: Chief Lawrence Hrachovina thanked everyone involved for help in getting the new fire truck; funds had been saved for four or five years for the truck. He said the approximately \$9,000 remaining from a previously awarded grant will be used for turnout gear and water rescue suits. Rescue training on ice water and hypothermia is Feb. 13, dry ice training is Feb. 20; CPR training will be March 12 and 19; appointment set up for air pack and maintenance inspection; policy on putting trucks in the barn will now be that the wheel chucks will be left under the trucks and the brakes will be set. There were 2 runs to Brown Township, 7 rescues and 1 meeting, 1 fire run, 5 Jaws runs-4 canceled for the month of January.

Motion by Wisniski, second by Beebe to accept the application of Connie Aves of Onekama for the Rescue Unit of the fire department. Motion carried.

ONEKAMA COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMISSION: **Motion** by Wisniski, second by Beebe to appoint Charlotte Straight for a three-year term (2012-2014) on the planning commission. Motion carried. Bonnie Miller verbally volunteered to represent the village on the planning commission, pending approval from the Village Board.

BOARD OF REVIEW/ASSESSOR: Assessor Ginny Martz reported the Board of Review organizational meeting is Tuesday, March 6 at 9 a.m. in the township hall, Board of Review meetings are Monday, March 12 from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. and Wednesday, March 14, from 2-5 and 6 to 9 p.m. She picked up deeds from the County Equalization Department, some of which were dated Oct. 28, 2011; receiving death certificates with Social Security numbers on them, which are supposed to be blocked, had problems with splits, some descriptions are incorrect. New construction has been calculated, village re-assessments are being conducted.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Chairman Tom Gerhardt reported the group met Jan. 25, 2012 for its organizational meeting. Officers re-elected are Gerhardt, Chairman; Roland Clement, Secretary. Others at the meeting were member Dennis Beebe, Alternate Joann Hilliard and Recording Secretary Mary Lou Millard. Gerhardt reported there were cases before the board in 2011.

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: Meister read Zoning Administrator's report: 1 land use permit, PPI still in violation. Philpot completed Module 1 of 7 of the Citizen Planner Certification Class completed with a perfect score.

PARKS AND RECREATION: Co-Chairman Howard Hughes presented a comprehensive report: Paul Mueller is the chairman of the Tree Sub-Committee; update on trees that need removal and grinding; will plant 1,000 trees and shrubs on Arbor Day with the help of approximately 20 planting teams; will have Appreciation Day in Conjunction with Onekama Days; decided to meet monthly throughout the year to allow time for advanced planning efforts during the winter months; Jennica Mathieu will explore possibility for Disc Golf, Senior Tennis is planned at the tennis courts in front of the school. Committee asked the board to contribute \$200 for the lighthouse project; denied due to lack of support for a motion.

MTA: Annual conference in Detroit was attended by Treasurer Beebe, Trustee Wisniski and Deputy Treasurer Amber Flippen.

--- Beebe reported she attended a "Finance" class which discussed the fact that the state has no funds, best bet for money is a millage or assessment; DDA is better for larger cities. In the "Ask the Expert" class she asked about school tax collections. Is the state going back to one (yearly) tax in the summer. The answer was probably, don't know when. She attended classes on "Putting Out the Welcome Mat" and "Building Entrepreneurs".

---Wisniski attended a class on “Medical Marijuana Law” which pointed out a shop can only have five clients and 12 plants, doctors are not allowed to prescribe the medication but can send a letter. He also attended “Cost and Coverage for Emergency Services” class, which pointed out that reports should be obtained from every person involved in an accident and their insurance companies; some fire departments charge for home fires. He attended an “Off Road Vehicle” class and “Paving Way to Better Roads” class. In the “roads” class it was pointed out that any sidewalk on the county right-of-way will become township responsibility. Need to look into creating an ordinance to have the property owner liable for sidewalks in front of his property, including repairs and snow removal.

---Flippen attended a “Right to Farm and Local Conflict Resolution” class, “Preserving Farms and Waterways”, “Top 13 Tax Collectors” Problems and Utilizing the Social Media for the Public”. In the Social Media class it was pointed out that a good website is important and Twitter and Facebook are free tools that townships should utilize.

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION: No report.

INVASIVE SPECIES: Chairman Mary Reed reported the committee met Jan. 23 to review the format of the 2011 Management Report. It also reviewed Contracts, Evaluation Proposal for Hybrid Milfoil at Depth, Permits, Chemical Treatment for 3 Years, Maps, 3 recommended treatments for the deep water Eurasian Water Milfoil. Mathieu reported she had faxed the application for the permit to the DEQ.

ALLIANCE FOR ECONOMIC SUCCESS: Meister reported a \$157,000 grant was awarded to use toward creation of a six or seven township combined Master Plan. Consultant John Iacoangeli of Beckett & Raeder is the consultant for the project.

EXPLORE THE SHORES: Meister reported a group of area representatives attended a state level funders’ meeting in Lansing. He said the fund is \$500 million but only can spend up to one third of what comes in from interest, not the principle. The funders group can only give out \$20 million, Money goes to the State Park Fund for state parks. Tim Ervin of the Alliance for Economic Success presented a power point program on what has and is being done and put a dollar price on the parks. The state group advised the local group to prioritize the park projects and place them in a five-year program.

DISINCORPORATION COMMISSION: Meister reported on items from the Feb. 6 commission meeting: said there will be two public meetings on the disincorporation issue, Thursday, June 21 and Tuesday, July 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in Farr Center. If there is a disincorporation, in a tentative proposed five-year budget \$4,000 would be appropriated for the treasurer to do the sewer work, \$2,000 added to the clerk’s salary for additional work, and a tentative fourth day of work for the office manager would be figured into this budget. Meister will try to project a five-year proposed budget for the Disincorporation Commission.

On the question of keeping the village zoning administrator, Meister said this was brought up several times at the Feb. 6 meeting. He said The zoning administrator resigned from the township position with no notice or warning, the administrator just quit.

Regarding the cleaning lady at Farr Center: Consensus of the board to keep the same individual, who is an independent contractor, to continue to work at Farr Center.

Consensus of the board that the designated fund balance in the minor/major roads plus the value of the village truck, will be used for village winter maintenance until the fund runs out.

Consensus of the board that whatever balance is in the General Fund will be used strictly in what would be called the previous village limits.

Consensus of the board that the transfer of \$135,000 in the Equipment Fund will remain as an Equipment Fund to do maintenance and operating work as needed. No need to supplement the Equipment Fund.

