

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

MAY 14, 2007

7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. County Commissioner Lou Nemeth and approx. 13 other guests were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - Add under new business as item C, agreement to collect summer taxes for TBA. M/Casto S/Paladino 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. Neubecker said that there is a conflict of interest in regards to the Treasurer and the individuals that are here to interview for the treasurers position. He said that unfortunately Treasurer Casto couldn't take part in the process other than answer questions that directly pertain to the job.

Approval of the minutes - M/Casto S/Bondy to approve the minutes from the April 9, 2007 regular board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Committee Reports - (A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that the work crew was supposed to work Friday or call her Monday but she has not heard from anyone yet. She asked if our maintenance person could start cutting the grass in the cemetery. The board agreed to let him get started because it was starting to look bad and it is only a couple of weeks until Memorial Day. She also said that there were no trash containers at the park yet. Short discussion. Bondy said that she would call the trash company tomorrow. She also asked about renting a leaf blower and having the maintenance man get rid of the leaves in the park. She said it's really bad. Short discussion. The board agreed. She also said that she talked to Bob Grimm about fixing the frame on the garage door and he said that he would fix it sometime this month. Paladino asked about the fence in the park that is broken. Bondy said that the work crew would be able to fix that. Neubecker said that the shelves are here and that Chuck can start putting those together when he gets time. (B) Fireboard Mtg. - Minutes from the May 2nd Fireboard meeting were presented. Copy on file. (C) Road Commission - Trustee Paladino reported that the road commission has two new members on the board to give input and help make decisions. He said that there was an objection by one of the

members that the new members shouldn't participate until they have had a background check. He said that there was a problem with who owes Wade Trim thousands of dollars for the Plum Valley project. The County refused to pay them and told them that they felt that MDOT owes Wade Trim the money since MDOT is the only organization that has a contract for the roadwork. The problem was not resolved at the road commission meeting. Paladino also said that since they have John Rogers who was appointed Manager and Scott Ellis who was appointed Operations Manager, there was some confusion as to who the union should be reporting to. He said that as far as their finances, they're still in the same boat. At the end of April they had a balance of \$10,000.00 and that they're not paying all of their bills because of a cash flow problem. He said that they still go through their bills and try to prioritize which bills they will pay now and which ones they will hold until later. Commissioner Nemeth said that the Road Commission is going to solicit tar and chip road repairs in the townships at 100% TWP pay. He said that John Rogers would contact the townships and summarize the needs to get the best price on materials. Nemeth said that he has been appointed liaison between the County Commissioners and the Road Commission. (D) Liquor Enforcement - No report was received from the Sheriffs' Department.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Casto presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of April 2007. The report showed that there was \$380,010.93 in the various bank accounts, \$100.00 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash account. Casto said that there is one CD for \$18,823.52 that is up for renewal. Short discussion on the CD. The board agreed to have Casto put the money into a money market account for the time being. M/Neubecker S/Paladino to accept the treasurers' report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Offer to purchase for the property in back of the cemetery - Hodges said that she presented the offer of \$15,000.00, to purchase the property in back of the cemetery, as directed by the board at the April board meeting. The owner came back with a counter offer of \$25,000.00. Discussion followed. M/Neubecker S/Paladino to make a counter offer of \$18,000.00. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) Cemetery Rules and Regulations - Hodges said that Dee had brought in the Rules & Regulations from Oakwood Cemetery and she said that all the cemeteries have basically the same regulations, so why don't we use them also. Also discussed was putting a notice in the paper regarding decorations on graves. Hodges will place the notice in the paper before Memorial Day. (C) Resumes for Treasurer - Neubecker said that we have received five resumes for the Treasurers position, which has been advertised in the local papers since March. The board proceeded to interview the applicants one at a time. Discussion followed the interviews. M/Paladino S/Neubecker that the board appoints Brenda Lambert as Treasurer for the remainder of the current treasurers' elected term. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Paladino yes, Hodges no, Neubecker yes and Casto abstained. Motion carried. Neubecker thanked all of the applicants for sending in their resumes and taking an interest in the position. All five resumes were great, which really made it difficult for the board to choose.

9:00 p.m. - Neubecker asked at this time that the board take a 10-minute recess.

Supported by Paladino. All in favor.

9:12 p.m. The meeting reconvened with all board members present.

New Business - (A) Fix the north entrance to the cemetery - Hodges said that there is a huge dip at the entrance of the north entrance of the cemetery. She said that it scrapes the bottom of the car whenever you enter. M/Neubecker S/Casto to contact McCullen and have them correct the problem at a cost not to exceed \$1,500.00. All in favor. Motion carried. (B) Manistee Lake Improvement Board wants to borrow up to \$35,000.00 - Neubecker said that the Manistee Lake Association has loaned the Manistee Lake Improvement Board to help them with the initial engineering assessment and administrative fees in the amount of \$20,000.00 at a 3% interest reimbursement. The MLIB at their meeting on May 23rd are going to set a public hearing date in June to move forward with the establishment of a special assessment district. The MLIB, at their last meeting, made a motion to have Neubecker, who is the chairman of the MLIB, to ask the township for a loan not to exceed \$35,000.00 at a 3% interest rate, as needed, until such time that a special assessment district can be set to reimburse the costs. Hodges said that for one thing, the township couldn't loan money. Neubecker said that in this instance the township could under the public act because the MLIB was established by the township board. Hodges said that she contacted the MTA attorney last Thursday, and that the attorney told her that absolutely not, the township couldn't loan money, that the township is not a bank. Neubecker said that in the Public Act it specifically states that money can be garnered from the local unit of government setting it up or from the County. Hodges said that the MTA attorney sent her a lot of paper work regarding the issue. Paladino asked if they (MLIB) aren't acting as their own board now. Neubecker said yes, that they are acting under cognizance of dual townships. Paladino asked what Excelsior Township is doing. Neubecker said that they do not have any money. Paladino said that if they do not have an established special assessment district, is there any surety that if something happened and the special assessment did not get established, who would be held accountable to pay back the funds. Neubecker said that the public hearing process is to take public input regarding what the projected project was going to be and what the cost was going to be, but the special assessment district shall be set by the MLIB regardless of whether or not they approve the special project. Neubecker said that what he means is that if it comes to a point in time that the public does not appear to want to move forward with the project, the MLIB can still set a special assessment district to recoup costs involved in the engineering costs and administrative fees. Paladino said that if that is true, he doesn't think that it would be fair to the taxpayers or the township. He said he feels that if you already have an established assessment and know money is coming in for the next 5 years, say \$20,000.00, he said he wouldn't be too leery about giving, like Punch & Judy, but he said that we are not a bank. He said that a group of people asked us and Excelsior to approve the Lake Improvement Board so that they would have the power and authority to move forward. Paladino said that he, as a board member and taxpayer, agreed to let them have those. He said that he also feels that as a board member and taxpayer, that there is nothing wrong with the MLIB going to their local bank and telling them what they want to do and borrow the money from them. Paladino also said that there is nothing set up and he would feel very

uncomfortable in loaning out money to a hypothetical situation that may or may not happen. Neubecker read over the papers that Hodges received from the MTA attorney and said that he sees where the Lake Board could borrow from a County or a Federal agency, but did not see anything about a township. Short discussion followed. Neubecker withdrew the request for MLIB to borrow from the township. He said that he would refer to the MTA legal office. (C) TBA agreement to collect summer taxes - M/Casto S/Hodges to approve the agreement to collect summer taxes for TBA Intermediate School District. All in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner Nemeth wanted to let the public know that there will be a Energy Fair at the Manistee Fair Grounds June 22nd to the 24th. He said that they have 16 different speakers that will speak on various energy issues plus they will also have workshops.

Approval of Bills - Neubecker asked the board before he purchased the postcards if they still wanted to move forward with sending out the postcards with the correct phone number for large item trash pickup. Everyone said that they did. Margo suggested that he also put the new treasurers' name and phone number on the postcard. M/Paladino S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented. Roll call vote. Casto yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Bondy yes and Paladino yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #10490 through #10526 in the amount of \$14,187.72 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Gerry Gancer asked what category is our Fire Department. Neubecker said that he was quite sure that they are a 4, because he said that we have discussed this before and the reason that that they are a 4 is because #1 they are a volunteer fire department and #2 we have no local water source. Junk was another topic discussed. Neubecker said that he is going out this weekend and talk to the owners where there are problems. He said that he has four targeted for this weekend. Commissioner Nemeth spoke of the Junk Ordinance that they have in Rapid River Township. He said that they have a Nuisance Ordinance Enforcement Officer and he has been very successful in enforcing their ordinance. Discussion about the possibility of having a joint enforcement officer. Neubecker said to put it on next months' agenda. Paladino asked for an update on the roof. Hodges said that Brian has been out and looked at it and that he was going to contact the manufacturer again. He said that it is possible that we may have to end up putting in a gable at either end of the building and close that ridge vent off.

Hodges thanked Margo for her years of service as the Treasurer and said what an excellent job she did for the township.

M/Casto S/Neubecker to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried.

Mtg. adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk