

**MINUTES SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON APRIL 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bill Saunders at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8, 2015. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Clerk Runyon.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Supervisor Bill Saunders, Treasurer Maureen Kuriata, Clerk Barbara Runyon, Trustee Joel Moore and Trustee Mike Glynn.

OTHERS PRESENT: Attorney John Magyar.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve the April 8, 2015 Silver Creek Township Agenda with the addition of a motion to approve Contract with Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Walter Lehmann objected to the proposed Russom Park Interlocal Agreement stating it was contrary to Public Act. Trustee Moore suggested we table this for one month and review Mr. Lehmann's concerns. Discussion followed.

**Motion to Table**

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Clerk Runyon, to table the Russom Park Interlocal Agreement until the May 13, 2015 meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no other public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata, to approve the March 7, 18 and 21, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes and the March 14, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS**

Treasurer Kuriata reported the bills and claims for April 8, 2015. Treasurer Kuriata moved, seconded by Clerk Runyon, to approve the following bills and claims in the total amount of \$98,575.40 as follows:

FROM THE GENERAL FUND	\$30,117.13
FROM THE INDIAN LAKE SEWER FUND	\$ 7,027.56

FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	\$ 55,739.39
FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 3,588.26
FROM THE INDIAN LAKE WEED CONTROL FUND	\$ 35.06
FROM THE MAGICIAN LAKE WEED CONTROL FUND	\$ 2,250.00

GRAND TOTAL OF DISBURSEMENTS: \$98,575.40

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll, and the motion carried by unanimous vote..

**READING OF COMMUNICATION**

Clerk Runyon read a letter from Anthony E. Meyaard, Cass County Equalization Director, thanking the township Board of Review for the time he spent with them this year and their service to the community. Also read was an announcement that the Cass County Master Plan Project was awarded the Graham Woodhouse Intergovernmental Award for 2014, and inviting township board and planning commission to a formal presentation.

**POLICE REPORT**

16 complaints; 2 warnings, 3 tickets, 3 assist other police agencies, 1 assisted motorists and pedestrians and 15 property inspections.

**HEALTH & SERVICE REPORTS**

**Indian Lake Fire Department:** 4 calls total, 0 in Silver Creek Township, 2 in Pokagon Township and 2 in other areas.

**Sister Lakes Fire Department:** 5 calls in Silver Creek Township and 2 outside of Silver Creek Township.

**Pride Care Ambulance Report:** March 6 7 calls with an average response time of 8:25 minutes.

**TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Magyar reported that he has prepared and will be filing a lawsuit against property owner Agostino to recover costs for a sewer line that was damaged during construction on his property.

**BUILDING/ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

Building/Zoning Inspector Todd Herter reported 4 building permits with a projected cost of \$393,600.00, and 2 zoning applications; 1 for a new home and 1 for a fence.

**BLIGHT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Patrolman Kenneth Wray reported 5 complaints in March; 2 unfounded; 3 have complied. He reported 4 liquor inspections.

## APPEALS BOARD REPORT

Bruce Nevis reported that a ZBA hearing will be held next Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

## PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REPORT

Walter Lehmann provided the planning commission report, reporting that a public hearing on proposed zoning amendments was held on March 25, 2015. On March 25<sup>th</sup>, the planning commission passed a motion to send the proposed 1-28-15 zoning ordinance amendments to the township. He advised that they are being sent to the Cass County Planning Commission for review and recommendation, and will hopefully be on their April 22<sup>nd</sup> agenda.

## STANDING INSPECTORS REPORT

**Electrical Inspector:** 1 permits  
**Plumbing Inspector:** 2 permits  
**Mechanical Inspector:** 2 permits

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kuriata reported fund balances as follows:

General Fund	\$435,571.85
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$159,597.51

## OPERATIONAL REPORTS

**Indian Lake Sewer and Sister Lake Sewer:** Treasurer Kuriata reported that she is working on sewer bills which will be going out soon.

**Parks and Recreation Committee:** Trustee Moore reported that the next Russom Park Meeting is April 20, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Dowagiac City Hall. No meeting is currently scheduled for the Silver Creek Township Parks & Recreation Board.

**Public Safety Committee:** Trustee Moore reported the next meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall.

## CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Runyon reviewed the end-of-the-year profit and loss statements for the General Fund, Public Safety Fund, Indian Lake Sewer Fund, Building Department Fund and Parks and Recreation Fund, reporting a shortfall in the General Fund due to additional monies which were spent on road contracts, lawsuit and meeting attendance pay. There was a shortfall in Parks and Recreation due to the extras added to the Russom Park Playground which is a one-time occurrence. She reminded everyone that budget adjustments were made throughout the year to accommodate these shortfalls. All other funds are at or below budget. She also noted that the auditor will make end-of-the-year adjustments to these budgets.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION TO SCHEDULE TRASH DAYS**

This is a motion to schedule the Spring Trash Days on May 22, 23, 24 and 25, 2015. Motion carried by voice vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE RENEWAL CONTRACTS WITH MTL**

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata, to approve renewal contracts with Mowing Trimming Landscaping (MTL) in the amount of \$60.00 per visit for mowing on School Street Property and \$50.00 per visit for mowing and string trimming on the Township Hall property, and to authorize Supervisor Saunders to sign said contracts.

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH MICHIANA FENCE**

Supervisor Saunders moved, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve a contract with Michiana Fence for the installation of a fence around the drainage pond at Russom Park in the amount of \$6,675.00, and to authorize Supervisor Saunders to sign said contract.

Discussion held. The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll, and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH AMERICAN LEGAL PUBLISHING CORP.**

Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata, to approve the Codification Agreement with American Legal Publishing Corporation for the Codification of Township Ordinances in the amount of \$6,790.00; \$2,263.34 to be paid over three budget cycles, and to allow Supervisor Saunders to sign said contract. Discussion followed.

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll:

Yes (4): Trustee Moore, Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Runyon and Treasurer Kuriata.

No (1): Trustee Glynn.

Absent (0): None.

Motion carried by voice vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH MICHIGAN PAVERS  
AND MATERIALS CO.**

Treasurer Kuriata moved, seconded by Supervisor Saunders, to approve a contract with Michigan Paving & Materials Co. in the amount of \$93,775.35 for HMA Ultra Thin and Structure Adjustments on County Line Road; W. Lakeshore Drive; Maple Island/Currans Beach Road and Maple Island Road from M-152 to Lakeshore, and to authorize Supervisor Saunders to sign. Discussion followed.

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll, and the motion carried by unanimous vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACTS WITH CASS COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION**

Trustee Glynn moved, seconded by Supervisor Saunders, to approve contracts with the Cass County Road Commission in the total amount of \$39,544.11 for 2015 road improvements as follows:  
Curran Road to M-152 to curve at a township cost of \$8,066.21  
Indian Trail to Middle Crossing Street to Downey Street at a township cost of \$31,477.90  
Discussion followed.

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote.

**MOTION TO APPROVE 2015 DUST CONTROL CONTRACT**

Supervisor Saunders moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the 2015 dust control contract for Marke Road with the Cass County Road Commission for not more than \$400.00. Discussion followed.

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll, and the motion was carried by unanimous vote

**MOTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH  
SISTER LAKES VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the Agreement between the Township of Silver Creek and Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department and authorize the supervisor and clerk to sign said contract. Discussion followed.

Trustee Glynn suggested that a 5-year plan be prepared regarding our township's public safety needs, assets, strengths, and review what we are currently providing and should be providing in the future. Jim Scholz and Chief Huggins advised that they already have a lot of the information being requested. Further discussion followed. Clerk Runyon suggested the fire departments give an annual report.

Motion approving Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Contract was approved by voice vote.

**MOTION RE. CONSOLIDATED/COOPERATIVE PLAN**

Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata, to appoint the Public Safety Committee, the Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department and the Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department to develop

a consolidated/cooperative 5-year plan. Motion carried by voice vote.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Clerk Runyon announced that Prosecutor Fitz has invited the public to attend the Annual Flagpole Ceremony on Wednesday, April 22, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at the Law & Courts Building in Cassopolis to remember the victims who lost their lives to crime in Cass County.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Zuhl questioned whether the Cass County Master Plan which includes Silver Creek Township is on the Silver Creek Township Website. Clerk Runyon advised that it is.

Jim Schultz questioned the amount spent on trash days and suggested that identification be requested on trash day. He believes non-township people were possibly using this service. Supervisor Saunders advised that property owner's names are cross checked with the tax roll to make certain they are township residents. Mr. Scholtz also expressed his concern over the Pride Care Ambulance response times.

Tom Lehrer questioned why the township is paving Indian Trails. Supervisor Saunders indicated that it is being seal coated for preservation.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by the call of the Supervisor.

Barbara Runyon  
Silver Creek Township Clerk

Dated: April 9, 2015  
To be approved at the May 13, 2015 Regular Meeting