

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

FEBRUARY 14, 2005

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:01 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. 4 guests were also present.

Adoption of Agenda - M/Paladino S/Casto 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 the minutes for January 10, 2005 and the special meeting held on January 21, 2005. M/Casto S/Bondy to approve the minutes for the January 10, 2005 regular board meeting as written. All in favor. Motion carried. M/Neubecker S/Bondy to approve the minutes for the January 21, 2005 special meeting with one correction. (Page 2 the word poverty should have been topography). All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that she had contacted the Sheriffs' Department regarding the summer work crew. She said that she put her request in for the work crew for the cemetery, park and township hall for the spring cleanup. She also had some prices for picnic tables for the park. Bondy is waiting for a price quote that will include the shipping charges from one of the companies. No action was taken at this time. Fire Board - Minutes from the February 2, 2005 Fire Board meeting were presented. Copy on file. Road Commission - Paladino did not have the dates and times for the road commission meetings for January so was unable to attend a meeting in January. He said that he should be able to attend a road commission meeting before our March township board meeting. Liquor Enforcement - Liquor inspection reports were received for Manistee Lake Stop & Shop and Kiootee's for both October and December 2004. Both reports were good. Crime reports were also received. Copies are on file.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Casto presented the monthly reconciliation report as of January 31, 2005. The report showed that there was \$365,401.27 in the various bank accounts. \$108,073.96 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash fund. She also said that there are 410 winter tax bills still outstanding out of 2,451 bills and 254 summer

tax bills still outstanding out of 2,557 bills. M/Hodges S/Bondy to accept the treasurers' report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Township Website - Neubecker said that the Website is up and running. He said that the recent newsletter is on the Website and that he has been working on putting three of our ordinances on the Website also. (B) Pending ZBA litigation - Neubecker said that we have pending litigation on a decision that was made by the ZBA and that we (the board) have some decisions that need to be made, that were brought forth to our lawyer, and it is the direction of our lawyer that we should discuss them in closed session. Based on that Neubecker made a motion that we recess to closed session. Supported by Casto. All in favor. Motion carried.

The board recessed to go into closed session at 7:29 p.m.

The board reconvened at 7:39 with all board members present.

M/Casto S/Paladino that the waiver request submitted by Young, Graham & Elsenheimer in regards to the pending ZBA litigation be denied. All in favor. Motion carried. Neubecker will contact our attorney as to the decision of the board.

New Business - (A) Appoint BOR members - Neubecker said that he would like to reappoint, at the pleasure of the board, Earl Hansen, Charles Anderson and David Young to the BOR. M/Casto S/Paladino to appoint Earl Hansen, Charles Anderson and David Young to the BOR. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) Set time for Budget Hearing - M/Neubecker S/Casto to hold the budget hearing, Monday, March 14th at 6:00 P.M. All in favor. Motion carried. (C) Approve collection of summer taxes for Kalkaska School District - Casto said that KPS have offered to pay the township \$3.74 per parcel for collecting the summer taxes. M/Neubecker S/Bondy to sign the resolution with KPS at a collection of \$3.74 per parcel for school taxes. All in favor. Motion carried. (D) Approve collection of summer taxes for Mancelona Public Schools - Casto said that MPS have offered to pay the township \$3.85 per parcel for collecting the summer taxes. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to approve the resolution to collect summer taxes for MPS at \$3.85 per parcel. All in favor. Motion carried. (E) Approve the Fire Contract for Rapid River Township - M/Neubecker S/Bondy to sign the contract with Rapid River Township for reimbursement to Coldsprings/Excelsior Fire & Rescue in the amount of \$8,000.00 for the fiscal year that we are currently in. All in favor. Motion carried. (F) New chairs for the township hall meeting room - Hodges had prices for two different chairs. One was \$90.00 the other was \$155.00. Hodges said that the one for \$155.00 was of better quality. Short discussion. Hodges said that she would check and see if she could bring the chairs to the March meeting for the board to look at. (G) New Voter ID cards - Hodges asked if the board wanted her to purchase new voter ID cards that would have a message on them informing the voters that the polling place for school elections has been changed, and the cost to mail them would be .37 each, or purchase voter ID cards without the message on them, and the cost to mail them would be .23 each. Short discussion. It was the consensus of the board to go with the .23 voters ID card. (H) Board Salaries - Neubecker said that he has listened to the board and taken a look at

what has happened with the board salaries over the past decade. Especially the last five years, he feels that the board has taken on a lot more responsibilities upon themselves. He said that the board entered into litigations with the various road endings, which took up a considerable amount of time, not only at the meetings but also on sight. We've expanded what we're doing at the park, with the cemetery and maintenance overall. He said that we've captured Dino for the road commission, roads etc., we're now putting out a newsletter, state mandates for the clerk requirements for voting has become an absolute nightmare and additional time the treasurer puts in for collecting taxes. Neubecker said that based on that, we need to align ourselves better with what we are actually producing as a board and it is his recommendation that the following salaries be set with 2005/2006 budget process which will be the budget hearing next month and be included in the budget. The recommendation is to increase the Supervisors salary to \$9,250.00, the Clerks salary to \$13,500.00, the Treasurers salary to \$12,325.00 and the Trustees salary to \$2,550.00. And wrapped up with that recommendation is a second proposal that he would like to make retroactive to January 1, 2005 and that is that each board member will be paid \$25.00 per meeting, plus mileage at the current rate, for attendance at any meeting directly relating to township business, with the exception of Regular and Special Township Meetings and Regular Fire Board Meetings. Attendance at any Special Fire Board meeting will be reimbursed at \$25.00 per meeting, plus mileage. Only mileage will be reimbursed for attendance at any MTA meeting or workshop, but no \$25.00. Neubecker asked for comments and input from the board and the public. Hodges said that her duties have increased dramatically. Neubecker agreed and said that the clerk's duties have increased twofold in the last five years in what she is doing to fulfill the requirements at the state level. Hodges said that it really started with the road endings back in 1995, and since then the duties of the board have just been snowballing and the board has not had any significant salary increases. Neubecker said that it is a bad area because he hates to discuss a salary increase and Hodges agreed, but Neubecker said that it is more than appropriate to look at what this board does and he does think that it is more than appropriate and that is why he asked for citizen's comments. Harvey Brow asked how we line up with other townships around us. Neubecker said that we are right now about on the level that was assessed four years ago, when he did a survey for the annual meeting. Right now we are at where we were four years ago. Another citizen asked what we get paid now for going to other meetings. The answer was nothing. Neubecker said that regular monthly township board meetings, special meetings, monthly fire board meetings, those are not reimbursed at \$25.00. That is part of the boards' requirement as a board member. Paladino said that he's satisfied but that he doesn't have any objection to the increases either. Neubecker said that it is a frustrating thing to do because no matter what you do you feel like your doing something wrong or somebody will tell you that. There were no more questions or comments. Neubecker said that he would like to divide the proposals into two parts. He said that he would like to make a motion on the second part first. #1 - Neubecker made a motion to be effective retroactive to January 1, 2005, that each board member will be paid \$25.00 per meeting, plus mileage at the current rate, for attendance at any meeting directly relating to township business, with the exception of Regular and Special Township Meetings and Regular Fire Board Meetings. Attendance at any Special Fire Board meeting will be reimbursed at \$25.00 per meeting, plus mileage. Only mileage will be reimbursed for attendance at any

MTA meeting or workshop. Supported by Casto. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Paladino yes, Neubecker yes, Hodges yes and Casto yes. All in favor. Motion carried. #2 - Motion by Neubecker that the following salary rates be included in the 2005/2006 budget starting April 1, 2005, Supervisors salary to \$9,250.00, Clerks salary to \$13,500.00, Treasurers salary to \$12,325.00 and the Trustees salary to \$2,550.00 each. Supported by Paladino. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Bondy yes, Paladino yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Hodges said that we would have to draw up salary resolutions for the budget hearing.

Approval of Bills - M/Paladino S/Bondy to pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Neubecker yes, Hodges yes, Casto yes, Bondy yes and Paladino yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #9628 thru #9658 in the amount of \$36,666.74 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Sheriff Artress and Undersheriff Gaultier were present to say hello to the board and to introduce themselves to the public and let everyone know that they have an open door policy at the Sheriff's Department and that if anyone has any concerns that they would like to talk about, feel free to drop in anytime or call them and if they're not there they will return you call. Artress said that they are going to try to attend as many of the township board meetings that they can, when they can. If the board has a special issue that they would like to have input from the Sheriff's Department just give them a call and they will try to work something out either with himself or Undersheriff Gaultier. He did request that if they do attend a meeting, they would like to be put in at the front end of the meeting.

M/Paladino S/Casto to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk