

**BROOKS TOWNSHIP MINUTES**

490 QUARTERLINE ROAD  
NEWAYGO, Michigan 49337

(231) 652-6763

June 16, 2015

APPROVED

**Members Present:** Supervisor – Cory Nelson, Clerk – Jennifer Badgero,  
Treasurer – Christina Haynor, Trustee – Mike Bouwer, Trustee – Kim Roehrig

**Members Absent:** None

A regular meeting of the Brooks Township Board was held on the above date at the Brooks Township Hall. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Cory Nelson.

Pledge of Allegiance

**AGENDA:** Nelson asked for additions or corrections to the agenda.

**Moved** by Roehrig, **Seconded** by Haynor to accept the agenda as presented.

Approved Unanimously

**MINUTES:**

**Moved** by Haynor, **Seconded** by Roehrig to accept the minutes of the Regular May 12, 2015 Township Board Meeting as presented.

Approved Unanimously

**AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:**

**Moved** by Haynor, **Seconded** by Nelson to pay the bills as presented.

Approved Unanimously

**TREASURER’S REPORT: (attached)**

**Received and Accepted Treasurer’s Report as presented.**

**GF 101 – Beginning Balance \$986,383.05, Receipts \$51,854.97, Disbursements \$9,591.48, Ending Balance \$1,028,646.54.**

**PA 103 – Beginning Balance \$ .00, Receipts \$8,912.78, Disbursements \$8,912.78, Ending Balance \$ .00.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**REPORTS:**

**Planning Commission:** Bouwer said a public hearing was held last month on ordinance changes. There were no comments from the public.

Bouwer said they have been discussing the camping ordinance and discussed wildlife feeding on Butterfield Lake. They thought this should go to the DNR.

Charlie Harris will be presenting a site plan to the PC next Monday at the meeting.

**Zoning Administrator: (See attached)**

**Fire Board Report:** Badgero said there were 33 calls in May. They just got done with command officer testing for the sergeant, lieutenant, and captain. They are still waiting to hear back from Garfield Township on the contract. There was discussion on the Garfield contract with the fireboard that expires on June 30, 2015.

**Newaygo Community District Library:** Sharon Haege reported there are 355 children signed up for summer reading. The first 100 children who read a certain amount of books receive a T-shirt that was designed by two elementary students. The scholastic book fair raised \$400 that will go towards buying non-fiction books. Haege also reported that some classrooms from Vera Wilsie and Velma Matson Schools visited the library in May and June.

The library audit went well. The book store will be open beginning June 26 in the afternoon when the market is open this summer until fall. The library will be closed June 20 for Kid's Day in Brooks Park.

**Coolbough Management Commission:** A grant has been received for an AmeriCorp work group for one month in the summer. They will spend 2 weeks working at the Coolbough and 2 weeks at the Michigan Nature Association.

Haynor said there is a meeting tomorrow and the topic will be redoing the management agreement. Great Lakes Energy also had 100 first graders go to Coolbough and plant lupine seeds and worked with the lineman from GLE.

**Chain of Lakes Sewer Authority:** Jim Dutkiewicz said he hasn't heard anything new other than the Supreme Court refused to hear the appeal. Haynor stated that a monetary judgement will have to be decided.

**Newaygo Area Recreation Authority:** Badgero said that Mellema's has been working on the soccer fields. They are finally getting some grass to grow. They have wells so can water the fields. Mellema said they will be fertilizing three more times.

Badgero said they will be resurfacing the tennis courts but that won't be until after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**County Commissioner:** Larry Lethorn said the county was looking for storage for equipment and put a bid on an old fire barn in White Cloud. The emergency services are getting more equipment as well as the police department and need a place to store it. However, their bid was turned down so they aren't sure what they will do.

Lethorn said he and Ortwein are on the Emergency Services Committee and worked with the Consumers Energy, the DNR, and US Fishery the last 1 ½ years regarding the dam regulatory situation. They are trying to come up with a way to warn the residents along the river earlier if there is an emergency. Emergency Services applied for a Flood Innovation Map that would be totally interactive and real time. It is \$125,000 grant and hopefully they will get it.

Sandy Beach Park is undergoing major renovations with docks, ramps, parking, the store and the store will have gas for boats. Money is \$150,000 from the County, \$100,000 from Parks Commission, \$150,000 from Fremont Area Foundation and \$294,000 Waterways Grant from the State of Michigan. All totaled it amounts to \$694,000.

Chris Ortwein said the Fremont Area Community Foundation has created a committee called Wealth Works. Ortwein is on this committee. They are trying to collaborate with the townships, county and private sector to do what is important in those areas.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**1. Migratory Bird Feeding (Butterfield Lake):** Nelson said people have been feeding the wildlife on Butterfield Lake with gallons of bread. Checking the DNR website; they promote no feeding zones. He has talked to Mike Wells from the DNR. They say the bacteria in the water from the wildlife damages the fish. If we have an ordinance, the people feeding would get a ticket. With each ticket fines go up significantly.

There was much discussion on this and the board decided to send this to the PC to come up with an enforceable ordinance that would be for the whole township. They could check with other townships on their ordinance.

**2. Camping Permits:** The camping ordinance has been looked at by the PC. Nelson will get them more information that he has from other townships. This is tabled for now.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. Newaygo County Treasurer - Holly Moon:** Holly began by saying that Haynor has brought her tax collections up another percent. Brooks only has a delinquency rate of 5%. There were no foreclosures in Brooks Township.

The treasurer's office is now accepting credit and debit cards at the office window to pay taxes. Dog license applications are now on line. She passed out the Step Forward Michigan information to help people with financial troubles in jeopardy of foreclosure.

**2. PC Ordinance Amendments:** There was discussion on Pergolas 9.06(n) and that it also involves the RTD.

**Moved** by Nelson, **Seconded** by Bouwer to approved Ordinance changes as amended.  
Approved Unanimously

**3. Coolbough – Timber:** Haynor said they would like to clear some of the red pine trees and restore savannah areas for wild lupine and the Karner Blue Butterfly. They will clear 18 acres and will get 28 cords per acre. They will take out every 3<sup>rd</sup> row plus every 3<sup>rd</sup> tree to be harvested. Coolbough will receive \$55.50 per cord. They have contracted with Cherry Creek Forestry out of Ewart, Michigan. We had put an ad in the paper and only received this one bid. The only thing not on the contract is reference of this prospectus. Haynor said if we accept this contract she would like to have added reference to the Timber Sale Prospectus. Money received from the sale of the trees will be used for maintenance at the Coolbough Natural Areas.

**Moved** by Haynor, **Seconded** by Roehrig to accept the timber sale contract for Red Pine removal at Coolbough from Cherry Creek Forestry.

Roehrig said he wished we had received more than one bid on this. There was discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

**4. FOIA:** Badgero said there are a lot of changes in FOIA requests. She received notice from MTA that an ordinance needs to be approved by July 1. Badgero will be attending a conference next week and this is one of the topics. She will bring back the information we need to amend our ordinance. This is tabled until July.

**5. Additional brining/budget amendment:** Nelson said because we have had such a dry spring that an additional brining is required. We need to amend the budget to include this additional work.

**Moved** by Haynor, **Seconded** by Bouwer to approve a budget amendment to 4469330 Brine from 8509860 Contingencies for \$9,000.00.

Approved Unanimously

**6. Resolution 2015-317– Bigelow Creek:** Nelson said this is a project put together by the Forest Service. It is basically closing down sections of federal land in Brooks Township, Everett Township, and Croton Township for the development of the Karner Blue Butterfly. They want to close down part of Bigelow Creek where people fish, sections of federal land in Brooks Township where people have hunted. If there is more than one trial going to a section, they will close some down. If the area is trampled or damaged in any way they will expand the area they have shut down.

Nelson has talked to numerous elected officials and the head of the US Forest Service, Mark Hershberger. He said basically; they are doing it. Nelson talked with our attorney and they came up with a resolution saying we do not want this. He has talked to Morgan Heinzman from Croton and Judy Maike from Everett. They do not want this to happen either. There was a lot of discussion.

**Moved** by Haynor, **Seconded** by Roehrig to pass Resolution 2015-317.

Roehrig said he has not had time to read this. He would like to see the information but will take what he is being told by board members.

Approved Unanimously.

**7. Setting Date & Time for Fire District Millage Hearing:** Badgero said the millage rate is done considering all participating municipalities. Right now we are up in the air with not hearing back from Garfield Township. We will know before the July meeting. If Garfield is not involved then the budget would be split between the Newaygo City and Brooks Township.

Moved by **Badgero**, Seconded by **Bouwer** to set the Fire Board Millage Hearing for our July meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Approved Unanimously

Stu Sanders, Register of Deeds, reported on changes at the Register of Deeds office regarding filing of deeds electronically and some fees rising beginning in August.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Comments received.

**TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Moved by Haynor, **Seconded** by Bouwer to adjourn at 8:49 p.m.

Approved Unanimously

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Jennifer Badgero – Clerk

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Maureen Dutkiewicz – Recording Secretary