

**MINUTES SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2014**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bill Saunders at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 10, 2014. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Treasurer Kuriata.

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

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the September 10, 2014 Silver Creek Township Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tim Hull voiced his concern over the Silver Creek Township Website. Clerk Runyon indicated that work for the new website is in progress and should be completed by the next meeting. The new website will be Silvercreektwpmi.org rather than .com.

Preston Collett addressed the Board regarding a lawsuit that had been filed for blight against his mother. He stated that he had disposed of the debris and requested an additional nine months to demolish the structures. He indicated he would be doing this on his own to assist his mother. The Board discussed the matter and the following motion was made.

MOTION RE. COLLETT PROPERTY

Supervisor Saunders moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to allow Attorney Magyar to enter into a stipulation on the Preston and Evelyn Collett property to allow an additional 9 months to clean up and dispose of all blight at 31394 Swisher Street, Dowagiac, Michigan to the satisfaction of the township. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Glynn moved, seconded by Trustee Moore, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2014. Motion carried by voice vote.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS

Treasurer Kuriata reported the bills and claims of September 10, 2014. Trustee Glynn questioned the payment from Parks and Recreation to Cripps Fountain, whether it would be paid by the grant, and when the grant would be completed. Supervisor Saunders advised that the Cripps Fountain bill was being paid by the grant. He also indicated that the check was being held until all the necessary repairs were made to the retention pond. Discussion was held as to providing fencing around the retention pond if this matter could not be fixed.

Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the following bills and claims in the total amount of \$85,565.35 as follows:

FROM THE GENERAL FUND	\$24,590.52
FROM THE INDIAN LAKE SEWER FUND	\$25,695.81
FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	\$ 2,804.08
FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 6,090.53
FROM THE INDIAN LAKE WEED CONTROL FUND	\$ 1,517.69
FROM PARKS & RECRATION FUND	\$17,366.72
FROM PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT	\$ 7,500.00
 GRAND TOTAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:	 \$85,565.35

The Supervisor directed the Clerk to take roll:

Yes (5): Trustee Glynn, Trustee Moore, Supervisor Saunders, Clerk Runyon and Treasurer Kuriata.

No (0): None.

Absent (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

READING OF COMMUNICATION

Clerk Runyon reported on a Pride Care press release. One new ambulance was purchased for use in Silver Creek and Keeler Township. There was no other communication reported.

POLICE REPORT

Officer Clint Roach reported as follows: 16 complaints; 7 warnings, 8 tickets, 1 accident policed and 1 arrest.

HEALTH & SERVICE REPORTS

Indian Lake Fire Department: 8 calls, 5 in Silver Creek Township. Chief Huggins reported that due to new state requirements, beginning in 2015 their dive team will have to invest in new and approved scuba gear at a cost of approximately \$5,000 per diver.

Sister Lakes Fire Department: 6 calls, 3 in Silver Creek Township.

Pride Care Ambulance Report: August - 9 calls with an average response time of 7:48 minutes.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Magyar reported that he had been at the Court of Appeals on the O'Connor lawsuit and it appears that it will most likely be sent back to the lower court.

BUILDING & ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Building and Zoning Inspector Todd Herter reported 1 zoning compliance permits and 9 building permits issued with an estimated building cost of \$255,405.00.

BLIGHT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Walt Lehmann gave the blight report, indicating that he had four new contacts, one letter pending, and three investigations pending. He reported on the status of the cleanup from the pending lawsuits.

APPEALS BOARD REPORT

Jerry Donley reported no appeals and nothing scheduled to date.

PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REPORT

Tom Lehrer provided the Planning Commission Report, reporting that at the August 27th meeting, the Township Planning Commission adopted the Cass County Master Plan as the Township Master Plan. He indicated that a special meeting will be held on September 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to review the zoning recommendations by Lakeshore Environmental.

STANDING INSPECTORS REPORT

Electrical Inspector: 10 permits.
Plumbing Inspector: 1 permits.
Mechanical Inspector: 3 permits.
Liquor Inspector: 6 inspections and no violations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kuriata reported fund balances as follows:

General Fund	\$256,234.22
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$190,774.72

OPERATIONAL REPORTS

Indian Lake Sewer: Treasurer Kuriata reported that she had received the highest bill on date from the City of Dowagiac for labor and repairs after the July 1st power outage.

Sister Lakes Area Sewer: Treasurer Kuriata reported that the manhole cover bids did not go out until the past meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee: Trustee Moore reported that the committee met on July 29th and recommended that the township erect a fence at Russom Field parking lot for the safety of the children playing soccer. The next meeting is scheduled on September 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at the township hall; Russom Park Board will meet on September 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the township hall.

Public Safety Committee: Trustee Moore advised that the Public Safety Committee's next meeting is scheduled October 7th at 7:00 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

UPDATE ON MICHIGAN ASPHALT PAVERS

Trustee Moore reported that Sister Lakes Area Utility Authority was going out for bids on the manhole covers and suggested the board wait until spring to repair the proposed roads. Supervisor Saunders will contact Michigan Asphalt Pavers to obtain a price. A special meeting will be called to discuss the contract and determine the roads to be repaired.

UPDATE ON GENERATOR

Treasurer Kuriata reported she had spoken with the City of Dowagiac, and that it is possible for SLAUA's portable generator to be wired for emergency use by the township. She will check with the SLAUA board to see if they have any objections and report back at the next meeting.

UPDATE ON RUSSOM PARK INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT

Supervisor Saunders asked that everyone review the Agreement and get suggested changes back to Clerk Runyon for Attorney Magyar's review.

UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP WEBSITE

Clerk Runyon reiterated that the new website was being worked on and should be completed by the next meeting, and invited the public to contribute any ideas they may have for the website.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION FOR LAND DIVISION

Assessor William Kays explained the request for the land division split on the Polk Property which is currently in an unrecorded plat and leased for over 50 years. Cynthia Polk would like to sell the lot to the owners of the house which is currently located on the property. The lot would meet the legal nonconforming specifications of 60 feet by 180 feet and 9,575 square feet.

Supervisor Saunders moved, seconded by Clerk Runyon, to approve the land division split on parcel number 14-130-003-023-02, Polk's Lot Number 8. Motion carried by voice vote.

MOTION TO PAY M&R ELECTRIC OUT OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Treasurer Kuriata, to pay M&R Electric S.W., Inc. \$728.90 out of Public Improvement Fund for electrical material for the township kitchen.

Supervisor Saunders thanked Trustee Glynn for donating his time and expertise to the township.

The Supervisor instructed the Clerk to take roll:

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

No (0): None.

Abstain (1): Trustee Glynn.

Absent (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

MOTION TO APPROVE MICHIANA FENCE CONTRACT

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Clerk Runyon, to authorize Supervisor Saunders to approve a contract with Michiana Fence in the amount of \$6,640.00 for the purchase of a fence at Russom Park, with the monies be paid out of the Parks & Recreation Fund.

Trustee Glynn questioned why the cost of the fence was not being split with the City of Dowagiac. Supervisor Saunders noted that the fence erection was recommended by the Silver Creek Township Parks and Recreation Board and is on the Silver Creek Township side of the park. Trustee Glynn voiced his concern over when there's a 50/50 split with the City and when there is not. It was noted that these issues should be addressed in the Interlocal Agreement with the City.

The Supervisor instructed the Clerk to take roll:

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

No (1): Trustee Glynn.

Absent (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

MOTION FOR PARKS & RECREATION BUDGET AMENDMENT

Treasurer Kuriata moved, seconded Supervisor Saunders, to amend and increase the Parks and Recreation Budget in the amount of \$6,640.00 for the purchase of a park fence.

The Supervisor instructed the Clerk to take roll:

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

No (1): Trustee Glynn.

Absent (0): None.

Motion carried by roll call vote.

DISCUSSION ON TOWNSHIP HALL RENTAL

Clerk Runyon advised that when the kitchen was renovated there was mention of renting the township hall to our taxpayers for private parties, meetings, et cetera. Discussion was held whether to go forward with this proposed rental or not. After discussion, Clerk Runyon was asked to put the rental agreement together to bring back to the next board meeting for consideration.

UPDATE ON TOWNSHIP INSURANCE

Supervisor Saunders and Clerk Runyon advised that they are getting quotes from two insurance companies on the township insurance which renews on November.

OTHER BUSINESS

Treasurer Kuriata reminded everyone that next Monday is the last day to pay their summer taxes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Roossen complained about the speed limit people are travelling from M-152 to Maple Island Road. Trustee Moore will place the speed monitor there.

OTHER

Clerk Runyon advised that Southwestern Michigan College is having a 50th year celebration at the college on Saturday, September 20th and the public is invited.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m. at the call of the Supervisor.

Dated: September 11, 2014
To be approved at the
October 8, 2014 Meeting

Barbara Runyon, Clerk

