

BROOKS TOWNSHIP MINUTES

490 QUARTERLINE ROAD

NEWAYGO, Michigan 49337

(231) 652-6763

October 18, 2011

Approved

Members Present: Supervisor – Les Salacina, Clerk – Jennifer Badgero, Treasurer – Christina Haynor, and Trustee – Marc Libants

Members Absent: Trustee – Billie Deater

Public Present: Warren Bender and six members of the public present.

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 Les Salacina.

Pledge of Allegiance

AGENDA: Chairman Salacina asked for additions or corrections to the agenda.

Moved by Libants, **Seconded** by Badgero to accept the agenda as amended by the addition of Fire Board Appointment under Unfinished Business.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

MINUTES:

Moved by Badgero, **Seconded** by Haynor to accept the minutes of the Regular September 20, 2011 Township Board Meeting as presented.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:

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

Roll Call Vote: Ayes – Salacina, Badgero, Haynor, Libants

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: (attached)

Received and Accepted Treasurer’s Report as presented.

GF 101 – Beginning Balance \$541,103.90, Receipts \$194,727.53, Disbursements \$136,364.49,

Ending Balance \$599,466.94

PA 103 – Beginning Balance \$.00, Receipts \$12,351.99, Disbursements \$12,351.99

Ending Balance \$.00.

CD 246– Beginning Balance \$101,627.83, Receipts \$.00, Disbursements \$.00, Ending Balance \$101,627.83.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Salacina said the PC is doing ordinance review.

Zoning Administrator: The ZA was out today so we do not have his report.

Fire Board Report: No report.

Newaygo Area District Library: Libants said circulation was 2,683 for September. They have installed two of five new computers. They are getting a grant to help pay for these.

Coolbough Management Commission: The meeting for August was cancelled and they have not rescheduled one at this time.

Chain of Lakes Sewer Authority: Jim Dutkiewicz reported the repair calls were down from previous years. The plant is operating well. Salacina asked if the nipples were put in. Dutkiewicz said all but a few need to be done as they are in a high water table so the ground needs to be dewatered in order to fix them. They are checking to see if they can wait until there is a problem to fix them instead of having to open up the ground to fix them. They have about 60 left to do.

NCRA: Badgero said the last meeting Marshall Trail was discussed. They had a couple trees fall down. There were some insurance claims that had to be made as they landed on the stairs. There were also two other trees that were down. They also talked about getting a trail out to Croton.

The ice rink will be open like last year. The liner has to be replaced every year. They are hoping to have a permanent surface next year.

Growth Management: Nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Resolution 2011-170 Coolbough Land Acquisition: Salacina said this resolution is something the board had to do in order to proceed with the land acquisition of the 80 acres they received with the Natural Resources Grant. The Township Board has to pass a resolution stating their intent to go through with the acquisition. We have done all the things required of us including the mapping, back ground checks, environmental survey, and title insurance. We are close to being able to submit everything and ask for an appraisal from the DNR. Then they will send an appraiser out to do a final appraisal on the property being transferred.

Badgero said the resolution says we are providing 25% and maintaining the financial records for it in complying with the agreement. Haynor said the 25% match is provided by the Nature Conservancy so it isn't costing the township anything. Salacina said the Nature Conservancy has donated half the land that they had put up for this on our behalf. So that is our 25%.

Moved by Haynor, **Seconded** by Libants to approve Resolution 2011-170 Coolbough Land Acquisition.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

2. Fire Board Appointment: Salacina said due to the untimely death of Al Zech we need to appoint someone to the fire board. We already had seven applications for the At Large Member because of Jon Bumstead resignation. Salacina recommended Ryan Nelson for this position as he has EMT training, was a fireman, and was a First Responder.

There was discussion regarding all the other applicants and the qualifications they have too. We also had a couple candidates withdraw their application.

Moved by Haynor, **Seconded** by Badgero to approve Ryan Nelson to the Fire Board.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Newaygo Public School Technology Bond Issue - Larry Lethorn/Peg Mathis: (see attached handout)

Mr. Lethorn and Ms. Mathis spoke on the importance of the Education and Technology Bond request that will be on the November 8 ballot for the school election. They spoke on the importance of technology in the classroom. This is a critical issue for our schools so we can move forward and compete not only with other schools in Michigan but nationally and globally. With technology we are able to do that.

The three million dollars bond issue will tie in with the 2000 bond.

Ms. Mathis said we are looking for technology in the classroom to help with instruction. It is beyond paper and pencils in this day and age. They need teacher devices and student devices. They have not been able to keep up because of the cuts that had to be made in the budgets. They need this bond proposal.

This won't increase the 6.5 mills tax levied that is scheduled to step down. It won't extend it beyond 2025-26 which was when the bond used for renovations and to build the middle school was set to expire. It will not go out further or raise the tax.

Technology helps individualize instruction as one size does not fit all. Approving the bond fits in with the mission statement of the school which is to provide a world class education. She said the bond can't be used for salaries or operation costs. Ms. Mathis went through a chart showing the payment plan for this bond.

2. Frey Landscaping: Mr. Frey went through what the township gets from the county's contract with Frey Landscaping regarding mowing along the three different types of roads in the township. (See attached)

He said M37 & M82 aren't a problem as they are funded by the state but some of the other roads are. Some roads have brush growing tall by the stop signs and you can't see around the brush. The county has one unit for brush mowing in the northern county. It takes two or three years to do a cycle so they don't get the whole township done.

Mr. Frey said the township has only one cutting that goes in five feet. He doesn't think that is enough. He proposes 40 hours of roadside mowing at \$5,000. It would be approximately 50 to 60 linear miles. He thought \$3,000 would do most of our township. They are pre-approved and insured through the county to cut the brush vertical. He said about one half of our township roads aren't cut by the county. He said they also can mow for \$140 per hour with a minimum of five hours.

He is bringing his proposal to the township to review before budget talks for next year.

3. District Fire Agreement: Salacina said there was a great group effort between Newaygo City, Garfield and Brooks and they all feel this agreement makes it feasible that the first responders could become a part of the fire district. All three entities are very happy with it.

This agreement should have been gone over a couple years ago. The previous agreement was working but it was mandated that they look at it.

We had the fire board involved and Badgero said since the fire board's last meeting they all looked it over and were happy with it.

Moved by Haynor, **Seconded** by Libants to approve the District Fire Board Agreement.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative: Libants said the MTA reported State Revenue is up and will exceed assumptions by anywhere from \$285 to \$440 million based on predictions made in May.

House Bill 4458 amends the incompatible office act to specifically allow a public officer or employee of a city, village, township or county with a population of less than 3,000 to also serve as the fire chief of that community.

Governor Snyder signed legislation to hold a presidential primary election on February 28, 2012.

Senate Bill 427 passed to move all school board elections to the even-year November election date starting 2012.

Intergovernmental: Salacina said Croton Township is having a hearing tomorrow night on mute swans.

Communications: Nothing to report

Roads: Salacina said we have been dealing with a drainage issue at Cottonwood Flats. Houses were flooded because of the rain runoff. He said the Newaygo County Road Commission went in and took care of a large portion of the problem. They have channeled it away. To finish the work it will cost \$16,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Badgero, **Seconded** by Libants to adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

Jennifer Badgero – Clerk

Maureen Dutkiewicz – Recording Secretary