

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571

MAY 8, 2006

7:00 P.M.

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 Casto and Trustee Bondy. Trustee Paladino was absent. Approx. 5 guests were also present including our County Commissioner Phyllis Senske.

Adoption of the Agenda - Neubecker asked to add under old business as item C, Junk. M/Casto S/Bondy 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.

John Neumann was present and asked if he could have some time to speak and he also had some correspondence that he would like to present. Neubecker said that we could handle the request under correspondence.

Approval of Minutes - M/Casto S/Bondy to approve the minutes from the April 10, 2006 regular board meeting as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed then John Neumann presented his correspondence to the board. It was in regards to the deplorable condition of the portion of Starvation Lake Road that is in Coldsprings Township. Neumann said that he had been to the Board of Review and he said that they actually laughed at him because he complained about Starvation Lake Road and the fact that they raised his taxes. He said that their answer was that it doesn't make any difference if you live on a road that bad it doesn't have anything to do with taxes. He said that he did not know what his options were but that something has to be done with the road. Casto said that she could sympathize with him because she lives on Covert Road and there have been deep depressions in Covert Road that go across the entire road. She said that the road commission was out last week and they put some dirt in them and they're sinking again. She said that Covert Road has never been that bad. Neumann said that 40 years ago when he bought his home, Starvation Lake Road was a nice paved road but it has never been maintained. He said that one of the functions of the county government and township government is to maintain roads and that is in the constitution. Neumann said that townships do not have a

lot of authority but one of the things they do have is road maintenance. He said that he did not know who took care of him at the Board of Review but that they told him that one of the reasons they were raising his taxes was to pave the road. And he said that that was a couple of years ago. Neubecker said that he sits on the Board of Review and that as matter of record he wanted to state, that that comment was never made at a Board of Review that he was attending. Neumann said that from now on he was going to get everything in writing. Neumann also said that he called the County Road Commission and complained to them and they told him that it's the township's responsibility. All the board members present said that it was not the townships responsibility. Neumann asked Neubecker to write that on his letter of complaint that he presented to the board and asked for a copy of it. Neumann said that every time he calls the county they tell him to talk to the township. Casto said that it is the county's responsibility. Neumann said that when they tore up the road he thought that they were going to repave it right away and here it's been about four years. Hodges said that she thought that they were going to do something thirteen years ago. She said that that's how long we've been trying to get them to repave it. He said that they should never have torn it up. Neubecker wrote on Neumann's letter of complaint that Starvation Lake Road is not the responsibility of the township. Neubecker gave Neumann a copy with his written notations and the township has a copy on file. Neubecker went on to tell Mr. Neumann that the township board has been aware of the situation on Starvation Lake Road for many, many years. He said that for more than thirteen years this township has been after Kalkaska County Road Commission to provide an upgrade to that road and that approximately three years ago, the county, who has the responsibility of maintaining that road, made the decision to grind and grade that road because the potholes were getting so bad that their asphalt on asphalt fixes were not working. Neubecker said that he has written numerous letters to the road commission and we have a member of this board that attends the road commission meetings regularly to petition them for help with Starvation Lake Road. Neubecker told Neumann that he did not disagree with anything that he has said other than the fact that the township does not have responsibility for Starvation Lake Road that that is a County Road.

Committee Reports (A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that the Community Workers would start working around the township on Tuesday the 9th. They'll be cleaning the cemetery, paint the bathhouse, put in the two remaining grills and raking the leaves at the park. Bondy also received the quote for a new sign for in front of the township hall. She also had a picture of what it would be like but it was only in black & white so she needed the choice of colors. The quote was for \$3,100.00 for the sign. Discussion followed. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to purchase the sign for \$3,100.00. Color to be decided after Bondy shows samples. All in favor. Motion carried. Paladino absent. (B) Fire Board - Minutes of the May 3rd Fireboard meeting were presented. Copy on file. (C) Road Commission Meeting - Trustee Paladino was absent. We did receive a copy of the minutes from the April 12th Road Commission meeting. Copy on file. (D) Liquor Enforcement - No reports were received.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Casto presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of April. The report showed that there was \$361,638.06 in various bank accounts. \$1.00 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash account. M/Neubecker S/Bondy to accept the treasurer's report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Ceiling & Baseboard in the main hall - Hodges said that the manufacturer that makes the metal roof that was put on the township hall, is still looking for a solution so that it won't leak. They said that it was installed correctly so that that was not the problem. Hopefully we'll have more information by next month. As for the baseboard, Hodges is still waiting for a quote on that. (B) Cell Phone Tower - Neubecker said that he still has not received anything. Hodges said that she contacted AllTel and they said that they do have several cell sites in Kalkaska County and that they have forwarded our concern to their system performance engineer and operations group and perhaps they can adjust existing sites to improve coverage in our area. They said that they do not have anything in their current build plan slated in our area, but that they could look at coverage as they evaluate next year's plans. Hodges said that she e-mailed them back and told them that they may have several cell sites in Kalkaska County but not in the northeast section of the county. She said that she just sent that e-mail that afternoon and has not heard anything back as yet. (C) Junk - Neubecker said that in the past week he has responded to three junk complaints on Townline Road, two on Westwood Road, three on E Shore Drive and one on Sunset Trail. Neubecker said that Hodges had given him a letter signed by a group of property owners that live in Elmwood Subdivision, which is over off of Manistee Lake. Their complaint is about a person who lives at 4418 Pike St. where the gentleman is moving junk in on his property and is making the property an eyesore and he put a stop sign in the middle of the road and has a mailbox in a pail and the property owners would like us to do something before it gets out of control. Neubecker said that for the record and the minutes he wants to go on record and state that Pike St. is a private road, so that as far as blocking that road or anything regarding the road itself, it is something that is out of the township's hands. Neubecker said that he had a problem on Bass Road, which is over in that area, with complaints about people blocking off that road and at that time he told the people that they would have to get together as property owners and do something about it because the township does not handle private road issues. Hodges said that she did know that Pike St. was a private road at the time the people dropped off their letter of complaint. Neubecker said that he is still working on the problem on 571 and that when he drove by today he did notice that they are organizing some of the junk.

New Business - (A) Approve the Fire Agreement for Oliver Township - M/Neubecker S/Casto to approve the agreement with Oliver Township to provide fire services for the period of April 2006 through March 31, 2007. All in favor. Motion carried. At this time Charlie Deman asked if the board could give him an update on the road endings over on Pickerel Lake that were supposed to be surveyed. Neubecker said that the south 1/2 of First Street and Third Street are still valid township road endings. He said that 3D

Surveying did come out and survey Third Street, which is up by Fawcett's, and they surveyed the south ½ of Second Street instead of the south ½ of First Street. Neubecker said that he called 3D Surveying and told them about the mistake and that they are going to come back out and survey the south ½ of First Street, which is in Oestman's Plat. Short discussion followed. (B) - Adopt a Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy - M/Neubecker S/Casto to adopt a Fixed Asset Capitalization Policy of anything with a cost of \$5,000.00 or more. All in favor. Motion carried. (C) Post signs on township paved roads for trucks over a certain weight - Hodges said that she is concerned about all of these really heavy trucks that are driving down the roads. She said that she has seen signs posted in some townships stating that certain types of trucks are not allowed and wondered what the board's thoughts were on getting signs posted on some of our roads, where the township has put out a bundle of money to get the roads paved such as Sunset Trail, E Shore Drive, Ford Road, Sands Park Road and Little Twin Lake Road. Short discussion followed. Neubecker asked Hodges to call the road commission to see what our legal authorizations are to post such signs. County Commissioner Phyllis Senske said that she also has a name and phone number of someone that works with the National Council of Government that we could call. (D) Punch & Judy - Hodges said that the property owners would like to present a petition to the township board in June, hopefully, to get going on a new special assessment for snow plowing. She said that she should know something before next month's meeting.

County Commissioner Phyllis Senske gave an update on various things that are going on within the county.

Approval of Bills - Bills were reviewed. Hodges said that we had to add check #10125 in the amount of \$15,000.00 made out to Northwestern Bank for the purchase of a CD. M/Neubecker S/Casto to pay the bills and issue checks #10097 through 10125 in the amount of \$27,894.40. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Hodges yes, Casto yes and Neubecker yes. Paladino absent. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments - Bob Stein had a couple of suggestions for E Shore Drive. He said that where the first big turn is on E Shore Drive there is only one curve sign and if anyone misses that sign they will go right into where all those big trees are and he feels that there should be another angle sign put up before someone gets hurt. He also said that the culvert that has been discussed before on E Shore Drive and Ford Road is packed. Neubecker said that Paladino has made the road commission aware of the culvert situation but we can't seem to get them to fix it. Gerry Gancer asked about contacting Torch Lake Internet about a wireless tower. Neubecker said that he already has talked with Bill at Torch Lake Internet and he said that at this time they are not looking at expanding out in this area. Gancer also asked if the problem over on Pike Street couldn't be covered under the Private Road Ordinance. Neubecker said that the Private Road Ordinance just covers the construction of a private road. As for the junk over on Pike Street that is within the township and is covered under the Junk Ordinance and that part

we can deal with it's just that as far as the road itself we cannot deal with that for example blocking the road. Neubecker said that he is going to pay them a visit regarding the junk.

M/Casto S/Neubecker to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Mary Hodges
Coldsprings Township Clerk