

**MINUTES SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING HELD ON JUNE 8, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bill Saunders at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 8, 2016. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was led by Supervisor Saunders.

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Treasurer Maureen Kuriata.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Attorney John Magyar.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the June 8, 2016 Silver Creek Township Agenda. Motion carried by voice vote.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cass County Sheriff candidate Richard Behnke introduced himself and spoke about his experience and candidacy for Cass County Sheriff.

Cass County Sheriff candidate James öTerryö Ellis introduced himself and spoke about his experience and candidacy for Cass County Sheriff.

There was no other public comment.

**COA PRESENTATION**

Silver Creek Township resident and Cass County Council on Aging Board member, Bob Campbell, introduced Cass County Council on Aging Director, Bob Cochran. Mr. Cochran presented an overview of COA services, and explained their millage proposition which will be on the August 2<sup>nd</sup> ballot.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Trustee Glynn moved, seconded by Supervisor Saunders, to approve the May 11, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes with one correction under öApproval of Agendaö stating öTreasurer Glynnö which should read öTrustee Glynn.ö Motion carried by voice vote.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS AND CLAIMS**

Clerk Runyon reported the bills and claims for June 8, 2016. Clerk Runyon moved, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the following bills and claims in the total amount of \$186,033.84 as follows:

FROM THE GENERAL FUND	\$ 139,876.18
FROM THE INDIAN LAKE SEWER FUND	\$ 12,943.45

FROM THE INDIAN LAKE WEED CONTROL FUND	\$ 5,119.13
FROM MAGICIAN LAKE WEED CONTROL FUND	\$ 11,887.60
FROM THE DEWEY LAKE WEED CONTROL FUND	\$ 7,525.00
FROM THE PARKS AND REC FUND	\$ 370.00
FROM THE PUBLIC SAFETY FUND	\$ 3,665.52
FROM THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND	\$ 4,646.96
 GRAND TOTAL OF DISBURSEMENTS:	 \$ 186,033.84

The motion carried by unanimous vote of members present.

#### READING OF COMMUNICATION

No communication reported.

#### POLICE REPORT

19 complaints; 10 warnings, 4 ticket, 3 accident policed, 1 arrest-assist other agency, 3 assist other policy agencies, 2 assist fire and ambulance.

#### HEALTH & SERVICE REPORTS

**Indian Lake Fire Department:** 7 calls for the month 4 in Silver Creek Township. Chief Huggins reported that the new fire truck is working great and should save them money due to its efficiency.

**Sister Lakes Fire Department:** April: 5 calls with 3 in Silver Creek Township with an average response time of 5.6 minutes. May: 14 calls with 10 in Silver Creek Township with an average response time of 9 minutes.

**Pride Care Ambulance Report:** May 6 priority one calls with an average response time of 7:30 minutes. There was one extended response time due to the distance. The crew took the correct route and did not report any further incidents.

#### TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Magyar reported that he and Supervisor Saunders had been in Tax Tribunal last week and are awaiting the outcome.

He has been working on two zoning situations: One regarding the development of a site condo on Little Crooked Lake. Secondly, he has been working with Zoning/Building Inspector Todd Herter on a proposed building addition permit in trying to interpret Waterfront District front yard setbacks and our definition of high watermark. The permit in question is for an addition to an existing home. Attorney Magyar recommends that a permit be issued. Discussion followed.

Inspector Herter reported he had spoken with Stephenson Surveyors on how to determine a high watermark. Properties would have to be surveyed and go through a lake study to determine the high

watermark. Further discussion followed. The township planning commission will review this section of the ordinance.

Supervisor Saunders questioned the status of the Chase Bank lawsuit. Chase Bank did not reply to the summons and complaint and Attorney Magyar will seek a default judgment.

### **BUILDING/ZONING INSPECTOR'S REPORT**

Building/Zoning Inspector Todd Herter reported 10 building permits with a projected cost of \$116,000.00, and 7 zoning permits.

He and Blight Inspector Ken Wray also inspected a home that's been under tarp for years, and will be recommending that it be condemned.

### **BLIGHT AND LIQUOR INSPECTION REPORT**

Blight Inspector Ken Wray reported 23 open blight complaints; 19 new blight complaints filed, 19 blight residents notified and 5 blight issues resolved. He also reported 5 liquor inspections with no violations.

### **APPEALS BOARD REPORT**

Nothing to report.

### **PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REPORT**

Bill Zuhl reported that the planning commission met on May 25<sup>th</sup> had a public hearing and discussed Section 3.23 öPrivate Roads/Streetsö and they should have something to the board soon. Next meeting is scheduled June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

### **STANDING INSPECTORS REPORT**

**Electrical Inspector:** 7 permits

**Plumbing Inspector:** 1 permits

**Mechanical Inspector:** 2 permits

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

No report.

### **OPERATIONAL REPORTS**

**Indian Lake Sewer:** Nothing to report.

**Sister Lakes Sewer:** Trustee Moore reported that the sewer extension from CR690 is now complete.

**Parks and Recreation Committee:** Trustee Moore reported that the next Russom Park Meeting is July 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Dowagiac City Hall.

**Public Safety Committee:** Trustee Moore reported the next Public Safety meeting will be July 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the township.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF 2016 TAX RATE REQUESTS**

Clerk Runyon, seconded by Trustee Glynn, to approve the 2016 Tax Rate Request for Silver Creek Township at:

0.6907 mills allocated for operating expense

0.9921 mill for Police/Fire

and to authorize Clerk Runyon and Supervisor Saunders to sign the L-4029

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

**MOTION ON LOCAL PURCHASE OF TAX REVERTED PROPERTIES**

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of tax reverted properties. Trustee Glynn expressed an interest in one of the parcels which may butt up to the Dowagiac Creek. Supervisor Saunders will have Assessor Kays map it out to see if it is on the creek. A special meeting will be prior to the June 30, 2016 county deadline. Discussion followed.

**Motion to Postpone**

Trustee Glynn moved, seconded by Clerk Runyon, to postpone determining the local purchase of tax reverted properties. Motion carried by voice vote.

**MOTION RE. INDIAN LAKE SEWER**

Trustee Moore moved, seconded by Supervisor Saunders, to contract with Compton, Inc. to repair 14 Indian Lake manholes for up to \$13,500.00.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

**RESOLUTION R16-10**  
**RESOLUTION RE. THE COA**  
**MILLAGE PROPOSITION FOR SERVICES TO OLDER CITIZENS IN 2016**

Trustee Glynn moved, seconded by Trustee Moore, to adopt Resolution R16-10 as follows:

**SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP, CASS CO. MI**  
**RESOLUTION R16-10**  
**Resolution to Support the COA**  
**Millage Proposition for Services to Older Citizens in 2016**

WHEREAS, the percentage of population of adults age 60 and over in Cass County currently exceeds 24% of the population, and this percentage is projected to increase rapidly with the aging of the Baby Boomer generation; and

WHEREAS, the unique challenges of the older adult population include physical, emotional, and social needs; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Council on Aging (COA) provides services and programs to address these needs vital to the health, welfare, and sense of wellbeing of the older adult population of Cass County; and

WHEREAS, an integral financial support for COA programs and services is the revenue generated through mileage funding; and

WHEREAS, the Millage Proposition for Services to Older Citizens to increase the levy to 1 mill will be voted upon at the August 2 primary election; and

WHEREAS, Silver Creek Township desires to support the programs and services to the older adults of Cass County as provided by the Cass County COA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Silver Creek Township encourages voters to support the COA Millage Proposition for Services to Older Citizens on the August 2 primary ballot.

Discussion was held as to the wording. Trustee Glynn objected to entering the resolution as submitted, and believed that the township should stay neutral. Discussion followed, and it was agreed to modify the resolution.

**Motion to Modify R16-10**

Trustee Glynn moved, seconded by Supervisor Saunders, to adopt Resolution R16-10 as modified:

**SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP, CASS CO. MI**  
**RESOLUTION R16-10**  
**Resolution Regarding the COA**  
**Millage Proposition for Services to Older Citizens in 2016**

WHEREAS, the percentage of population of adults age 60 and over in Cass County currently exceeds 24% of the population, and this percentage is projected to increase rapidly with the aging of the Baby Boomer generation; and

WHEREAS, the unique challenges of the older adult population include physical, emotional, and social needs; and

WHEREAS, the Cass County Council on Aging (COA) provides services and programs to address these needs vital to the health, welfare, and sense of wellbeing of the older adult population of Cass County; and

WHEREAS, an integral financial support for COA programs and services is the revenue generated through mileage funding; and

WHEREAS, the Millage Proposition for Services to Older Citizens to increase the levy to 1 mill will be voted upon at the August 2 primary election; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Silver Creek Township encourages voters to cast an informed ballot on this millage proposal for services to Older Citizens on the August 2 primary ballot.

Resolution R16-10 carried by unanimous roll call vote of all members present.

#### **MOTION TO APPOINT COMMITTEE**

Supervisor Saunders moved, seconded by Clerk Runyon, to appoint Todd Herter, Bill Zuhl, Terry Harris, Jerry Donley and himself to a committee to review ordinance codifications and make recommendations. Discussion followed. Motion carried by voice vote.

#### **Discussion on Waterfront District Ordinance**

Todd Herter explained that he found a possible clerical error in Section 6.04 on square footage on lots in a waterfront district, stating 6,000 square feet when it had always been 12,000 square feet. Supervisor Saunders advised that he had discussed this with Bill Zuhl of the planning commission and that a public hearing was held on March 25, 2015 and it was downsized at that time to 6,000 square feet due to sewers. Supervisor Saunders stated that it should read 6,000 square feet in sewer areas and 12,000 square feet in septic areas.

Discussion followed. The planning commission will look into this matter.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Clerk Runyon reminded everyone that Shred Day was being conducted this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. MSU Extension is offering a workshop for inland lakefront property owners on June 9, 2016. Bill Saunders reported that 206 permits were issued during trash days.

Todd Herter stated that if there is a raise in the elevation of manhole covers, new shots may have to be taken and the FEMA map updated. It could possibly make the difference of being in a flood zone or not. Discussion followed.

Lastly, Clerk Runyon reported Treasurer Kuriata had shoulder replacement surgery on Friday and is doing well and is at home recuperating.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. by the call of the Supervisor.

Barbara Runyon  
Silver Creek Township Clerk

Dated: June 9, 2016  
To be approved at the July 13, 2016 Regular Meeting