

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

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

JANUARY 12, 2009

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 Lambert, Trustee Bondy and Trustee Corrado. County Commissioner Nemeth was present and 7 members of the public.

Adoption of the Agenda - M/Bondy S/Lambert 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.

Approve the minutes from the December 8, 2008 regular board meeting. Neubecker noted one correction on page 3 at the bottom. The meeting convened and it should read the meeting recessed. The clerk will make the correction. M/Neubecker S/Lambert to approve the minutes from the December 8, 2008 board meeting as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - (A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that she is putting things together for the work crew from the Sheriff's Department for the spring cleanup. (B) Fire Board - Minutes from the January 7, 2009 Fireboard meeting were presented. Copy is on file. (C) Road Commission - Trustee Corrado reported on the Road Commission meetings that he has attended since the December township board meeting. Corrado said that as of this morning the road commission has had no response according to Jamie, from their attorney, to fill our request in regards to the \$46,000.00 that was in the contract that was charged to the township for equipment rental. Corrado said that this has been going on for months and he asked the road commission what is the problem with getting a legal opinion from their legal staff. They asked that the township give them the legal opinions that we had and they would research that. Corrado told them to do their own work. The road commission said that now they are going to wait and get an opinion from the person that is working on their books and then they will try and get an opinion from their attorney. The road commission said that for the coming year, 2009, they have zero funds to do any work or projects and all projects will have to wait until 2010. Neubecker said that basically what they are saying is that all of the

money that they have coming in from ACT 51 Funds is going to pay payroll and benefits. Corrado said that their operating budget right now with wages and benefits is over 80% of their operating budget. Corrado said that you just cannot run a business with over 80% of their operating budget going to wages and benefits. He then discussed the meeting that was supposed to be just between Jamie Woodham, Mike Neubecker and Denny Corrado regarding road projects within Coldsprings Township. However, Woodham said that he invited two road commissioners to the meeting, which brought about a problem as to the Open Meetings Act. Neubecker said that he wanted in the minutes and a matter of public record that at no time were any of the road commissioners invited to that particular meeting by anyone from Coldsprings Township, that the meeting was supposed to be strictly between Jamie Woodham, Denny Corrado and him. More discussion followed. It was also mentioned that the road commission wants to impose a 1 ½% interest on the \$46,000.00 and that they are going to ask for more up front money for projects in the future and also that they are going to have just one meeting a month and that will be in the daytime. Corrado said that he told them again in regards to the Starvation Lake Road project that if we are wrong and they can show us case law that we must pay the \$46,000, which they did lower to \$40,421.00 for renting equipment that the taxpayers have already paid for we will pay the bill immediately but until they can show us that we are wrong we are not paying it. More discussion. There was also discussion about the road commission breaking the contract between them and Coldsprings Township on the Starvation Lake Rd project since the work was not completed according to the contract. They did not complete the shoulder work. More discussion. M/Neubecker S/Lambert that we seek legal counsel with Mike Edwards as to the legality of the contract and whether we should break the contract or pursue it. All in favor. Motion carried. Commissioner Nemeth said that he has contacted someone regarding the township contracting outside the road commission for projects but still have the road commission maintain the roads, but he has not heard anything back as yet. Neubecker then spoke about TransCanada having a contract with the road commission to do work on the shoulders of Twin Lake Road and some work on Barnhardt Road in the spring. TransCanada told Neubecker that they just issued a check for more than \$65,000.00 to do the work. However when Neubecker asked the road commission about it they told him that there is no more work to be done on Twin Lake Road. Neubecker said that under the Freedom of Information Act he would like to address a letter to the road commission for them to provide all information and contracts regarding their dealings with TransCanada over the last 36 months. (D) Liquor Enforcement - A favorable report was received on Kiootee's Bar & Grill for the month of November. The crime report from the Sheriff's Department for the month of November was also received. That showed that there were 37 incidents for the month. (E) County Commissioner Nemeth - Nemeth had several things to report on. One was that with the budget cuts that the state has to make means that a lot of the state cuts will be pushed down to the county and one of the things that we will have to deal with is that we will have to entertain more prisoners in our jails. He said that right now we have 40 males and 10 females and 5 prisoners on work release so we still have some room for more prisoners. Nemeth said that at the same time they

want to lower the guidelines, which would keep more prisoners out of the state prisons and keep more at the local level. He also reported that there are some welding jobs available in the area however they have not had any way to educate people to become welders. He said that the Council of Government is working with Michigan Works and KalTec and they have put together a training program to educate people to become welders. He said that it is an 8-week training program and when they complete the program they will be certified welders. He also gave a report on the number of ambulance and rescue runs, sheriff's runs and arrests. He said that three members of the planning commission were re-appointed. He also spoke about the KMHC grand opening and said that a large part of the success of the hospital is because they are able to access virtual services from Munson Hospital. He also reported that there is an opportunity to bring broadband to the Village of Kalkaska and he said that he has asked that they consider expanding that to existing towers within the county particularly north on 131 and along 72 and toward the lake areas. He also had some information on Septage Receiving Facilities.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of December. The report showed that there was \$341,361.99 in the various bank accounts, \$19,681.09 in the Township Improvement MM account, \$210,754.40 in the Tax account 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 - None

New Business - (A) Approve the BOR members - M/Neubecker S/Bondy to appoint Earl Hansen, Chuck Anderson and Dick Paternoster to the BOR for a two-year term. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) Approve the BOR members attending the MTA workshop. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to approve the BOR members and the supervisor attending the MTA workshop. All in favor. Motion carried. (C) Change the mileage reimbursement from .58 to .55 - M/Neubecker S/Lambert to change the mileage reimbursement for township business from .58 to .55 retroactive to January 1, 2009. All in favor. Motion carried. (D) Remove property from MLIB/SAD - M/Neubecker S/Bondy to remove back lot #40-005-081-015-00 from the Manistee Lake Improvement Board Special Assessment District, the property was taxed in error. All in favor. Motion carried. (E) Approve summer tax collection for Kalkaska Public Schools - M/Neubecker S/Hodges to approve the agreement for summer tax collection with Kalkaska Public Schools as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills - M/Corrado S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Lambert yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Corrado yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #11104 through #11137 in the amount of \$88,016.91 plus 1 Electronic Transfer of \$253.34 to Intuit for a total of \$88,270.25 was issued for payment.

Citizens Comments

M/Lambert S/Bondy to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 P.M.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk

