

# **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571**

**MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011**

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Board members present at roll call were Supervisor Neubecker, Clerk Hodges, Treasurer Lambert, Trustee Corrado and Trustee Bagnell. County Commissioner McKinnon and 11 members of the public were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - Punch & Judy Special Assessment was added to the agenda under new business. M/Lambert 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.

Approval of Minutes - Two corrections were made to the May 2011 minutes. Under Park & Recreation Committee - MMRTF was changed to MNRTF and quite was changed to quiet. M/Neubecker S/Bagnell to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2011 regular board meeting with the two corrections. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed. A letter was received from the Kalkaska County Zoning Administrator in regards to the Genson Rabbit Farm on County Road 571. The letter stated that since they sell the rabbits for profit they do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Kalkaska County Zoning Ordinance but instead falls under the rules and regulations of the Right to Farm Act and GAAMP (Generally Accepted Animal Management Practices). Discussion followed.

#### **Committee Reports:**

(A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bagnell reported that the buoys are not in the water at Sands Park as yet. He said that he has contacted the Sheriff's Department about putting them in water but they have not returned his calls. He also said that the Porta-Johns have to be moved to the other side of the drive. He said that they have been having some lawn mower problems and had to take the tractor in for repairs. He also said that the work crew did a real good job of cleaning up the cemetery and park. Bagnell also introduced David Knowles, the new maintenance person for the township.

(B) Fireboard meeting - Minutes from the June 1, 2011 Fireboard meeting were presented. The minutes showed that there were 3 Fire and 19 Rescue runs for the month of May. Copy of the minutes is on file.

(C) Road Commission - Trustee Corrado reported on the Road Commissioners meeting held this morning. He said that they have laid off 8 people and have 12 employees still working. Corrado said that another thing that they talked about was that the State Audit indicated to the road commission that they had never done an employee evaluation or a management evaluation, so they passed a resolution to make it mandatory to have at least 1 annual review in an employees file. He said that the supervisor will do the employees evaluation and the board will do the evaluation for management. He said that the road commission also discussed health care for retirees. Corrado asked when they were going to fix Starvation Lake Road and they told him that it didn't look like it would be in the near future.

(D) Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Wendy reported to the board on the various violations that she is working on within the township. She said that she would also do a follow-up on the Genson Rabbit Farm. Copy of her report is on file. Also discussed was the property that the township inherited on Cunningham Road. Wendy said that it definitely needs to be cleaned up. Short discussion followed. Neubecker asked Wendy to write down exactly what needs to be done to the property to bring it in alignment with our ordinance so that we can go out for bids to get the job accomplished. Another suggestion was to sell the property. Neubecker said that we could ask the assessor for a quote as to what the property is worth. More discussion.

(E) Park & Recreation Committee - Brenda said that Pam has applied for several grants that do not need matching funds. She said that a couple of the organizations wrote back and had an issue with our EIN # stating that it was not recognized as a valid number. Hodges said that she would contact the state and the IRS and ask for a letter confirming that it is a valid number. Brenda also said that she heard from our attorney, Michael Edwards, and said that he is going to file for quiet title for Sands Park. The attorney also told Brenda that the Kalkaska Farmers Association was formed in 1917 and that the organization was only good for 30 years and after 30 years it terminated on it's own terms and conditions, so even though they say it was in existence in 1974-1976 it actually was not. Brenda said that we received notice from the DNR that they did receive our grant application and that it was one of fifty that they received and she said that was good news for us and now we just have to sit and wait until we hear from them as to whether or not we receive a grant. She also reported that the P&R committee went over to the park after their meeting and counted trees that have to come down. She said that they counted 30 trees that have to come down some of which are dead. There is also 11 stumps in the park now that need to be ground down and 5 trees that we want to keep but they do need to be trimmed. There are also 6 stakes that need to be removed. Discussion followed. Neubecker asked that the P&R committee make a recommendation at our next meeting as to how we should proceed with the tree removal. Whether we should have them all taken down at once or incrementally. Brenda said that it would probably be in the best interest of the township to have them all taken down at the same time. She also said that the stumps would have to be ground down. Brenda did say that it will be a big job and we will have to go out for bids and make sure the company is insured. Short discussion

followed. Brenda will give us the recommendation of the P&R committee regarding the trees at our next meeting. Kalkaska EDC said that they are very pleased with the Coldsprings Township Park & Recreation 5 year plan and offer any support and assistance within their power.

(F) Liquor Report - No liquor reports were received. We did receive the crime report and it showed that there were 26 incidents for the month of May. Copy of the report is on file.

(G) County Commissioner - County Commissioner McKinnon updated the township on the last two Commissioners meetings and some of the issues that were discussed and voted on at the meetings. He said that at the Commissioners meeting in May they discussed Low Income Housing and the monies that are available and also County Zoning. He also said that Ed Ascione came in with an agreement between Kalkaska County and Wexford County to move solid waste back and forth between the counties. McKinnon said that after reviewing the agreement with some people in Wexford County, he made some recommendations and made some changes to it. McKinnon said that the new agreement came back where Kalkaska County could export all of it's solid waste to Wexford County but Wexford County could not bring anything to Kalkaska County and the board of commissioners were in agreement with that. He also said that they had a discussion with the people from the Library. He said that they want to build an 18,000 sq. ft. building at a cost of 3.6 million dollars to be paid for by putting it on a 20-year bond to the county. He said that he never had an issue as to whether a new library was needed or not, he said the issue was how were they going to fund the building after they build it, because they have never done a feasibility study to see what it would cost to operate the building. He said that after a lengthy discussion, the commissioners tabled the issue until their June meeting. He said that at the June meeting the commissioners had their vote and the bond was defeated 4-3. McKinnon also said that the commissioners were informed a couple of weeks ago that the Prosecuting Attorney had hired a new Assistant, which was quite a concern to the commissioners because they have a hiring freeze on right now. He said that they were going to contact their legal counsel regarding the hiring.

**Treasurers Report:**

Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of May. The report showed that there was \$383,421.31 in the various bank accounts, \$10.07 in the Forest Area Federal Credit Union, \$10,570.47 in the MCU Building Fund account, \$18,398.30 in the MCU Township Improvement account, \$100.00 in the Tax account and \$100.00 in the Petty Cash account. Lambert said that we have a CD up for renewal this month and she will check around for the best rate. M/Neubecker S/Corrado to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Old Business:** - None

**New Business:**

(A) Punch & Judy Special Assessment - Hodges said that it's time to renew the Special Assessment for snow plowing for Punch & Judy. She said that it has to be renewed every five years. She said that Frank Furst presented the estimate for plowing. Hodges did say that Punch & Judy have \$3,003.00 left in their account however she does have to transfer out the \$281.00 administrative fee. The balance could be used towards the next special assessment. Short discussion followed. Hodges will contact the assessor and ask him to come up with some figures for the special assessment.

**Approval of Bills:**

All bills were reviewed. Hodges had a question about the bill for Great Lakes Energy for the security lights. Short discussion. Hodges will contact Great Lakes. M/Lambert S/Corrado to pay the bills as presented in the amount of \$33,559.66, including Great Lakes Energy, with a caveat that we get a satisfactory explanation from Great Lakes regarding their bill. Roll call vote. Bagnell yes, Hodges yes, Corrado yes, Neubecker yes and Lambert yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

**Public Comments:** Began at 8:50 p.m. Rick Spires an employee of the road commission had an issue with a remark that was in the township newsletter regarding the Road Commission. Supervisor Neubecker said that the remark was directed to the management of the road commission and not the employees and that it was his own personal opinion and not that of the township board. Public comments ended at 8:58 p.m.

M/Corrado S/Lambert to adjourn. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Mary Hodges  
Coldsprings Township Clerk