

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
27625 CR 375
PAW PAW MI 49079

TOWNSHIP BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 15, 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.

Roll call: Mark Roman, Jim Rickli, Jim Manning, Doug Stiles, Jerry Lentz, Diane Triquet, and Sandra Rickli.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

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

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

There were two corrections as follows: Mark Roman noted on page 3, the second paragraph, under the Attorney's report, "In regards to the marijuana 6 month moratorium, it is still forbidden, should read the 6 month moratorium, *time has now lapsed*. The second correction made by Jim Rickli is on page 2, at the very bottom, under Trustee's report, the old grass truck will be for sale for ***\$3500***, not \$6500 (as printed).

MOTION: Motion by Mark Roman to approve the minutes as amended, **second** by Jim Rickli. **Motion approved.**

PRESENTATION/APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Clerk Rickli presented the monthly disbursements for board approval:

It was the consensus of the board that the check to Pavement Restoration be held until the board is happy with the repair job.

MOTION: Motion by Sandra Rickli to approve bills in the amount of \$49,606.97, **second** by Diane Triquet. **Motion approved**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Clerk Rickli presented the following information: The State Primary Election was held August 7th, which went very well, not a significant turnout with roughly 5% reporting for each of the two precincts. Clerk Rickli took tires to the tire collection done by Waverly Township for all residents; they seemed to have a very good response, possibly something Almena Township should look into for our Township to be incorporated at some point with our Clean-up days.

REPORTS:

Road Commission: The Supervisor reported that seal coating has begun, and fog sealing will begin August 27th.

Commissioner: Dick Godfrey, in attendance, presented his report.

Sheriff's Dept.: Report was given by Deputy Matt Wilton. Almena had 94 calls for service for the month of July.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: Ted Boyer, Van Kal (22nd St.) – Requested that the board consider a limited burn ordinance in residential or subdivision areas. Also, to potentially get the word out to promote creating compost piles, to cut down on burning.

REPORTS:

Assessor: The Assessor's report was presented in regards to the ongoing Parcel Review Project. There are 2,399 residential parcels in Almena Township. There are a total of 1,890 improved residential parcels. They have measured and photographed 95% of all subdivisions. The data, photo's sketches and land have been entered into the computer for 655 parcels. Most of the data input has been in the subdivisions, which leaves 1235 parcels left to be inputted into the computer. This transfers into 53% done and computerized. They will begin the Agricultural Properties next spring but they hope to have all residential field work done by November. Thank you to all property owners who have been very gracious and responsive to their field work person, Randy Rose.

Treasurer: Diane Triquet asked the Attorney for an update on the Championship Construction delinquent personal property issue. Attorney Kelly Page reported that the window has closed, the sheriff has hand delivered the papers, and potential seizure of property should be pursuing as we speak. It was reported that last January, the State Tax Commission identified 8 new parcels for personal property tax in our township that have been added to our tax roll. Beginning with the year 2008, all of those have been paid with the exception of one of them. The business has not responded whatsoever as of this date; action will begin by the Attorney.

Trustee: Jim Rickli reported on the Fire Board Meeting he attended on August 7th. He reported that everything slighted for purchase by the fire department has been delayed 1 year. He distributed the report to the board. The Fire Board stated that the new grass truck slated for 2014 will not have any additional money required by each unit of government. It is suggested by the Treasurer that this should be verified again before the new budget is approved for the 2012-2013 fiscal year in order to prepare for this expenditure.. The annual equipment payment for \$10,000 has already been made.

ZBA: There is an upcoming hearing on Monday, August 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Planning Commission: The August meeting scheduled for August 13th was cancelled due to lack of business.

FYI: Midwest Energy will be trimming in the area. Oshtemo Township is suing TCI in regards to the electrical highway recently put in place.

Parks-n-Recreation/Farmers Market: Jeanne DeRyke reported on the Farmers Market stating that all vendor tables have been rented at the last few markets, they have the vendors full. She asked the board to possibly consider a shed for the market supplies. Jeanne will get with Doug to look at Meyer Wood Products and to possibly have it built but will need the dimensions, windows, etc...Jeanne will report back at the next meeting. She also shared that the vendors would be willing to help with the farmers market, they do not want to see it end.

Attorney: Kelly Page reported that on Tuesday, September 4, 2012 at 2:00 will be the Koppers show cause hearing; Koppers has a summons to appear before Judge Hamre at this time. Kelly has received a quote for Almena for a boundary survey for the Almena Woods, from Mitchel & Morse Land Surveying of South Haven. The price would be \$7,000 and would be completed the first week in November; if required immediately it would be \$9,000. It was suggested that, if surveyed, they would mark off every 200 feet with steel rods placed on all property lines. It was mentioned that it would be a good defensive tool, and to protect ourselves.

MOTION: **Motion** by Jim Manning to accept the bid of Mitchell and Morse Land Surveying out of South Haven to survey the Almena Woods located in Almena Township, for a total of \$7,000, **second** by Diane Triquet. **Motion passed by a 5-2 vote.**

Supervisor: Doug Stiles reported that he has received the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Quarterly Report, for the second quarter, with a remaining balance of \$935.88.

We have received a thank you memo from the Van Buren County Road Commission for support of the road millage proposal at the August 7th Primary Election. The terms have expired of two members of Planning Commission; Bill VanTassel would like to stay on until November of this year, until his term begins as Trustee, Brian Rumsey would like to serve another term.

MOTION: Motion by Jim Manning to reappoint Bill VanTassel and Brian Rumsey as Planning Commission members, **second** by Jim Rickli. **Motion passed.**

The surveillance cameras will be put on hold for now to wait until grant applications become available October 1st. Senior Services is looking for a volunteer for the 3rd Wednesday of every month at the ISD in Lawrence.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Resolution to eliminate the refund of overpayments on taxes under \$5.00:
MOTION: Motion by Jim Manning to approve the resolution to eliminate the refund of overpayment on taxes under \$5.00, **second** by Mark Roman. **Motion passed.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Committee report on Building and Code Enforcement Officer:
There was much discussion regarding all applicants; the board will take recommendations of the Committee under advisement. This decision is tabled until next month.
2. Signage issue for Almena Woods Property previously tabled:
There will be no signs for now. This will be researched more by the Attorney's and questioned of the Insurance Co.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Motion by Jim Manning to adjourn the meeting, **second** by Mark Roman. **Motion approved.** The meeting adjourned at 9:00 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