ALMENA TOWNSHIP 27625 CR 375 PAW PAW MI 49079

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES JULY 11, 2012

The Almena Township Board met at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Supervisor Stiles.

<u>Roll call</u>: Mark Roman, Jim Rickli, Jim Manning, Doug Stiles, Diane Triquet, and Sandra Rickli. Absent: Jerry Lentz.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOTION: **Motion** by Doug Stiles to approve the agenda as presented, **second** by Jim Rickli. **Motion approved**.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

MOTION: **Motion** by Doug Stiles to approve the meeting minutes of June 13, 2012 as presented, **second** by Jim Manning. **Motion approved**.

PRESENTATION/APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Clerk Rickli presented the monthly disbursements for board approval:

MOTION: **Motion** by Sandra Rickli to approved bills in the amount of \$183,439.91, **second** by Doug Stiles.

<u>PETER COOK – Surveillance camera system</u>: Mr. Cook with Automation Design (which has been in business for 20 yrs) presented the type of surveillance camera system he is proposing for our location. He described many aspects of the system, the locations, the design, and the size. He explained that the total price, installed, for this system is \$6,458.20, which comes with a 1 year warranty. The committee comprised of Doug Stiles, Jerry Lentz, and Jim Manning have recommended this system/company after review of the other offers. There was much discussion, but many on the board would like to pursue grant information which was suggested by our insurance agent as being available grant information to be checked into by Doug.

<u>Matt Cooper</u>, in attendance, running for the position of 36th Circuit Court Judge, in the November election. Asking for Almena Township citizen support.

<u>Juris Kaps</u>, in attendance, seeking re-election for Prosecuting Attorney for Van Buren County. Looking for support of the citizens of Almena Township, in which he resides.

<u>Richard Rajkovich</u>, in attendance, running for State Representative, 66th District, as a Democrat. Also, askng for Almena Township citizen support.

REPORTS:

<u>Commissioner</u>: Dick Godfrey, not able to attend, but his report was distributed. <u>Sheriff's Dept.</u>: Report was given by Deputy Matt Wilton. Almena had 89 calls for service for the month of June.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. <u>Bill Henderson, Building Inspector</u>: Bill works for both Texas Township and Antwerp Township, an Inter-Governmental arrangement, with shared services, that benefit both townships. Paul Cutting, Treasurer for Texas Township, in attendance with him to outline the true benefits to such an arrangement of shared services. After much discussion and shared information, it was the consensus of the board to form an individual committee of Diane, Mark and Doug to review Building Inspector shared services option and the options of all the companies that have presented themselves to the township and return to the board with a recommendation, which will be thoroughly reviewed by this committee.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Clerk Rickli presented the following correspondence/announcements. The Primary State Election will be held Tuesday, August 7th, 2012 with polls being open from 7:00 A.M to 8:00 P.M.

The final bound copies of the audit have been received by Siegfried Crandall and when the final adjusting entries have been made the 2011-2012 Fiscal year will be closed out.

An update was given in regards to the siding at the Historic Township Hall. The special order from the mill for this particular siding was not the right wood ordered, not the correct size but Bommerscheim Construction (John) did not realize it, nor compare it, before he had primed the pieces. He was able to use what he had primed but the remaining pieces should be returned to Menards, the special order that was made wrong. The Clerk will look into this.

Information was shared in regards to upcoming seminars through MTA, one in regards to Planning and Zoning in Battle Creek; and a Fall Regional Meeting for the Township Board Trustees in September at the Fetzer Center at WMU in Kalamazoo.

REPORTS:

<u>Treasurer</u>: Diane questioned Attorney Gary Stewart in regards to the delinquent personal property tax judgement if it has been filed by Attorney Kelly Page. Gary Stewart responded that he will report back to Diane Friday as to the status of this.

Diane also commented on the legislative report distributed by John Proos tonight.

Diane reported that summer tax bills have now been mailed. She explained that there is a very large problem with the data program that has resulted in many incorrect mailing addresses for parcels. This problem originated with a download made by our Assessor's office from the County. We are in the process of remedying this situation, but it will be a long process.

There will be a benefit dinner for Jappy Perish, township recentionist, on July 21 from 3:00.7:0

There will be a benefit dinner for Jenny Parish, township receptionist, on July 21 from 3:00-7:00 at the Eagles Club in Dowagiac on E. Railroad St. if anyone feels so inclined.

<u>Trustee</u>: Jim Rickli reported on the recent Paw Paw Fire Dept. meeting he attended. They have ordered a new Grass Truck, at a total cost of \$70,000, which has already been budgeted for, due in 2013. They have an old 1964 grass truck that will be for sale for \$6500. A heavy duty reserve vehicle was also discussed. Some discrepancy regarding dates and amounts was mentioned. Jim Rickli and Diane Triquet will research this with the Paw Paw Fire Dept. and Cutting and Cutting and report back at the next meeting.

Jim Rickli also reported that they would like to have their 1948 Ford Fire Truck refurbished; this truck is only used for parades. They are seeking additional bids but one bid has come in at \$10,000, Jim has voiced a no vote on this.

<u>Farmers Market</u>: It was reported that crowds are down from the past years. It was acknowledged that a few people had been stung by bees while playing on the playground at the picnic area, a bee's nest was discovered under the slide and at the top, they have been sprayed and additional wasp spray is now on hand.

<u>Attorney</u>: Gary Stewart had no report. He also explained that in regards to Championship Construction, that once a petition for property seizure has been issued, they attempt to work with the defendant to work it out.

In regards to Koppers, there is quite a large paper trail, an inspection was recently attempted and AGS was ordered off the property; action will now begin against Mr. Koppers.

In regards to the marijuana 6 month moratorium, it is still forbidden, Gary feels the Supreme Court decision interpreted it well.

<u>Supervisor</u>: Doug has sought bids for repair of the very large cracks in the pavement. He has one bid from Pavement Restoration, for \$2390.00, they would place hot rubber cement in the cracks, then pea gravel, then more hot rubber cement which they say will fix the problem. Another company north of Gobles, for \$2250 that would only do a hot mix seal. Doug feels the Pavement Restoration co. has a better approach and has decided to go with this company.

MOTION: **Motion** by Jim Rickli to accept the proposed bid from Pavement Restoration for repairing the cracks in the parking lot, **second** by Jim Manning. **Motion passed**.

Doug reported that a new large dehumidifier has been installed at the historic hall, that will hopefully help with the moisture problem.

The Road Commission will have a booth set up at the fair to promote the renewal on the county road millage proposal.

Waverly Township will be sponsoring a tire collection day open to all on Friday August 10 from 12pm-8pm, and Saturday, August 11 from 8am-6pm. Truck and tractor tires also being accepted. Michigan Gas Services will be coming into the area on July 23rd to install new metering equipment on existing and new natural gas for commercial parcels.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Discuss the survey for the Almena Woods.

Jim Manning reported that he has two quotes for surveying the Almena Woods property. SW MI for \$9,900 and from the County Surveyor, Don Gilchrist for \$10,000. There is no GPS available on the parcel, so it would be physically walking in to measure. The signage for the woods property was also discussed. We have a response from Attorney Gary Stewart and a letter from the Insurance Co. regarding this issue. Would it possibly be a cheaper price in the winter? This is a large sum of money to spend for survey of unused land. It was the consensus of the board to table this until the next meeting.

<u>MOTION</u>: <u>Motion</u> by Mark Roman to table this decision until the next meeting to review the responses from the Attorney and the Insurance Co., <u>second</u> by Jim Manning. <u>Motion passed</u>.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: Dave DeRyke, CR 375, commented on the proposed security system.

The next Township Board meeting will be August 15, 2012 (Pushed back 1 week due to elections.)

ADJOURNMENT:

<u>MOTION</u>: <u>Motion</u> by Jim Manning to adjourn the meeting, <u>second</u> by Mark Roman. <u>Motion</u> <u>approved</u>. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

ALMENA TOWNSHIP

Sandra B. Rickli Almena Township Clerk

Cc: Township Board (7)

Planning Commission (8)

ZBA (5)

Attorney Kelly Page Attorney Gary Stewart

AGS