

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
2725 CR 375
PAW PAW MI 49079

TOWNSHIP BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 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:

MOTION: Motion by Jerry Lentz to approve the meeting minutes of September 12, 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 approve bills in the amount of \$43,010.08, **second** by Jim Rickli. **Motion approved.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Clerk Rickli presented the following information: Cemetery update-the information center/eagle scout project is nearing completion. The posts are in place and held together by the roof/shingled, the posts have been varnished, just awaiting the plexi-glass doors, which will hopefully be in place before winter. The Clerk and deputy Clerk will then begin the map and name listing research to, hopefully, be completed by spring. Election update: To date, over 300 AV ballots have been sent out for the November 6, 2012 General Election; also encouraged everyone to get out and vote on November 6, 2012, polls will be open 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

REPORTS:

Sheriff Department: Deputy Wilton in attendance to give the following report:

August: (there was not a representative in attendance last month) 90 calls for service for Almena Township.

September: 87 calls for service for Almena Township.

There has been extra patrol in the Cemetery as requested, no unusual activity noted.

Commissioner: Dick Godfrey, in attendance, presented his report. The Sheriff's Department received a grant for \$25,000; this will be used to enforce the Driving Under the Influence and Seat Belt laws. The Commission also accepted the 2012 Drainage and Lake Level Project Special Assessment rolls totaling \$817,609.55.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: State Representative for the 80th House District, Aric Nesbitt, in attendance to distribute newsletters with information designed to familiarize voters

with some the arguments for and against each proposal; to adequately prepare voters for the proposals before them.

REPORTS:

Treasurer: Diane Triquet presented the following report. She has received 2 payments for the recent delinquent personal property tax of Bowers Welding; they are on-track to make payoff. There are nine (9) new drain assessments, of which she didn't know about as she is preparing her tax roll, she will need this information.

MOTION: **Motion** by Diane Triquet to officially name Jim Horton, Almena Township Resident, as Almena Township's IT person, **second** by Sandra Rickli. **Motion passed.**

Diane reported that Jenny Parish is doing very well and feeling good. She is hoping/planning to attend the November Planning Commission meeting to take the minutes and prepare them. She will be in touch with the office and Mark Roman to discuss the meeting minutes prep.

RESOLUTION DETERMINING 2012 SPECIAL ASSESSMENT COSTS:

MOTION: **Motion** by Diane Triquet to adopt the resolution determining 2012 special assessment costs, **second** by Jerry Lentz.

Roll call vote: Mark Roman-yes, Jim Rickli-yes, Jim Manning-yes, Jerry Lentz-yes, Diane Triquet-yes, Sandra Rickli-yes, Doug Stiles-yes. **Motion approved.**

Craig Yaple of North Lake Weed Control, in attendance to discuss the special assessment and the expiration date; this will be researched. We believe the board must proceed with the renewal process. Craig will look up the 2013 proposed contract and drop it off.

A letter has been sent to AGS terminating our contract with them. November 16, 2012 is the end of the contract, as sent by our Attorney. The new building department will be Service Sharing with Texas Township. We will be meeting with Texas Township/Paul Cutting, Bill Henderson on October 15th, hoping to work out some more of the details, specifically the billing, as we will not be purchasing the BS&A program for building permits, etc... Diane will report the details from this meeting at the November meeting.

Fire Report: October 4th was the annual fire banquet at the Paw Paw Fire Department. Arnold Harvey was honored for 63 years of service. The large new fire truck will need to be worked into the 2013-2014 budget, or may be pushed back another year to 2014-2015. It is suggested that we anticipate the purchase of this and budget for it in the next 2013-2014 budget. The committee will let us know.

Attorney: In regards to delinquent personal property tax, equipment has been seized from Championship Construction by Viper, if that equipment was sold, the township would be receiving a check soon.

Koppers is in compliance thus far, Gary will check into the deadline for completion and let us know.

Planning Commission: Meeting canceled due to no pressing business. The Supervisor will be recommending to the board a replacement for Bill Van Tassel on the PC, as that will be coming up in November.

Parks & Recreation/Farmers Market: Bill Van Tassel announced the ending of the 2012 Farmers Market Season which was a success; \$1800 remains in the bank at this time. The vendors will help in any way they can to keep this going, as they intend to be involved in the future as well.

He also thanked the board for the new storage shed for farmer's market items and for Parks and Recreation. Bill mentioned that the basketball backboard needs to be fixed, it has a large hole in the glass. It was reminded that the Farmers Market signs need to be taken down if the market is over for the year.

Supervisor: Doug Stiles presented the following: Project Connect (Senior Services) will be in the area: October 18, 2012 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in the VBISD building in Lawrence. They are still looking for volunteers.

Fall Clean-up day will be Saturday, October 20 from 8:00 am – 2:00 pm.

The Township Board meeting for November that has been moved from November 14th to November 13th was discussed, due to the fact that the office will be closed for Veterans' Day on Monday, November 12th, that the meeting should possibly be moved to another date.

MOTION: **Motion** by Jerry Lentz to move the November township board meeting date from (changed) November 13 to November 8th, which is a Thursday. The time remains the same: 7:00 pm, **second** by Jim Manning. **Motion passed.**

The MTA annual conference will be January 22-25 in Detroit.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Funds for HHWP** (extension for rest of this year) – The agreement sent to us indicates there is \$475 balance to date. It was the consensus of the board to increase funds when the funds are completely gone.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Representative from Insurance Co. for signage issue:**
Melissa Swaims in attendance, stated that you cannot prohibit hunting on public property, per the DNR, as it is public property. The township cannot even limit the number of hunters allowed on the property. She also shared that governmental immunity does not protect the township from being sued. After showing Melissa a copy of an email sent by Pam Baker of the risk management team, which directly says the opposite of what Melissa just shared. Melissa will find out for sure and get back to the township on Friday. Melissa also left grant information with Doug, which is due on December 1st.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: **Motion** by Jim Manning to adjourn the meeting, **second** by Jerry Lentz. **Motion approved.** The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

ALMENA TOWNSHIP

Sandra B. Rickli
Almena Township Clerk

cc: Township Board
Planning Commission (8)
ZBA (5)
Attorney Kelly Page
Attorney Gary Stewart
AGS