

November 18, 2010

A regular board meeting was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 4:00p.m. All board members were present except for Diane Kut. There were 22 public attendees.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Aho to approve the minutes from meetings held on October 11th and October 12th. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to approve the agenda with additions. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Monthly water samples were collected from the Lind and Townline systems and sent to the State Lab in Houghton for bacterial testing. All samples met the MDNRE standard requirements.

Monthly water usage reports were tabulated and sent to the MDNRE in Gwinn.

Installed sixty feet of 6" water main on Forest Parkway along with a fire hydrant and two service taps so the Township could terminate the two customer's connections to the City's water main on Crystal Avenue.

Repairs were made on a 6" water main break along US-2 that serves the DNR District office.

Chlorination continued on Townline system due to bad sample results in Hematite Township.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Aho to approve the Public Works Foreman's report. All ayes. Motion carried.

GIBSON LAKE PARK AND UPDATES:

Lesandrini stated that all of the playground equipment was installed the last week in October. A six year old tested with thumbs up stated Lesandrini. The ages for the equipment is 13 years and below and the smaller unit is for 5 years and younger. The crew will be finishing up leveling top soil and possible seeding. We can hydro seed up until the first snow fall, stated Lesandrini. The basketball court has not been paved yet, but the pavilion has been taken care of. We have until the first of June to complete everything, stated Lesandrini. Alexa stated that the boat landing needs to be graveled, which they still might get that taken care of. Motion by Seppala, supported by Aho to approve the payment to Miller & Associates in the amount of \$36,883.00. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING CIVIL INFRACTION PENALTIES AND PROVISIONS ZONING:

Tinti presented the board with a resolution adopting civil infraction penalties and provisions for the zoning ordinance. Tinti stated that this will become effective January 2011. This will consolidate and clarify all of the Township's penalties in one single document. It's also a resolution that could be modified time to time by the board, stated Tinti. Since it has a penalty provision the rates can be changed anytime. The effective date needs to give a 30 day change notice of whenever these rate changes are adopted. Motion by Seppala, supported by Aho to approve the resolution adopting civil infraction penalties and provisions for the zoning ordinance. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

ZORIZIN SWAN LAKE:

Tinti stated that we have 2 civil infraction prosecutions that will go into trial on December 17th. We also have a circuit court action suit to be filed very shortly to seek the removal of the non-conforming nuisance activity that has been created. Tinti stated that he would keep the board informed as to the developments that occur.

REQUEST BIDS FOR PUBLIC WORKS UTILITY PLOW TRUCK:

Lesandrini stated that this is a budgeted item. We purchased a smaller truck for smaller utility jobs, but we need another plow truck. Recommendation from Scott Kenney was every 4 years, stated Lesandrini, and we have tabled this for the last few years. Alexa stated that if he has to take care of the ground storage tanks, lift stations and public works parking lot he has to call one of the other guys. It takes me, stated Alexa, 1 1/2 days to plow. Aho suggested that we get some prices. After further discussion, a motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to approve bidding out and advertising for a public works plow truck for 1 week period having the bids returned in 3 weeks and revisit at December's meeting. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

ELECTION RESULTS:

Lesandrini stated that the township's operating millage was defeated 252 yes – 407 – no. We have some work to do, stated Lesandrini. Resident Dalton Wirtanen wondered how the township board is going to restore confidence in the voters before holding another election, while another resident said there's uncertainty in this community with the fire department issue, saying we would go with more operating millage, but only approve enough fire department millage for maintenance. Fletch Monningh wondered what the allocated millages are and how much they raise? Dalpra stated that the county gives the township 1.15 mills, or about \$100,000.00 per year. It is uncertain what the stated allocation would be, stated Lesandrini. Tinti explained the township's vote for 4 mills for general operation expires in 2010. The township was only spreading 3 to 3 ½ mills. Of the 2 mills voted for fire protection, also expiring this year, only 1.75 mills was spread. Starting next year, he stated, you are not getting any voted mills. We will only have the allocated millage next year, so we need to motivate people to invest in the township or we will have to operate on our allocated millage. Fundamentally, he continued, the money to operate next year is about \$100,000.00, added to whatever the township already has. We do not know what the state funding will be, stated Tinti, but before going to the polls next May or August, we need a plan and we need voter confidence.

JIM WAISANEN RESIGNATION FROM ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:

Lesandrini stated that he had received a letter from Jim Waisanen, resigning from the zoning administrator position. Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to accept Waisanen's resignation regretfully, thanking him for the years of service. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Lesandrini stated that this resignation will take effect immediately. Lesandrini stated that since he has been working with Waisanen, he would like the board to consider him for that position. Also, he stated that Waisanen would continue to assist with problems. Instead of advertising and training someone in for that position, stated Lesandrini, I would resign from the zoning board of appeals. We have appointed 2 alternates for that board already. Dalpra stated that since the board had just received this letter, she has not had any time to absorb this. I commend you for stepping forward, stated Dalpra, but I'm not prepared to make that decision tonight. Tinti noted that the board could appoint Lesandrini as an acting administrator for the time being, but he would like to review the matter of compensating Lesandrini for that position. Motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to appoint Lesandrini as acting zoning administrator, without compensation for now and the issue of compensation will be revisited at the regular board meeting in December providing he provides the board with a letter of resignation from the zoning board of appeals. Roll call was taken. Aho, yes, Dalpra, yes, Seppala, yes, Lesandrini, Obstain. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO REVIEW ATTORNEY'S WRITTEN OPINION ON BUDGET REDUCTIONS:

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Seppala to convene into executive session at 4:45 p.m to discuss Attorney written opinion on the budget reductions. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to reconvene into the regular board meeting at 5:40 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried. Lesandrini stated that the board had decided to create an adhoc committee consisting of residents of the township, formed to work with the board on the budget reductions. Volunteer would be needed, commented Lesandrini. The meeting will be regarding recommendations that could be implemented by year end and also identifying cuts through January 2010-2011 and 2011-2012. Charlie Sandstrom and Wilma Kallie volunteered to be on that committee. Ron Waligursky presented the board with a copy of the Voice of the People, which was a list of requests put together by the residents in attendance of tonight's meeting that they would like to see addressed. Waligursky said that he would also like to be on the adhoc committee. Copies of the Voice Of The People will be presented to each board member. Lesandrini stated also that there will also be a open meeting held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at the township hall regarding recommendation that can be implemented by year end. Public is invited, stated Lesandrini.

Motion by Dalpra, supported by Aho to approve the EFT's in the amount of \$1,182.00, Monthly's in the amount of \$23,876.67, Prepaid's in the amount of \$18,566.61 with a total of \$43,625.58. Roll call was taken. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Seppala, supported by Dalpra to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Joanne Seppala/Clerk