

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010, 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m. Board members present at roll call were Supervisor Neubecker, Clerk Hodges, Treasurer Lambert, Trustee Bondy and Trustee Corrado. Nine members of the public were also present. Commissioner Lou Nemeth arrived later.

Adoption of the Agenda - Neubecker asked that Board of Review Training be added under old business. M/Bondy S/Corrado 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 Minutes - M/Lambert S/Bondy to approve the minutes from the December 14, 2009 regular board meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed. We did receive a copy of a letter from Stuart Rogers, that was sent to the Kankaska County Road Commission from the Supervisor of Blue Lake Township which Neubecker read, stating that they feel lately the Road Commission has been charging what they think are inflated costs to pave and repair local roads plus they add an extra 8.5% administrative charge for an easy paving job (that they do not perform) simply for procuring the contractor and inspecting the results. Blue Lake had previously recommended that the Road Commission bid out road construction work, however that proposal was rejected out of hand because the Commissioners stated, "we need the money from the Townships to keep operating". Blue Lake Township Board feels that it is unacceptable that taxpayers must pay inflated costs for road construction and repairs simply because the Road Commission's lack of funds. Neubecker said, that with the issues that we have been having with the Road Commission he will follow up with a letter to the Commissioners along with a copy of the letter from Blue Lake Township echoing our same thoughts.

Scott Mately from Area Waste Services was present to answer any questions regarding the trash pickup. He said that last week they sent one truck out and found that that was

not enough. He said that this week he scheduled two trucks for trash pickup, and their plan is, on having all of the trash picked up in the township by 12:30 or 1:00 p.m. on Mondays, unless something happens to one of the trucks. He said that the trucks would start at 6:30 a.m.

Committee Reports:

(A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that the easements are being used a lot by fishermen and snowmobilers.

(B) Fire Board Meeting - Minutes from the January 6, 2010 Fire Board meeting were presented. Copy of the minutes is on file.

(C) Road Commission Meeting - Trustee Corrado said that they are having a lot of internal problems. He said that they were talking about the driver's inconsistency of sanding the roads and not sanding the roads. They also talked about no leadership or supervision and no guidelines. He said that the commissioners also went into a closed meeting to talk about our lawsuit.

(D) Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Wendy updated the board on the junk ordinance violations. She said that she has one new case, 20 open cases, 12 closed cases and that no tickets were issued in December. Wendy gave the board a summary of all of the open cases, which included the names, addresses and the status of each case. Copy of the report is on file. Also attached to the report was a copy of a program called Adopt-a-Forest Guide. Wendy said that it sounded like a pretty good program. She said that it is strictly based on volunteers and that there are funds available for certain expenses and that it might be something for the board to look into.

(E) Liquor Enforcement - Nothing to report. No reports were received from the Sheriff's Department.

(F) County Commissioner Lou Nemeth - Nemeth said that they have a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson on the Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners. Nemeth then updated the board on the Broadband. He said that at the beginning they (Kalkaska County Board of Commissioners) thought that they would need around \$50,000.00 for the project and they made their plans that way but after they got into it more and looked at the whole process he said that he made a motion to split the project up and do the survey of the county first so that they would have the information and then figure out where they would go from there. He said that the survey is now complete and that they know who all of the operators are in the county, they know what the terrain looks like, they know where there is fiber optic cable, they know which supplier is where, they know the demographic problems and the problems with the terrain, and he said that at the next BOC meeting they will have a summary report and also a power point presentation,

if they can still get it on the agenda. He said that what they originally had was two parts, (1) the county survey and (2) that they would hire somebody to come in to do all of the preparation for the funding applications for the Federal Government. The Federal Government, under several different programs has about three billion dollars available to promote Broadband. He said that we have already benefited a lot because some of the Internet providers in the county have made additional investments. Nemeth said they talked to Blue Lake Township about having a donation from them and said that they had committed money to them and still do. He said that based on that, Chain O Lakes, which is the most aggressive activity in the county, told Blue Lake that they would put up three 80 ft. towers, but he feels that with the terrain in Blue Lake which is the hilliest in the county and in order to service the area with 80ft. Towers, it won't be adequate. Then he mentioned that they would put up 200 ft. towers but he still doesn't think that that will be enough to service the area after looking at the terrain. He said that when they (BOC) do the development of the county they hope that they will be able to get more broadband cable installed. Nemeth said that the funding from the Federal Government was to come out in three stages, however they received more applications than they thought they were going to get in the first stage so they decided to combine stage two and three into one stage. At the same time the Federal Government has started to put money into a program called "Connect America" and the State of Michigan has started a program "Connect the State". He said that the state program is going to depend a lot on the counties and in particular they are going to count a lot on getting information from surveys like our county just completed. Nemeth said that there would be a report and more information coming in time. He said that for right now he thinks that they are going to stay with the same consultant and pay them by the hour and still consider all of the money that has been committed but they don't know how much the project is going to cost. Neubecker asked how much money is committed. Nemeth said that he wasn't sure. He said that he knows that Kalkaska Township has given them \$5,000.00, Blue Lake and Bear Lake has committed \$5,000.00 each and Excelsior committed an undefined number, plus the \$5,000.00 that we (Coldspirngs Township) committed. He said that they (BOC) did not ask for a specified contribution from the townships but a contribution according to what they thought that they would benefit. Nemeth then said that relative to the Broadband Committee, he said that it is his intention to keep pushing for a one-person representation of each of the providers to be on the Broadband Committee. He said that today he received a report from the Attorney General and the State Police (regarding the recent newspaper articles about a motion he made at a BOC meeting and was approved by the board) and that they would be discussing the report at their next County Affairs Committee meeting. Corrado asked what that entailed and Nemeth said that he couldn't talk about it at this time. Corrado asked if that means that it is still under investigation and Nemeth said no. Stuart Rogers said that he heard on Friday that it was still under investigation. Nemeth said, that was Friday this is Monday. More discussion followed. Corrado asked Nemeth if it was a proven fact that seats for the Broadband Committee were being sold. Nemeth said no but that it was a proven fact that what he intended the motion to say was that every contributor should have a place on the committee.

Neubecker said that that was not the way he (Nemeth) made the motion. Nemeth said no and that it was a stupid mistake. The motion made was not made the way it was intended to be. Neubecker said that what bothers him is that a majority of the County Commissioners Board approved the motion. Nemeth said that the BOC had previously discussed the intent earlier in their meeting. Neubecker asked why they didn't rescind the motion. Nemeth said they just didn't. Much more discussion followed.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of December. The report showed that there was \$324,691.88 in the various Bank accounts, \$19,082.65 in the Township Improvement MM Account, \$251,228.52 in the Tax Account and \$100.00 in the Petty Cash Fund. Lambert said that there are still 300 summer tax bills unpaid, which are now delinquent. M/Neubecker S/Bondy to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business:

(A) Board of Review Training - M/Neubecker S/Bondy to pay for the three Board of Review members to attend the MTA training program. All in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer Lambert wanted to mention that they do have MTA training in Grand Rapids at the MTA Conference at the end of the month and even though none of the board members are registered to go, she does think that sometime in the future it would be beneficial for some of the board members to go, especially the clerk and treasurer because they do have some classes that would be good to be involved in especially the ones for taxes and cemetery and also this year they have an all day session on Grant writing. Discussion followed. M/Neubecker S/Bondy that the treasurer and clerk be allowed to attend the MTA training conference for the days that they feel is necessary for training this year. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business:

(A) District 2 concerns - Stuart Rogers, Sr. who is a resident, taxpayer and voter of District 2 was present. Rogers said that District 2 covers both Coldsprings and Rapid River Townships. Rogers said that he was accused of starting the investigation regarding the Broadband Committee motion made at the Kankaska County Board of Commissioners meeting in December. He said that he was at the meeting filming when the motion was made but that he had nothing to do with making the motion. He said that there was a lot of discussion on this. Rogers said that he raised his hand to ask if this was legal but he was not recognized. He said that the BOC discussed the issue for about 7 minutes and then it was voted on and the motion was passed. He said that during the final public comment he asked the BOC to clarify the motion that was just passed by asking them that if he gave them \$2,000.00 that he could buy a seat on this committee therefore have a vote on the committee. He said that Nemeth turned around and said yes and that none of

commissioners disagreed with his answer. He said that all he did was write a letter to the editor stating this. Rogers said that the reason he asked to be on the agenda was that because of the recent events involving District 2's Commissioner, he has discovered that Mr. Nemeth is involved in so many projects that do not concern our area and we have no voice in whatsoever that he could not possibly do anything to help us. I feel that we deserve a representative who will represent us and therefore he would encourage this (township) board to draft a letter to Mr. Nemeth and the Board of Commissioners requesting Nemeth's resignation therefore freeing his time up to spend more time for his many endeavors with the private sector and in turn appointing our district a representative that would address our concerns. He said that he would like everyone to think his comments over.

(B) Change mileage from .55 to .50 per mile effective 1/1/10 per the IRS - M/Neubecker S/Lambert that our mileage rates be lowered to .50 per mile from .55 per mile retroactive to January 1,2010. All in favor. Motion carried.

(C) Approve the agreement for summer tax collection for Mancelona School District - M/Lambert S/Hodges to accept and sign the agreement for summer tax collection at \$3.89 per parcel. All in favor. Motion carried.

(D) Amend the Budget - The clerk presented amendments to the 2009-2010 budget. M/Neubecker S/Corrado to approve the budget amendments as provided by the clerk. Roll call vote. Lambert yes, Hodges yes, Bondy yes, Corrado yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills - M/Corrado S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Hodges yes, Lambert yes, Neubecker yes, Bondy yes and Corrado yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #11448 through #11477 in the amount of \$32,306.61 were approved for payment.

Public Comment began at 8:52 p.m and ended at 9:05 p.m. Comments from Commissioner Nemeth, question about the trash and the clerk announced that there will be a Kalkaska School election February 23rd for a Bond Proposal, a Blood Drive on February 2nd here at the township hall and that the Census Bureau is looking for workers.

M/Corrado S/Lambert to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk

