

# **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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

**JUNE 9, 2008**

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:00p.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. Approx. 7 members of the public were present including County Commissioner Lou Nemeth.

Adoption of the Agenda - Neubecker added Stuart McKinnon, from the Kalkaska Planning Commission to the agenda. 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 - Neubecker noted that a correction needed to be made to the minutes, on page two 7 lines from the bottom, stripping should be striping. M/Bondy S/Lambert to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2008 regular board meeting with the one correction. All in favor. Motion carried. The clerk will make the correction to the minutes.

Rosemarie Franco-Bell was present to introduce herself as a candidate for Register of Deeds in the August Primary Election.

JoAnn De Graff was present to introduce herself as a candidate for Register of Deeds in the August Primary Election.

Stuart McKinnon, Chairman of the Planning Commission in Kalkaska County, was present to give an update to those present on a public hearing that was held concerning language dealing with a proposed text amendment for a Bio-Mass Power Plant within Kalkaska County. He said that at their next Planning Commission meeting they would discuss if the proposed draft language complies with the master plan.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that the Work Crew finished cleaning up the cemetery in time for Memorial Day week-end and that they have started on Sands Park. She said that water runs under the door of the shed at

the park. Neubecker will contact Tony and ask him about putting something on the bottom of the door to stop the water from going inside the shed. Hodges said that Judy DeVee called and asked if someone could replace the No Wake sign at Rainbow Lake. She said that the one that's there is in bad shape. Neubecker said that what we ran into over at Manistee Lake is that the DNR has asserted their responsibilities and that for placement or replacement of "No Wake" signs they have to get permission from the DNR. He said that the township is no longer an authority regarding conduct or speeds on the water. Hodges will contact Mrs. DeVee. (B) Fire Board - Minutes from the June 4, 2008 Fireboard meeting were presented. Copy is on file. (C) Road Commission Meeting - Trustee Corrado reported that the road commission opened bids for various projects in the county. He said that the bids for the 571/612 project ran anywhere from \$683,000.00 to \$1 million. He said that there was no commitment as to when that project would start. Corrado also said that the bid for 13,000 plus feet of Starvation Lake Rd was \$283,000.00. He said that the road commission was going back and go over all of the bids to make sure that all the materials that they had proposed were included in the bids. He said that they were going to put a ¾ inch coat on 571/612. Short discussion. (D) Liquor Enforcement - Reports were received on both liquor establishments in the township. Both reports were good. (E) County Commissioner Lou Nemeth - Nemeth said that he attended two commissioners meetings in the past month. The first one was their regular board meeting and the second was essentially so that the commissioners could take a look at the actions that were made by the previous board when they voted to change from the elected to the appointed road commissioners. He said that the action was made by a motion and no one came back to the board of commissioners and told them that they had made a mistake and that it needed to be corrected. Then an action was made in the Clerks office where someone was allowed to file for a position of a road commissioner in the next election. The Board of Commissioners then had a discussion relative to the filing and the result of the discussion was that the commissioners agreed to a resolution, which is where the appropriate action should have been when it was originally taken. Nemeth said that the person that filed is not eligible to be elected even though his name will be on the ballot because it is too late to have his name removed. There is one position open on the road commission and the County Board of Commissioners will appoint someone to fill the vacancy. He also said that at the second meeting the commissioners approved the wording for a ¼ millage renewal for the Library. Nemeth said that the commissioners also had considerable discussion on the Kailseum. He said that they discussed the possibility, although they took no action, to have a millage for the operational expenses of the Kailseum. He said that the Kailseum is doing better than it has in the last three years and the income is better but the County is still taking \$17,000.00 to \$20,000.00 a month out of the General Fund to keep the Kailseum open. Discussion followed.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation for the month of May. The report showed that there was \$359,815.85 in the various bank accounts, \$19,513.11 in the Township Improvement MM account, \$100.00 in the tax

account and \$100.00 in the petty cash account. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Deborah Hill was present to introduce herself as a candidate for County Clerk in the August Primary.

Margaret Learner was present to introduce herself as a candidate for the Register of Deeds in the August Primary.

Old Business - (A) Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Neubecker said that he has talked with Trustee Corrado, and read over the documentation that Corrado has previously presented to the board, and what he is working towards is establishing a position specifically for ordinance enforcement and that would not entail just our junk ordinance but would include our road ordinance, park ordinance, road ending ordinance and any ordinance that we may develop and implement in the future. Neubecker said that he would like to hear from the board as to whether or not the board wants to proceed with creating a position as such. He said that it has its definite positives and the only drawback that he could see would be the financial aspect. Neubecker said that Corrado has recently accepted a position with the Kankaskia County Sheriff's Department as the Junk Ordinance Officer for the entire county to handle every single township. Neubecker said that what that means, is that after a township has reached a point in time where after the township has given warnings to those in violation of an ordinance and they have not been complied with them or they have been ignored the warnings or there are issues regarding it, at that point in time the township says that they have had enough they then turn it over to the Sheriff's Department. Neubecker said that the township cannot just take complaints to the Junk Ordinance Officer (Corrado), we still have to take the same steps that we take now such as send certified letters to the individuals, view the site, take pictures of the site, give them a certain amount of time to comply with the ordinance, etc. and when all that has failed is when we take our complaint to the Sheriff's Ordinance Officer of the County. At that point in time the Ordinance Officer does one of two things, (1) give the people an additional opportunity to comply with the complaint or (2) issue them a ticket and from that point forward the Sheriff's Department takes them to court. Hodges asked if the Prosecutor would prosecute or would he look at the complaint and say that the county should not waste the money on prosecuting the case. Corrado said that he does not know what he would say to that but he has been assured that this is no longer a waste of money. He said that the Sheriff's Department has put in a complete effort behind this program. Discussion followed. Neubecker asked if the board wants to further address setting up a procedure in which to put a qualified individual in place as a Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer. Hodges asked if this is something that we could do on a part time/temporary basis, say for six months or a year to see how it works out. Corrado said yes. More discussion. Corrado feels that it would be a very positive move and has a lot of merit. Lambert asked if it would be so many hours a week or would it be more of an as needed position. Corrado said that it would be an as needed.

Corrado said that once township residents realize that there is a connection between the Township and the Sheriff's Department, hopefully the residents would start to clean up their sight before it goes to court. M/Neubecker S/Bondy to move forward and start establishing criteria and contract information to create a position as an Ordinance Enforcement Officer for the township. All in favor. Motion carried.

New Business - (A) Special Assessment - Neubecker said that the Assessor went back over the Special Assessment District for the Manistee Lake Improvement Board and found that there were some deletions to be made to the assessment. The Board of Review approved them at their December meeting but found out later that the deletions could not be approved by the BOR but had to be approved by the township board even though it is an independent board. Lengthy discussion followed between Norm LaCroix, Gerry Gancer and Neubecker and questions by the board members. Neubecker said that the Manistee Lake Improvement Board had previously approved the removal of the properties that are on the list that was presented to the township board. M/Neubecker S/Lambert that the properties that the board has in front of them be removed from the Manistee Lake Improvement Board's Special Assessment District effective December 31, 2007. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Corrado no, Hodges yes, Lambert yes and Neubecker yes. 4 yeas 1 nay. Motion carried. (B) Shred old ballots from previous elections - Hodges said that she has a lot of old ballots and unused ballots that need to be shredded and that there is a company in Traverse City that will come out and shred them at a cost of \$80.00. Short discussion. M/Lambert S/Bondy to have someone come in commercialy and shred old ballots. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills - M/Corrado S/Lambert to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Lambert yes and Corrado yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #10909 through #10935 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments

M/Corrado S/Lambert to adjourn.

Metting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Mary Hodges  
Coldsprings Township Clerk

