

# **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP**

## **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

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

**September 10, 2007  
P.M.**

**7:00**

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 Lambert, Trustee Bondy and Trustee Paladino. County Commissioner Lou Nemeth and seven other guests were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - M/Paladino S/Bondy to adopt the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Establish any conflict of interest of items that are on the agenda. None were presented.

Approval of minutes - M/Bondy S/Paladino to approve the minutes from the August 13, 2007 regular board meeting as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Paul Olson from the Michigan Municipal Underwriters was not present.

Correspondence was reviewed - Letters of complaints received from Glenn Gillett and Roberta M Garcia were read. Supervisor Neubecker will respond to both letters.

Committee Reports - (A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy reported that she contacted the Sheriff's Dept. about having the work crew come out and paint the pillars at the township hall and they said that they would get back with her sometime after Labor Day but she has not heard from them yet. She also reported that the tree that was growing over the septic tank at the hall has been cut down and the green stakes will be put back up before it snows, and the new grill at the park, down by the swim area, has never had a fire in it, people just use it to put dirty diapers in, so she put a bag over it. Bondy also reported that the doorframe around the door on the shed at the park is rotted out at the bottom. Short discussion followed. Neubecker said he would have Tony take a look at it and tell us what we need to have done. (B) Fire Board - No minutes were received from the September 5<sup>th</sup> fireboard meeting. Neubecker did give some details about the meeting. (C) Road Commissioners meeting - Trustee Paladino reported on the August 27<sup>th</sup> road commissioners meeting. He said that there is a minor controversy over the Freedom of Information Act with a couple people. They feel that they aren't getting all the information that they should and want copies of tapes, etc. Paladino said that the county is working on a policy so that they can charge for copies of certain things. Paladino gave an update on various road projects throughout the county. He said that

Elmers has not received any money from the county for almost a year now for a road project they did for the county and Elmer's has filed in the 46<sup>th</sup> district to get the money that they feel is owed to them plus interest. The county doesn't feel that they should have to pay interest because there was nothing in writing. Paladino also reported that the county worked on the culvert at Ford Road and E Shore Drive and that they put some asphalt down leading to the culvert and said that that should make a difference even though they did not replace the culvert itself. He also said that in regards to the Cunningham & Covert Road issue that came up at last months meeting, he spoke with an individual from Merit and he said that Merit was working on three wells this year and one of them was the one at Cunningham & Covert Roads. He told Paladino that they were pulling the steel tanks out and replacing them with fiberglass tanks and that the work to be done will take about another four to six weeks. More details followed. Paladino said that in his opinion the oil company was not doing anything wrong. Neubecker said that he also spoke with an individual from Merit Energy and he told Neubecker that they feel bad about the amount of the truck traffic that is going in and out on an unimproved road but they had the necessity to do that in order to protect the watershed. He also said that the big stickler is, is that the lady that lives right on the corner of Covert and Cunningham Roads feels that Merit is utilizing her property as an easement which in fact is not true. More discussion followed. (D) Liquor Enforcement - No reports were received. (E) County Commissioner Lou Nemeth - Nemeth also had some input on the road commission and their finance and policy committees. Paladino asked to speak about the detour route. Paladino thought that it would be a good idea to write a formal letter to the road commission and signed by the supervisors of the townships or someone representing the townships involved in the detour route asking the road commission if the road commission is going to make the detour route a spring 2008 project and are they doing their homework now for the \$570,000.00 that the state agreed to give to the county to redo the detour route. Paladino said that he does not know the verbiage in the agreement, if the county doesn't actually get the money until the detour route is done or what, but he said that of the two times that he has brought it up at the road commission meetings, Jim Green has made the comment that, yes, we do need to address that, but Paladino said that it wasn't even in the minutes that he had spoke up and asked about it and feels that it just went in one ear and out the other. Lambert asked if he knew what the time limit was in the agreement as to how long the county had to do the work, because she said that she knows that there is a time limit and if they don't do the work within the time limit, they can lose the funding. Paladino said that he did not know about the time limit. Paladino also said that as a taxpayer and a township representative, people have to start speaking up now. More discussion followed.

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of August. The report showed that there was \$353,265.97 in the various bank accounts, \$19,221.03 in the Township Improvement Money Market account, \$288,034.89 in the tax account and \$100.00 in the petty cash account. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the treasurers report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business - (A) Trash Bid Specifications - There were no changes made to the specifications for trash bids. Hodges will place ads in the paper for bids for trash

pickup. (B) Roof on the township hall - Hodges said that Brian had replaced the tiles in the meeting room and that he will be back to close off the ridge vent in the roof and cut one, possibly two more gables at either end of the building for airflow. (C) Cell Tower - Hodges said that the representative from Cellere was out and took pictures of the location and put a package together for their marketing department. He said that they would decide whether or not this is a marketable location for a cell tower. He said that that will take about a month and as soon as he hears from them he will get back with us.

New Business - (A) Advertise for Snowplowing - Hodges asked if the board wanted to make any changes to the specifications for snowplowing. There were no changes. Hodges will place ads in the paper for bids for snowplowing. (B) Rapid River Fire Agreement - M/Bondy S/Hodges to approve the Fire Agreement with Rapid River Township for fire protection. (C) Walleye on Dean Street - Neubecker said that the Manistee Lake Association is looking at improving the walleye breeding grounds on Manistee Lake and one of their thoughts were utilizing Dean Street to bring gravel in this winter and place the gravel on the ice so that when the ice melts the gravel will go down and make a spawning area for the walleye. Neubecker said that Norm LaCroix was going to come to the board meeting and give a presentation, however LaCroix was not present. (D) Central Avenue Road Ending Violations - Neubecker said that we have some issues down on Central Ave. this year again with some people up on Pike St. He said that he has contacted them both personally and in writing. Neubecker said that the township has an ordinance regarding road endings and it's an enforceable ordinance through the county. He said that we passed the ordinance as a township board and the citizens believe that since we passed the ordinance that we should be the ones enforcing it however it is not something that we can do at the township level so he said that he has been referring people over to the Sheriff. The ordinance is posted at the road endings. Neubecker said that they have been having problems with very loud boisterous, very, very foul language and it is distracting to the property owners on either side of that road ending. Neubecker said that his question is, is that there are two individuals that live up on Pike Street that are the main problem and he said that he would like to pursue an action through legal means to ban them from the use of the road ending and we would have to talk to our lawyer to see just what our rights are at the township level. Hodges said to go ahead and contact an attorney. Discussion followed. No action was taken at this time. Neubecker said he would give it some more thought. (E) 2010 Census - Hodges said that we received a letter asking the township if we would be interested in participating in the 2010 Census. She said that we'll be participating anyway but this would be collecting a lot of information that we wouldn't normally do. She said, that the letter stated that it would take anywhere from 150 to over 1000 man hours. She said that we have the choice of participating or not and one of the reasons they have on the form is that we do not have enough staff, which we don't. Short discussion. Hodges will send the form back declining and the reason being, not enough staff.

Approval of Bills - Hodges said that we have to add one bill for Great Lakes Energy for Security Lights in the amount of \$774.42. M/Paladino S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented with the one addition. Roll call vote. Lambert yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Bondy yes and Paladino yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #10622

through #10651 in the amount of \$15,949.90 were issued for payment.

Citizens Comments - Short discussion about junk cars.

M/Paladino S/Lambert to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

Mary Hodges  
Coldsprings Township Clerk