

# **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571-7:00 P.M.**

**AUGUST 11, 2008**

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, Trustee Bondy and Trustee Corrado. Treasurer Lambert was not present. Commissioner Lou Nemeth was present and also 8 members of the public.

Adoption of the Agenda - Trustee Corrado asked that information on ATV's, Watercraft and Commercial signs be added to the agenda. M/Bondy S/Corrado to adopt the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Treasurer Lambert arrived at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of Minutes - M/Bondy S/Corrado to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2008 regular board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed. Hodges received a letter from the Unemployment Insurance Agency stating that the township had a credit balance of \$134.19 and wanted to know if the township wanted to leave the credit balance on account to cover future benefit charges or if we wanted a refund. Short discussion. M/Neubecker S/Lambert to request a refund. All in favor. Motion carried. Hodges said that she also received a call from a lady that said her neighbor never cuts their grass and asked if there is anything at the township level where we could make them cut their grass. Hodges said that she told her that she didn't know of anything but would bring it up at the board meeting. Short discussion. There's really nothing that the township could do.

Committee Reports - (A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that she had sent a thank you letter to the Sheriff's Department thanking them for the work that their work crew did in the township. She also reported that she got a "volunteer" to help her paint the fence at the park and do a number of other odd jobs that our maintenance person couldn't do. Besides painting the fence and picking up the broken rails, they put the last BBQ grill in place at the park, fixed the door on the shed at the park so the water doesn't leak in, squared up the frames so that the locks would work and fixed the door on

the garage at the cemetery (it kept coming off of the rails). She also called the Girl Scout Leader and thanked her and her girl scouts for the work that they did at the park. (B) Fireboard - Minutes from the August 6<sup>th</sup> fireboard meeting were presented. Copy of the minutes is on file. (C) Road Commission - Trustee Corrado reported that the 8-1/2% administrative fee that the county road commission wants to tack onto the townships bills for repairs is a hot issue. He said that the road commission said that if the 8-1/2% were not tacked onto the bills that the townships receive for road repairs then road repairs would cease to exist. He spoke about the new law that the Governor just signed into law regarding ATV's riding along the side of the road. He said that for the first year the county will make the commitment as to the procedures of those vehicles within the county and then when the first year expires each township can direct their own path that they want to take with regards to the limitations or usage of those vehicles. He said that there would be several meetings with the county commissioners and representatives from the road commission and the townships before any commitments are made. Discussion followed. Corrado said that at the last meeting there were some concerns from Bob Stein regarding a water skiing ordinance on our lakes and another concern from Don Smith in regards to the speed on Twin Lake Rd. Corrado said that radar has been run on Twin Lakes. He also said that both the DNR and the county had told him that if the township has any ordinances at all on the water with regards to operations they couldn't be enforced unless they are state laws. He then read the state law regarding water skiing which is: It is illegal to tow skiers, surfboards or any device of this type between: One hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise if towed behind a boat and One hour before sunset and 8:00 AM if towed behind a PWC. He also spoke on commercial signs in the township. (D) Liquor Enforcement - Hodges said that there were no liquor enforcement reports this month just a crime report showing that there were 28 incidents for the month of July. (E) County Commissioner - Commissioner Nemeth also spoke on the road commission. He said that the road commissioners are now appointed to serve a six-year term and not elected by the public. Nemeth also spoke on a company in Mississippi that has an enzyme material that you can use on dirt roads and that the state is going to do a trial of the material in Harbor Springs. He said that since it is a state funded program his intention is to see about bringing some of that activity here. Discussion followed. Nemeth also spoke on the Council of Government and the Grand Vision.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Lambert presented the reconciliation report for the month of July. The report showed that there was \$363,062.66 in the various bank accounts, \$19,561.60 in the Township Improvement Fund MM account, \$237,210.22 in the Tax account, \$10.00 in Forest Area Federal CU and \$100.00 in the Petty Cash Fund. M/Neubecker S/Corrado to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Trustee Corrado said that the county is moving forward with a program that deals with legal and administrative procedures for ordinances and their trainees so that all 12 townships will have uniformity

all the way accross the board, so that whatever happens in Coldsprings Township (for example) they will use the same forms, letters and the same procedure no matter what township they go to. Corrado said that in regards to the letters that Neubecker sent into the Sheriff's Dept. and following the guidelines that he had requested to have done as far as the violations were concerned each one of them have been committed and cleaned up in regards to the violations. Discussion followed. Corrado said that he would like to see the township bring someone on board as an Ordinance Enforcement Officer so he/she can get started because it seems like everyday there is something else that they can use them for. (B) Dock at Sands Park - Neubecker said that about five or six years ago this issue was brought up and our legal counsel at that time said that we might not want to put a dock up at Sands Park because of the liability. Neubecker said that now he's not so sure that that is a valid enough reason for not putting a dock up. He said that when he looks around and sees that every other community that has a park with a heavy boat launch, they provide the people using it an adequate place to tie up when launching or recovering. Hodges said that she spoke with Paul Olson (our insurance agent) and asked him what our liability would be. Paul said that the worst cases would be if a boat hit the dock and killed the person in the boat, or if someone decided to dive or jump off of the dock and seriously injured themselves, and in those cases there would definitely be lawsuits. We do have a sign at the park showing the hours that the park is open so if someone jumped off the dock during the hours that the park is closed and seriously injures themselves then we would not be liable. We would also have to keep the dock well maintained, like make sure there are no loose boards, etc. She said that our premium would only go up about \$50.00. Hodges did say that Paul Olson would be at our September meeting. Neubecker said that we could put up signs stating no jumping, diving, alchol, etc. and we would have to modify our ordinance to include the dock. Discussion followed. Neubecker asked to have it on the agenda for next month and that way we will be able to talk more with Paul Olson since he will be at the meeting.

New Business - (A) Amend the Budget - Hodges recommended five amendments to the budget. One increase in income and four amendments to the expenses. M/Neubecker S/Corrado to make the amendments to the budget as presented. Roll call vote. Lambert yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Corrado yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) New recorder for meetings - Hodges said that it is getting harder and harder to find cassettes for our recorder and that we should get a new one. Discussion followed. Hodges will check out digital recorders. (C) Approve renewing township insurance with MUM - All board members had a copy of the insurance policy for 2008-2009. Discussion. M/Neubecker S/Corrado to accept the MUM proposal for next year insurance premium at \$3,772.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills - M/Lambert S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Neubecker yes, Hodges yes, Corrado yes, Bondy yes and Lambert yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #10964 through #10999 in the amount of \$21,529.86 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Amos Graves said that the sign at CETA needed to be replaced and asked if they had to go to the zoning board before they replace it. Neubecker said that they certainly did. Neubecker did say that they should tell them that the property does belong to the township and that they are a non-profit organization. Graves also asked if we have a User/Pay Ordinance. Neubecker said yes we do. He said that it was in the Fire Ordinance that was passed and there is a User/Pay provision in that ordinance.

M/Lambert S/Corrado to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 P.M.

Mary Hodges  
Coldsprings Township Clerk

