

MINUTES
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
November 13, 2019

Regular Meeting called to order 7:03 PM by Supervisor Saunders; Flag Ceremony

Roll Call – Present: Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders,
Trustee Zuhl, Trustee Glynn

Approval of Agenda – Certificate of appreciate for Adele Straub added to the agenda - Motion to accept the agenda with this addition by Clerk Behnke; seconded by Trustee Zuhl, Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Call for public comment – none

Approval of Minutes for the SAD public hearing and the regular board meeting held on October 9, 2019. 2 corrections – page 2 should have a comma instead of a period in the Indian Lake Sewer amount; remove the period in the last paragraph meeting; motion by Trustee Glynn, seconded by Clerk Behnke. Motion carried by voice vote.

Approval of payment of Bills/Claims–Motion by Treasurer Kuriata, seconded by Trustee Zuhl .

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Zuhl, Trustee Glynn

Treasurer Kuriata

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Reading of Communications – Supervisor Saunders read the notice from the Cass County Board of Commissioners list of current vacancies on county boards and commissions. County Commissioner Mike Grice noted they are looking to reach out residents in all areas of the county to fill these board vacancies. The vacancies and information will be posted on our website.

Health and Safety Services Reports

Police Report–22 comp; 2 warnings; 1 citation; 1 accident;

Fire Report

Indian Lake – 2 in Silver Creek; 2 in Pokagon; reminder about concrete trucks sit higher after delivering concrete and a concrete truck had to sit for 2-3 hours because it barely cleared the electric coming in and was too tall to leave without calling AEP; FD completed walk through inspections on all commercial property and tribal property; they taught at least 10 hours of fire prevention; assisted Dowagiac on a barn fire because there were no hydrants and Dowagiac does not have a tanker; have been measuring driveways to make sure they can get a fire truck through. The community CPR class has 6 people interested, but they haven't selected a date yet, it may be on the weekend. When they have their CPR date, we will put it on our website for our residents.

Sister Lakes- 7 in Silver Creek; 2 in Bainbridge; 5 in Keeler;

Trustee Glynn and Clerk Behnke to start the contract renewal process.

Ambulance Report- 42 total calls;7-P1 calls, 6:54; 16-P2 calls, 10:23; 23-P3 calls, 9:19.

Building/Zoning Inspector's Report – building & demo permits

Permits: Building-18; Demo-1; ZC-7;Mechanical-14; Plumbing-5; Electrical-11

Zoning Appeals Board Report – Trustee Glynn – 1 hrg 10/30/19;

Planning Commission Report – Trustee Zuhl – they elected officers for 2020; discussion of fence definitions – just starting the process; next meeting is 11/20/19 at 7pm

Treasurer's Report – General Fund Balance \$175,310.68; Indian Lake Sewer \$250,156.82.

Operational Reports

Indian Lake Sewer – SAW grant winding down

Sister Lakes Area Sewer – SAW grant just beginning

Parks & Recreation – next Russom Park meeting in January 7, 2020; Supervisor Saunders spoke with Jim Humphries who stated Wightman is close to completing our Parks/Rec plan which includes the survey results. The board hopes it will be ready for the December meeting. Jim Benedix recently passed away and was very active in the community and will be missed.

Public Safety Committee –last meeting was 10/16/19.

CONTINUED BUSINESS

Update on condemnation at 28622 Wilson Dr – Adm. Herter – the homeowner has mowed down some of the weeds and the home owner wants to do the demolition himself but has not done so since this summer. Adm. Herter has given him deadlines and wants to turn this over to our attorney to give the homeowner a 30 day notice to tear down the buildings or our next step is Circuit Court judgement allowing the township to contract for demolition and then the cost is placed on the tax roll. Discussion. Adm. Herter will contact our attorney to take action.

ORV update – the next meeting is near the end of January 2020; this would not apply to golf carts; the road commission noted there is a lot of damage on the edge of the roads due to ORV's running on the side of the road; after meeting again in January, they plan to direct the road commission to bring it to the Board of Commissioners; Trustee Glynn noted there are several rules/restrictions including a max of 25 mph and you must wear a helmet. Trustee Glynn stated if the county adopts allowing ORV on the road, the township decides which roads it will be allowed on within the township.

NEW BUSINESS

Russom Park Pavilion – presentation by Becky Grabmeyer and Stephani Holland. They came before this board, the City of Dowagiac and the Russom Park Board to update on their progress for the funding and construction of a Pavilion. They have raised over \$9,100 and are nearly ¼ of the way toward their goal. They have received 2 grants and have thoroughly researched several grant options, but often are not eligible because they are not a 501(c)3 because they don't have a brick/mortar building or paid employees. They do qualify for a MDNR recreation passport grant but need a local government body to apply. Trustee Glynn noted we aren't eligible to apply at this time because we don't have an approved Parks/Rec plan. Stephani works at Wightman with Ben who is actively working on our plan and it should be completed soon. Trustee Glynn noted this is a slow process.

54533 Beachwood Drive update - Adm. Herter – this property has been condemned and is going back on back taxes. The house will need to be demolished. Treasurer Kuriata will check the taxes status and any payments (or lack of) over the last 3 years. Adm. Herter will talk with the township attorney on this property as well.

Group dividend received from Burnham & Flower Ins. Agency in the amount of \$361.12. Supervisor Saunders noted we have not had any in person or call from our agent at Burnham & Flowers so he has looked at another agency for comparison.

Flag police replacement – should read Flag pole replacement – Supervisor Saunders found out we are using a residential flag pole and should have been using 3x5 flags but we were using 4x6 flags and can only fly one at a time now. It is difficult to take the pole down to change the flag, especially in the winter. We need to look at a commercial pole which would allow us to change it easier. Supervisor Saunders estimates it would cost \$2,500 to \$3,500. Trustee Glynn requested some estimates.

Holiday potluck is scheduled for Thursday December 19, 2019 at 12 noon. Clerk Behnke will be providing the hams; please RSVP to the clerk's office.

Review of wording of upcoming fire contracts – none – Trustee Glynn and Clerk Behnke met with SLVFD and are working on the new contract wording. Chief Huggins asked for a copy as he will likely agree with whatever is worked out with SLVFD.

Map framing – Supervisor Saunders has some maps he would like framed professionally, this includes a culvert map and a map showing areas #1-#36. These maps would be useful and can be hung in the back of the meeting room.

Motion to approve line item transfers for October and November. Motion by Supervisor Saunders; seconded by Treasurer Kuriata.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Zuhl, Trustee Glynn
Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Certificate of Appreciation for Adele Straub – Supervisor Saunders stated Adele Straub retired after 27 years on Silver Creek Township Zoning Board of Appeals. The board wanted to recognize and thank her for her service and Supervisor Saunders will deliver this certificate to her at home.

Motion to close office hours on Tuesday December 24, 2019 and Tuesday December 31, 2019. Motion by Treasurer Kuriata, seconded by Supervisor Saunders. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to approve and for the supervisor to sign the Burnham & flowers Insurance packet and contract. Motion by Trustee Zuhl, amended to include the wording not to exceed \$14,000; seconded by Treasurer Kuriata.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Trustee Zuhl, Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata,
Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Motion to approve Resolution 19-22, Zoning Ordinance Amendment 155.053(b) as follows:

RESOLUTION 19-22
AMENDMENT TO
SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
CASS COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ZONING ORDINANCE
Section 155.053 (B)

The Township of Silver Creek Ordains to Amend Section 155.053 (B) of the Silver Creek Township Zoning Ordinance, is hereby amended as follows: elimination of the existing wording including the table of required yards, lot depth and setbacks; and replaced with the following wording in its entirety:

Change Section 155.053 (B) Nonconforming Lots of Record hereby amended to read:

“(B) The main building shall be located on the lot to assure maximum compliance with all yard and setback requirements for the district in which the lot is located.”

Motion by Trustee Glynn, seconded by Trustee Zuhl/

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke,
Trustee Zuhl, Supervisor Saunders.

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Motion to correct the resolution number assigned to PTAF (continued collection of 1% administration fee) to be Resolution 19-21 (instead of 19-20 which was already assigned to Rental Halls).

Motion by Supervisor Saunders, seconded by Clerk Behnke.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders,
Trustee Zuhl, Trustee Glynn,

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Motion to adjust the special assessment roll for Indian Lake Weed District for only one parcel and total as follows: parcel#14-130-180-002-10 from \$848.25 to \$351.00; and the overall total assessment from \$122,275.81 to \$121,778.56. Discussion: this is an adjustment of \$497.25 as determined by Assessor Kays. Motion by Clerk Behnke; seconded by Treasurer Kuriata.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Clerk Behnke, Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Zuhl,
Trustee Glynn, Treasurer Kuriata

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Motion to accept number changes in Ordinance 19-04 as recommended by the codification company. Motion by Treasurer Kuriata, seconded by Clerk Behnke. Discussion. Motion carried by voice vote.

Motion to accept the quote for codification and authorize the clerk to pay an amount not to exceed \$1,700.00. Motion by Trustee Glynn, seconded by Trustee Zuhl.

Roll call vote: Yes (5) Supervisor Saunders, Trustee Zuhl, Trustee Glynn,
Treasurer Kuriata, Clerk Behnke

No (0)

Abstain (0) – motion carried

Other business – none

Public comment - none

Meeting adjourned 8:23 pm

Prepared by: Clerk Lorri Behnke 11/14/19

To be approved 12/11/19