

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

APRIL 11, 2005
P.M.

7:00

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Board members present at roll call were Supervisor Neubecker, Clerk Hodges, Treasurer Casto, Trustee Bondy and Trustee Paladino. Approx. 30 guests were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - Add Starvation Lake Rd and Buck Lane trash problem to the agenda. M/Paladino S/Casto to adopt the agenda with the one addition. All in favor. Motion carried.

Establish any conflict of interest of items that are on the agenda. None were presented.

Approval of the minutes for the March 14, 2005 Budget Hearing - M/Bondy S/Casto to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2005 Budget Hearing. All in favor. Motion carried. Approval of the minutes for the March 14, 2005 regular board meeting - M/Paladino S/Casto to approve the minutes from the March 14, 2005 regular board meeting as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

Representatives from the Houghton Lake Improvement Board will arrive around 8:00 p.m.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy received the price quote for two picnic tables for the park. Quote was for \$1,047.00 including shipping. Short discussion about purchasing a third table at an additional cost of \$523.50 inc. shipping. M/Neubecker S/Casto to agree to purchase three (3) tables at a cost not to exceed \$1,580.00. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Paladino yes, Hodges yes, Casto yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Fire Board - Minutes from the April 6, 2005 Fire Board were presented. Neubecker reported that the AccuMed billing contract has been signed. He said that the fire board is working toward putting an ordinance into effect with the joint townships, both Coldsprings & Excelsior, to move forward with being able to recoup some of the costs on runs that are being made, from insurance companies only, meaning that bills will only be sent out to individuals who

have insurance coverage. If an individual does not have insurance coverage the townships will not pursue to recoup the cost. He also reported that the new ambulance is being delivered Wednesday, April 13th. He said that the cost of the new ambulance was \$91,000.00, which is being purchased through the recently approved renewal of the millage for fire equipment. Copy of the minutes is on file. Road Commissioners meeting - Trustee Paladino said that he didn't have anything up to date at this time. He said that the next road commissioners' meeting is Wednesday the 13th at 8:00 a.m., which he will be attending. He said that he does have a list of concerns that he has received from citizens and he will bring them up at the road commissioners meeting on Wednesday. He said that if there was anything that someone would like him to bring up, just let him know. A citizen did bring up a concern about a culvert at E Shore Drive and Ford Rd. He said that the big trucks, when they make the turn, their wheels bog down and has crushed the culvert and it no longer serves its' purpose. Paladino said he would ask about it. Neubecker said it's possible since E Shore Drive is a township road it may have to be fixed with township monies. Paladino will find out. Liquor Enforcement - reports on both liquor establishments within the township were received for the months of January and February. Both were good. Copies on file. The crime reports for the months of February and March were also received. Copies on file.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Casto presented the monthly reconciliation for the month of March. The report showed that there was \$405,504.51 in the various bank accounts, \$739.57 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash fund. She said that one of the CD's is about to mature and that she is shopping around for interest rates. She said that she would also purchase a CD with the money that is in the Building Fund as soon as she finds the best rate. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the treasurers report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Pending ZBA Litigation - Neubecker reported that the court hearing scheduled for April 8, 2005 had been postponed to May 13, 2005. (B) Starvation Lake Rd & Buck Lane - Neubecker said that about two years ago we had some problems with trash right on the corner of Starvation Lake Rd and Buck Lane. He said that at that time there was no critter cage at that corner. He said that one of the pieces of property on Buck Lane belongs to a snowmobile association and it's a joint ownership of a single property and they are from Ohio. He said that two years ago we ran into some problems because as they exited, they would throw their garbage out the door of their motor home as they went by the corner. Neubecker said that he talked to the people living further down Buck Lane and they got together and built a critter cage to put the trash in. He said that it was pretty good for about a year but then this year it got bad again and nobody took the initiative to shovel out the snow around the critter cage and trash started to get thrown on top and beside the cage. Neubecker said that he called our trash company and asked them to put a 2 or 3 yard dumpster on Buck Lane and they have agreed to do that within the next few weeks and at no extra charge to the township. Murray

Young, who lives across from where the problem is, was present and also had some pictures that he left with the board. Mr. Young said that the company that picks up the trash in the township sometimes spends twenty minutes cleaning up the mess at that corner. Mr. Young said that the trash men do a terrific job that they go well above and beyond what is expected of them. Lee Gancer asked about some junk cars with their windows broken out over on 612. Neubecker pointed out that they are in Excelsior Township. More discussion followed about the trash. Neubecker said that he hopes that placing the dumpster will be a resolution to the problem.

New Business - (A) Fire Contract for Oliver Township - M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept and approve the renewal of the fire contract between Oliver Township and Coldsprings/Excelsior Fire & Rescue for the period of April 1, 2005 through March 31, 2006 in the amount of \$3,450.00. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) TBA summer tax collection - M/Neubecker S/Casto to sign the agreement with TBA for collection of summer taxes. All in favor. Motion carried. (C) Tim McCullen as Fire Chief - Neubecker said that Tom Gruse retired as Fire Chief effective April 1st and that the fire board appointed Tim McCullen as Fire Chief and the appointment needs to be validated by the two townships. M/Neubecker S/Casto that Coldsprings Township board approves the selection of the fireboard, of Tim McCullen, for Fire Chief of the Coldsprings/Excelsior Volunteer Fire & Rescue Station 6. All in favor. Motion carried. (D) Contract for Dream Lakes Services - Neubecker said that Dream Lakes Services has asked for an increase due to the price of gas. He also said that he would like a 3-year contract. Paladino asked if it was their idea for a three-year contract. Neubecker said no, but that he would like to lock them into a 3-year contract rather a one-year contract and renegotiate a cost down the road, if that were the case. Short discussion followed. M/Neubecker S/Paladino to resign the contract with Dream Lakes Services for the years April 11, 2005 through December 1, 2008 in the amount of \$150.00 per cleanup. All in favor. Motion carried. (E) Appoint Election Inspectors for May 3rd - M/Hodges S/Neubecker to appoint Darlene Berkshire, chairperson and Patricia Callan, Helen Maule and Judy Newkirk as election inspectors for the May 3rd school election. All in favor. Motion carried. (F) Approve the pay for the election inspectors - M/Neubecker S/Casto to pay the election inspectors the rate of \$10.00 per hour and the chairperson \$11.00 per hour. All in favor. Motion carried. (G) Approve increasing the hourly rate for all township hourly employees to \$10.00 per hour. Current rate is \$9.00 per hour. The only hourly employees we have are the three Board of Review members and our maintenance person. M/Casto S/Paladino to pay the township employees \$10.00 per hour. All in favor. Motion carried. (H) Approve the clerk & treasurer attending the MTA Spring District meeting. M/Neubecker S/Bondy to approve the clerk & treasurer attending the MTA Spring District meeting May 17th. Cost \$65.00 ea. All in favor. Motion carried.

Four members of the Excelsior Township Board were present to hear a presentation from

members of the Houghton Lake Improvement Board regarding the formation of a Lake Board, which is being considered by Manistee Lake Association and or property owners.

Excelsior Township members held a roll call of their members present.

Dr. Goulet, President of the Manistee Lake Association introduced the President, Jim Deamud, and Secretary Dick Pastula, of the Houghton Lake Improvement Board. Mr. Deamud said that Houghton Lake faced a rather serious problem, serious to the point that they were afraid that they were going to lose the lake. He said that that came to light around the year 2000, 2001 and that a group of people started meeting, for about a year, to discuss their problem. Deamud said that after awhile they came to realize as the year progressed that #1 they had the problem and #2 there wasn't a thing that they could do about it unless they became a board constituted in some legal authority, and that was their first objective, to find a way to do that. He said that there is a Lake Improvement Statue that sets forth a scheme to create improvement boards for Michigan Inland Lakes. Deamud said that it starts one of two ways and the way that they felt would work the best for them was to be constituted, by resolution, from the townships that surrounded Houghton Lake, which in their case there are four townships. The four surrounding townships, by resolution, established the Houghton Lake Improvement Board. He went on to say that by definition, in the statue, the board is constituted by one member of each of the township boards involved (which in this case would be 2 members), the Drain Commissioner is a member of the board, however there has been a revision to the statue that allows the Drain Commissioner to appoint someone as his representative or delegate, so it does not have to be the drain commissioner himself. There is also a representative from the County Board of Commissioners. Those four people, after they assemble the board, elect a fifth person who is, under the statue, a riparian owner of the lake involved, and they become the fifth member of the board. Deamud said that they have a seven-member board at Houghton Lake because they have four townships involved, but in the case of Manistee Lake there would be a five-person board. He said that there is another mechanism in which a board can be established and that is to do away with the township resolutions and then you have petitions. He said the trouble with petitions, from his standpoint, is that they are extraordinarily cumbersome and he doesn't know if they really amount to anything anyway and it is so much simpler to have the township boards establish the lake improvement boards. He said that they did not have much of a problem getting corporation from the townships and one of the reasons is that there was a severe problem in Houghton Lake and the townships had a lot of people complaining to them about the problem. He said that their particular problem, at Houghton Lake, happened to be Eurasian water milfoil. He went on to explain the problems that the property owners had with the milfoil. Deamud said that once they got the board in place, they had the engineers come in to assess the problem; they held their public hearings and set up the special assessment district. He said that the Equalization officials for the county and the Equalization officials for the townships helped them create the special assessment district. He said that what they did was take the parameter

around the lake and then back to a logical break line, so that what they had were the front lake property owners and the property owners right behind them. He said that the ones right up on the lakeshore paid \$200.00 per year and the back lot property owners paid \$100.00 per year for five years. He said that they also had a mechanism to assess various commercial properties. That ended up giving them approximately 6,000 parcels that they incorporated into the special assessment district and that generated roughly \$1,000,000.00 a year. He said that the size of Houghton Lake is 20,000 acres. Deamud said that within three to four months they were milfoil free. He said that they have now progressed to the point where the native weeds are now starting to make a comeback and some of the non-native weeds that have been repressed by the milfoil are also making a comeback and they are in harvesting some of those. Deamud went on to explain how they do surveys every year to keep on top of things and take care of any problems that come up. Deamud said that the Lake Board sets up the special assessment district and levies it. He said that there is a whole process the lake board has to go through. He said that there are several public hearings which first of all is coming up with a plan, how much is it going to cost and then it comes down to setting the special assessment district and how much you are going to assess. Questions and discussion followed. Dick Pastula, Secretary of the Houghton Lake Improvement Board, said that they like to keep an on-going dialogue with the local newspaper in order to keep everyone up to date plus they also have a web-site that people can go to, to get information The web-site is www.roscommoncounty.net/milfoil.htm and their e-mail address is lakeboard@mail.com and if anyone wants information on the Inland Lake boards they can look up Public Act 451 of 1994.

Excelsior Township then adjourned and Neubecker asked that we have a 10-minute recess.

The meeting recessed at 9:05 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 9:18 with all board members present.

Approval of Bills - List of the bills were reviewed. Check for the picnic tables in the amount of \$1,580.00 was added to the list. M/Paladino S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented with the one addition. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Bondy yes and Paladino yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #9695 through #9720 in the amount of \$13,323.63 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Harvey Brow thanked the board for having the representatives from the Houghton Lake Improvement Board and hopes that the township board will go along with their endeavor. Neubecker said that it was a great beginning. Another citizen's comment was that there was a rumor that the township was looking down on Manistee Lake wanting to manage a septic systems at the township level and asked if that was the case. Neubecker said that was not the case. He said that he wants that to be a township issue and not come under a Lake

Board.

M/Paladino S/Casto to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:35 P.M.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk