

ALMENA TOWNSHIP BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2014

The Almena Township Board met at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Van Tassel.

Roll call: Sheri Manning, Jim Manning, Jerry Lentz, Deedra Rhoa, Mark Roman, Sandra Rickli, and Bill Van Tassel.

AGENDA APPROVAL:

MOTION: **Motion** by Jim Manning to adopt the agenda as presented, **second** by Bill Van Tassel. **Motion passed.**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL - September 10, 2014:

Two corrections were noted, under Reports on the page 1, Sheriff's Dept., the third sentence should begin with Residents instead of they; and on page 2, towards the bottom under Reports, Parks and Recreation should read Jerry Lentz would like to look to our Professional Planner to potentially revisit the recreation plan, and to possibly reactivate the Parks and Recreation Committee.

MOTION: **Motion** by Jerry Lentz to approve the meeting minutes of September 10, 2014 as amended, **second** by Jim Manning. **Motion approved.**

PRESENTATION/APPROVAL OF BILLS:

The Clerk presented the monthly disbursements for the period of September 11, 2014 through October 8, 2014 in the amount of \$25,209.66. **Motion** by Sandra Rickli to approve bills in the amount of \$25,209.66, **second** by Bill Van Tassel. **Motion approved.**

REPORTS:

Road Commission: Al Svilpe in attendance. There was discussion about the guard rails and the cost to resurface a road, similar to the 33rd St. job in Antwerp Township.

Commissioner: Dick Godfrey in attendance. He thanked the Supervisor for taking him to the Paw Paw Fire Department annual dinner.

Sheriff's Department: Deputy Wilton in attendance. There remains no monthly report at this time. He explained all the changes/promotions within the Sheriff's Department.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT: Was offered.

REPORTS:

Clerk: Sandra Rickli gave the following report: Preparations are being made for the upcoming November 4, 2014 General Election; polls will be open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm. The annual MTA Conference and Expo will be held in Grand Rapids, at the Amway Grand Plaza this year January 27 – 30. Early registration is October 21 – December 15, to qualify for the early bird rate. The board heard the Clerk's review of her Deputy Clerk, Lia Will. She is doing an outstanding job; she is very punctual, very knowledgeable on the computer, and a very hard worker that aims to please. Her rate of pay will be reviewed at budget time in March/April.

Treasurer: Sheri Manning reported on the following: The ~~winter~~ *summer* tax due date has now passed; taxes will still be accepted at the Township with a 1% late fee per month added. The

Forestry Revenue and Expenditure accounts have been set up. The Rose Lane Special Assessment Maintenance will be increased this year to accommodate the overage from last year and to prepare for maintenance fees for the upcoming year.

Supervisor: Bill Van Tassel reported on the following: He attended the Paw Paw Fire Board meeting on October 2nd. The new gutters are up at the historic township hall. All the township hall parking lot lights have been replaced. The Fall Township Clean-up day will be October 18th from 8 am – 2 pm. The Broadband Town Hall Open House/Meeting was held here at Almena Township by Bloomindale Communications. A lot of information was shared. This will possibly be a broadband co-op. Texas Township called inquiring about this as it is something they are very interested in possibly doing as well.

Planning Commission: Mark Roman reported that the PC meeting was moved back a week, so their next meeting is now scheduled for October 13th. Mark is hoping to make an electronic copy of the Red Ordinance Book, just as he did with the Subdivision Ordinance. This is being worked on presently.

Parks and Recreation: Jerry Lentz has contacted McKenna and Associates, our Professional Planners, to inquire about possible parks and recreation plan update, which should be reviewed every 5 years.

NEW BUSINESS

1. John Mohney, Yes for Mattawan Committee: John Mohney in attendance to explain more about the needs for Mattawan Schools and to answer questions.
2. Parking lot maintenance: Bartz Group has repaired and sealed the Almena Township Hall parking lot, which will probably be around \$6000. The Supervisor apologized and explained that he mistakenly viewed the parking lot maintenance budget as \$6000 to be spent on just parking lot upgrades when, in actuality, that budget also includes snow plowing and salting. The Treasurer and Clerk will determine what department the repairs will be paid out of.
3. Generator maintenance: ~~Bridgeway Company~~ *Cummins Bridgeway LLC* out of Grand Rapids originally installed and performed maintenance checks on our generator. We recently had another power outage and, again, the generator did not automatically turn on. Steensma out of Plainwell has been doing maintenance on it but we continue to have problems. It was suggested that the Township switch back to ~~Bridgeway Company~~ *Cummins Bridgeway, LLC*.

MOTION: **Motion** by Jim Manning that Almena Township sets up a maintenance contract with Bridgeway Company for the generator, **second** by Jerry Lentz. **Motion passed**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. New Township Hall gutters: The Supervisor explained that new township hall commercial gutter pricing has been obtained but it is advisable to wait until next year so that the money can be budgeted to accommodate this large building.

OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Parshall, 38476 23rd St. had complaints about Santora's business on 23rd St. He questioned if he had ceased working on cars as he was instructed to stop by the township.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: **Motion** by Jim Manning to adjourn the meeting, **second** by Jerry Lentz. **Motion passed**. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Approval date: November 12, 2014

ALMENA TOWNSHIP

- Cc: Township Board (7)
- Planning Commission (8)
- ZBA (5)
- Attorney David Lewis