

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

APRIL 9, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:15 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. County Commissioner Lou Nemeth and 7 other guests were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - M/Casto S/Paladino to adopt the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Approval of Minutes - M/Bondy S/Casto to approve the Budget Hearing minutes from March 12, 2007. All in favor. Motion carried. Regular Board meeting minutes - Hodges had one correction to the minutes. Under Road Commissioners meeting report, the name Gary Nemeth should be Gary Niemi. M/Casto S/Paladino to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2007 regular board meeting with the one correction. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - (A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that she had not had any response from the Sheriffs' Department regarding the work crew, so she contacted them about the spring cleanup in the cemetery, the park and the hall. They told her that they have added two more cemeteries to their list throughout the County and that they are really going to be busy but that they will do their best to at least get the cemeteries cleaned up before Memorial Day but they have no idea when they will be able to get to the park or the hall. She also reported that the easements looked good for as much as they were used this winter, until the snow came back. The no parking sign at the Ford Rd. easement was also addressed again. (B) Fire Board - Minutes from the March 7th and April 4th fireboard meetings were presented, also minutes from the March 28th special meeting. Copies are on file. (C) Road Commissioners meeting - Trustee Paladino said that he had attended the April 9th Road Commissioners meeting which was held at 8:00 a.m. He said that they are challenged financially. He said that they went through their bills and that there are some bills that they have to put on hold. He said that they are itemizing their bills for the public now, which they have been doing now for the last three months, which shows that they are trying to be more accountable. He said that they actually have to pick which bills that they are going to pay. He also said that

they have a grader that they were leasing with the option to buy but it is coming up for a balloon note payment and they don't have the money to make the balloon note so they were going to withdraw from making the balloon payment and instead, fix up the old grader that they have and use that. There was a discussion regarding the US131 project. Paladino said that he felt that the state should have finished up there end by doing the restoration of 612, 571 and Twin Lake Rd. when the US131 project was finished rather than sign an agreement to give \$577,000.00 to the county road commission to do the restoration. Neubecker said that the Excelsior Township supervisor is just as concerned as we are in the aspect that we have a tremendous amount of roadway going through our townships and that the \$577,000.00 isn't going to be enough to restore the roads. He said that Kalkaska County road commission has the responsibility now to micro surface the roads instead of the state doing the overlay. More discussion followed. Neubecker asked Commissioner Nemeth to check and see if we, the township, decided to pave a road such as, say for example, Starvation Lake Rd., do we have to go through the county road commission or can we contract the job out and still have the county road commission maintain the road or do we have to go through the road commission in order to have them maintain it. He said that we have asked that question a number of times even when we did Sunset Trail a few years ago, but we have never been able to get an answer. Short discussion followed. Commissioner Nemeth is going to check into it. (D) Liquor Control - Reports on Kiootee's and Manistee Lake Stop & Shop were received for the month of March. Both reports were good. The crime report for Coldsprings Township for the month of March was also received from the Sheriff's Department. It showed that there were 23 incidents for the month in the township. Copies of the reports are on file.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Casto presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of March 2007. The report showed that there was \$464,360.81 in the various bank accounts, \$695.15 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash account. Casto said that we have three CD's maturing the end of this month. She will check around for the best interest rates before renewing the CD's. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the treasurers report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Cell Tower - Neubecker said that he's dealing with two different people now and he still does not have any answers. He said that they are both brokers and they said that the cell phone companies just don't want to put any service in this area in the next 18 months because this is not considered a growth area. Discussion followed. (B) Shelves for the basement - short discussion. Neubecker said that he would check at Sam's for shelves. (C) Post cards with the correct phone number for North Country Sanitation large item pickup - Neubecker said that he is working on them and that we will send them out next month. He does want to make it clear that the toll free number that is in the newsletter is correct. It is just the number that is on the stickers that is incorrect. The correct number is 587-5848.

New Business - (A) Amend the budget for the fourth quarter of the 2006-2007 fiscal year - There were a few amendments to the budget for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. There was an increase of \$13,217.90 in revenues and a decrease of \$543.38 in expenses.

M/Neubecker S/Paladino to accept the budget amendments as presented by the clerk. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Paladino yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) Make offer on the property in back of the Cemetery - Hodges said that there are two five-acre plots behind the cemetery. She said that the last she heard they were asking \$18,900.00 for each five-acre plot. She also said that they sold 10-acre plots with road frontage for \$26,500.00, so why would we want to pay \$18,900.00 for five acres without road frontage. Discussion followed. Paladino felt that the property really wouldn't be conducive to anyone because it is so far off of the road. Bondy asked how many lots do we still have available in the cemetery. Hodges said that we have quite a few, that we've only sold about 4 lots in the new section. Bondy said that so many people are going for cremation now, do we really need to add more spaces to the cemetery. She said that it is a good investment. Neubecker said that we shouldn't look at it as an investment. We should look at it as looking towards the future for the township. We wouldn't be having it platted for graves. It would just be there for the township for whatever is needed in the future. Casto said that she feels that they are going to have a hard time selling the property. She said that in the first place in order to access the property they are going to have to put a road in. Neubecker said that they do have an easement, but said that she is right; they will have to put a road in. Then Neubecker said that there would be an argument as to who is going to do the road and who is going to maintain it. Casto said that she wouldn't give them more than \$18,000.00 for the ten acres. Short discussion. M/Neubecker S/Casto, that in entering into negotiations, to authorize the township clerk to extend an offer to the real estate agent holding this property, that we will buy both rear five acre parcels for a total of \$15,000.00 for both parcels. All in favor. Motion carried. (C) Approve the Oliver Township Fire Contract - Oliver Township agreed to pay 3/8 of a mill or \$3,870.00, whichever is greater, for fire services from April 2007 through March 31, 2008. Short discussion. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the contract for \$3,870.00 for Oliver Township for fire services. All in favor. Motion carried. (D) Approve the election workers for the May 8, 2007 election - Hodges listed the workers. M/Neubecker S/Casto to approve the election workers for the May 8th election. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills - Hodges said that we needed to void check #10471 in the amount of \$50.00, payable to Top Notch Cleaning Services. Hodges said that she did not show up to clean the hall prior to the meeting. M/Paladino S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented with the one void. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Paladino yes, Neubecker yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #10465 through #10484 in the amount of \$11,974.10, after voiding check #10471, were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Commissioner Nemeth spoke about the millage for recycling and animal control that will be on the May 8th ballot. He said that it is a renewal of the .25 mill that expired in 2005 and that it was on the November 2006 ballot but it was defeated because so many people thought that it was an increase, which was not the case. He also spoke on how much the recycling center actually is helping the community.

The leak in the roof was also discussed. Hodges said that the leak just started that day. Neubecker said that they put a new ridge vent on in November. More discussion followed. Hodges will get hold of Brian and have him come out and see if he can figure out what the problem is.

Gerry Gancer said that the Invasive Species signs have been obtained from the DNR and with the permission of the township board, the Manistee Lake Association would put them up at different sites around Manistee Lake. M/Neubecker S/Bondy that they be approved to put the warning regarding invasive species signs, at designated points around the lake, in conjunction with the Manistee Lake Improvement Board and the Manistee Lake Association. All in favor. Motion carried. Casto was not present for the vote.

Junk complaints were discussed.

Neubecker asked if the County Commissioners have appointed two more people to the Road Commission. Commissioner Nemeth said that they have not as yet. Lee Gancer suggested that they only appoint two more road commissioners for 3 years instead of 6 years. Then after the 3 years they would have to be elected. Neubecker agreed and said that a 3-year appointment sounds better than 6 years. Hodges asked why they couldn't do like they do at the county and township levels. You appoint someone only until the next General election and then it becomes an elected position. And in this case they would be appointed until the November 2008 General election and then they would have to run for the office. More discussion.

M/Casto S/Hodges to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk

