

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

MARCH 14, 2005

7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. 8 guests were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - Neubecker asked to add County Commissioner Phyllis Senske to the agenda. M/Casto S/Neubecker 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 the minutes for the February 14, 2005 regular board meeting and the February 14, 2005 closed session meeting. M/Bondy S/Casto to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2005 regular board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. M/Neubecker S/Casto to approve the minutes from the February 14, 2005 closed session meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jim Austin, Administrator of Kalkaska Memorial Health Center, was present and gave a presentation on the changes that have taken place at Kalkaska Memorial Hospital since it opened in 1953 and to talk about their plans for the future and their next level of expansion. He spoke on how KMHC has gone from one of the weakest small hospitals to one of the strongest small hospitals in the State of Michigan. Joe Dupuie was also present and he is the Ambulance supervisor.

County Commissioner Phyllis Senske was also present to give an update on the happenings at the county level. The two main issues she spoke about was rather the Chairman of the County Commissioners, Mike Cox, should resign or not, and the Kaliseum. She asked for some input from those present in regards to the Kaliseum as to what we think the county should do about it. She said that the county just keeps putting more and more money into the Kaliseum just to keep it running. She said that they just put another \$188,000.00 into it last year. Senske said that she thinks that they should do one of two things, either ask the people to vote for a millage to run the place or close it. Bondy said that if they close it we would still have to finish paying off the bonds. Senske said yes, but that we wouldn't have the expenses. There was also discussion about possibly leasing the building or selling it. More discussion followed. She also said that Russ Naasko was appointed County Road Commissioner to fill the vacancy that was

made when Ken Davis resigned.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - Trustee Bondy said that she had received a verbal quote for 2-8ft picnic tables for the park. The cost would be \$1,047.00, which would include shipping. Short discussion followed. Bondy will call the company and ask them to fax over a written quote. Neubecker said that we would put it on the agenda for April's meeting.

Fire Board - Minutes from the March 2, 2005 Fire Board were presented. Copy on file.

Road Commission meeting - Trustee Paladino reported on the March 9, 2005 Road Commissioners meeting. He said that Laurie (secretary of the road commission) would start to e-mail the minutes of the road commission meetings to the township. He also reported that the counties are going to be responsible for maintaining railroad crossings after they are put in, like on Twin Lake Rd., they plan on putting lights at the crossing on Twin Lake Rd. and after they are put in then it will be up to the county to maintain them. Roads were another item discussed. Paladino said that Starvation Lake Rd was brought up and that the new commissioner was on top of that and that he spoke up on behalf of Coldsprings Township. County road 571 is supposed to get done this year from 72 to the Antrim County line. Gancer asked Paladino to ask at the next road commission meeting, what the criteria is for plowing snow. He said that they plowed his road today even though it only had about an inch of snow on it. Gancer feels that that is a big waste of gas and the money could be used somewhere else.

Liquor Enforcement - Nothing to report.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Casto presented the monthly reconciliation for the month of February. The report showed that there was \$372,273.14 in the various bank accounts, \$197,256.58 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash fund. She reported that the books were in balance and were turned over to the county March 1st. Casto also reported that the township would have to pay back to ANR 28% of personal property taxes for this year then also a certain percentage through the year 2010. She's still waiting for the letter from the Tribunal. Neubecker said that the State Tribunal did award the ANR a rollback on personal property taxes. M/Hodges S/Paladino to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried. Copy of report is on file.

Neubecker called for a 5-minute recess. Meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Old Business - (A) Chairs for meeting room - Hodges said that she had hoped to have a couple of chairs at this meeting for the board to look at but Excel only had one of the chairs in stock. She said that she will pick them up Thursday and bring them to the hall and the board members can stop by and check them out and then we can decide at April's meeting what they want to do. (B) Pending ZBA Litigation - Neubecker said that there is nothing further at this time but that there is a preliminary court date set for April 8th.

New Business - (A) Pay BOR members - M/Casto S/Hodges to pay the BOR members

upon completion of their duties and prior to the April board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) Amend the 2004-2005 for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year - M/Neubecker S/Paladino to accept the budget amendments for the 2004-2005 fiscal year as presented by the clerk. Roll call vote. Neubecker yes, Casto yes, Bondy yes, Paladino yes and Hodges yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Copy of the budget amendments is on file. (C) Approve the Cost Center Budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 - There were no changes made to the proposed 2005-2006 cost center budget line items. There were two changes in the Fund balances. One was to move \$2,658.95 from the General Fund to the Building Fund and purchase a \$10,000.00 CD. The second change was to pay for Sunset Trail's resurfacing out of the General Fund and remove the \$65,000.00 transfer to the Township Improvement Fund. M/Neubecker S/Casto to approve the Cost Center Budget as discussed at the budget hearing for 2005-2006 budget year. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Paladino yes, Hodges yes, Casto yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Copy of the 2005-2006 budget is on file. (D) Approve the Township Improvement Fund - M/Neubecker S/Paladino that the Township Improvement Fund stays at \$117,888.11. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes and Paladino yes. All in favor. Motion carried. (E) Approve the Building Fund - M/Neubecker S/Paladino to move \$2,658.95 from the General Fund to the Building Fund and have the treasurer purchase a CD at the best possible rate. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Paladino yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. (F) Pass salary resolutions - Neubecker said that at last month's meeting we talked about salary increases and increases in the board's responsibilities and that there has been a lot of discussion here this evening from various members of the public regarding salaries of the board. Neubecker said that he believes that the discussions that we held regarding the resolutions at the previous board meeting was very valid and he realizes that everyone has their own opinions and he is not doing this with gaiety or anything else. He said deciding salaries is a very difficult thing to do. He said that he feels that the salaries that we did pass were valid. Neubecker asked if any of the board members had any comments. Hodges said that she feels that they were valid with everything that is coming down on the board. Casto said that in comparison with other townships we are not as high as they are and she didn't feel like we were asking for something outrageous. Neubecker then asked for comments from the public. There were no comments from the public. Trustee Paladino feels that we made the decisions with good judgment. He said that a comment made earlier by a member of the audience was couldn't this money be used for roads. Paladino said that he feels that those are two different issues as far as county roads and the boards responsibilities, it's two different monies. Bondy said that it is immaterial, because the road issue wouldn't be brought up if it wasn't for the board. If the board wasn't interested in improving the township the board wouldn't be here. Neubecker said that he feels that it has been thought out and that we have weighed the pros and cons against it and for it. Neubecker first read a general salary resolution and explained that it is a resolution that is read for each position on the township board. Resolution #1 - M/Neubecker S/Casto that as of April 1, 2005 the salary of each Township Trustee shall be \$2,550.00 per year. Paladino asked, for the records in case the question is asked, how did Neubecker base his ratios on. Neubecker said that he based it on studies that were done a few years back against what we have going within our township as far as the responsibilities of the trustees are concerned and the involvement

of the trustees within the local community in dealing with township business. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Paladino yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Resolution #2 - M/Neubecker S/Hodges that as of April 1, 2005 the salary of the Township Treasurer shall be \$12,325.00 per year. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Paladino yes, Neubecker yes, Hodges yes and Casto yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Resolution #3 - M/Neubecker S/Casto that as of April 1, 2005 the salary of the Township Clerk shall be \$13,500.00 per year. Roll call vote. Paladino yes, Bondy yes, Hodges yes, Casto yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Resolution #4 - M/Hodges S/Paladino that as of April 1, 2005 the salary of the Township Supervisor shall be \$9,250.00 per year. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Bondy yes, Paladino yes, Hodges yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried. All resolutions passed. Copies of all resolutions are on file. (G) Appointment to the upper Manistee Zoning Board - Neubecker gave a brief summary as to what the Manistee River Zoning Board is about. He also received a letter from Dan Pearson asking that each township appoint a representative from their township to be on the Zoning Review Board. The letter also said that if a township does not have a representative of their own, from their township, that they will appoint someone and that it does not necessarily mean that it would be someone from their township. Neubecker asked if any of the public would be interested in the appointment. Gancer said that he would accept an appointment to the State Zoning Review Board. Harvey Brow said that he would accept the appointment as an alternate. M/Neubecker S/Casto that Gerald Gancer be appointed as a regular representative from Coldsprings Township to the Upper Manistee River Zoning Board of Appeals and that Harvey Brow be appointed as an alternate to the Upper Manistee River Zoning Board of Appeals and that a letter will be drafted stating so. All in favor. Motion carried. Correction to the motion - it is the State Zoning Review Board and not the Upper Manistee River Zoning Board.

Approval of minutes - M/Bondy S/Paladino to pay the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Paladino yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #9659 through #9691 in the amount of \$55,104.02 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Hodges said that she had been asked by a couple of residents about the possibility of having a tower put up somewhere on township property to get better signals for cell phones, etc. Short discussion. Neubecker said that he would do some checking around.

M/Casto S/Paladino to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk