

THOMPSON TWP. BOARD-REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
Thompson Township Hall
May 13, 2014 at 6:00p.m.

The Thompson Township Regular Board Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Theresa Lund, Supervisor, and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken by the Supervisor for Board Members present.

PRESENT: Cathi LaBar, Sandra Houghton, Theresa Lund, Martha Wnuk, Cynthia McDaniel

ABSENT: None

Approval of Agenda: Martha Wnuk, Trustee, made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Cemetery and Wind Turbines under New Business, 2nd by Sandra Houghton, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay.

Brief Public Comment: Jim Ansell voiced concerns about the gravestones in the cemetery that have fallen over or are leaning and wondered what, if anything would be done about it. Ray Gould stated that Chvala Road is nearly impassible due to mud. Laurie Hastings supported this statement. Both voiced frustration with the road and nothing being done to fix the problem. They plan to go to the Schoolcraft County Road Commission meeting and contact state representatives as well. Dan LaFoille, Schoolcraft County Commissioner, voiced concerns about the new law regarding landline service and how that could impact rural areas in the U.P. for 911, emergency management, and reliable phone service for residents. Jon Burk, fire chief, commented that with the current bridge construction on M-149, Inwood Township will be responding, as primary to calls on that side during the construction period if they are closer, Thompson will still respond.

Approval of Constant Agenda Items: Sandra Houghton, Trustee, made the motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of April 8, 2014 and the treasurer's report, 2nd by Cathi LaBar, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay.

Assessor's Report: Colleen Brook, Assistant Assessor, summarized and explained the written report for the board members. Motion made by Cathi LaBar, Treasurer, to accept assessor's report as given, 2nd by Cynthia McDaniel, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay. Colleen also suggested that windmills will likely come to the township regardless, so the township should try to get them in place as soon as possible to take advantage of tax revenue before changes are made that would decrease this tax revenue.

Fire Department Report: Jon Burk, fire chief, reported no calls or bills for the month. Motion made by Martha Wnuk to accept the report as given and to approve any upcoming firefighter trainings for the month, 2nd by Cynthia McDaniel, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay. He is still working on agreements with the forest service and state regarding support for wildfires and receiving compensation and fee for vehicle use beyond 24 hours-SAM registration. Motion made by Martha Wnuk to allow use of the township's information to complete the SAM registration, 2nd by Theresa Lund, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay. Tabled action on applications for 2 new firefighters until next meeting-need to confirm liability coverage of non-certified firefighters on roster. Motion made by Martha Wnuk to add Agneta Billings to the roster as a transfer from Inwood Township contingent on driver records inquiry, 2nd by Cathi LaBar, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay.

Historical Report- None

Community Recognition Program None for June. The Fourth of July Committee will be recognized for the month of July.

Road Committee The committee will meet after Theresa receives a list from the Schoolcraft County Road Commission of which roads the township is responsible for.

Firehall-Concrete Tabled until June meeting. Jon is checking on cost of concrete. Sandra Houghton suggested purchasing concrete and having a group do the finishing work to save money.

Electrical-Townhall & Sacristy Tabled until next meeting. The board is waiting for information regarding cost of the trench.

Chloride Theresa Lund stated that the rate for chloride will be \$9.04-9.26/bag this year. Motion made by Cathi LaBar to have 80% chloride mixture applied to roads this year for the 1st application with more of Gierke Road to be chloride, not just in front of houses, and all of Erickson down the center of the road to help preserve recent repairs, 2nd by Sandra Houghton, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay.

July Meeting Motion made by Martha Wnuk to change the July meeting date from July 8 at 6:00pm to July 1 at 6:00pm, 2nd by Theresa Lund, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay.

Cemetery Theresa Lund stated that Graphos Year Round was doing spring cleanup at the cemetery and there are parts of two trees that have fallen and the remainder of both need to be cut and cleaned up. They will do the work for \$100.00. Motion made by Martha Wnuk to pay Graphos Year Round \$100.00 to clean up the trees in the cemetery, 2nd by Cathi LaBar, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay. Meg will check with the Historical Committee to see if the group would be willing to help do extra cleanup at the cemetery and look into gravestones that have fallen over to see what can be done.

Wind Turbines Theresa Lund shared MTA's response with the board to her inquiry on the township's ability to have input on wind energy. Dan LaFoille stated Michigan State University will be at the Schoolcraft County Board's May 29 meeting at 7:00pm and Heritage will be at the Schoolcraft County Board's June 17 meeting at 7:00pm, suggesting the township board members attend to gather information. The planning committee is working on a revised ordinance for Schoolcraft County regarding wind turbines. The ordinance will go between the committee and the zoning board of appeals which will have final say. Dan is concerned that there is no provision at this time dealing with roads damaged by wind turbine construction traffic or the cost of dismantling the turbines when they are no longer in use. He is hoping to change this to include provisions for both issues and wants to make sure the ordinance is in place so that Schoolcraft County does not have the same problems as Delta County.

Correspondence/Communications- MI DEQ permit-Dufour Creek; Certificate of Liability Insurance; DEQ wetland violation letter -Zellar Excavation

Public Comment: Dan LaFoille stated that the demolition of the old hospital is not going to remove the old footings completely, but only 2 feet into the ground.

Pay all Bills and Wages: Motion was made by Martha Wnuk to pay all due bills and wages until next meeting, ck#5961-5978, Total Amount \$27,665.61, 2nd by Theresa Lund, Passed 5 Yea, 0 Nay.

Motion to adjourn: by Martha Wnuk

Next Meeting: June 2, 2014 at 6p.m.