

BROOKS TOWNSHIP MINUTES

490 QUARTERLINE ROAD
NEWAYGO, Michigan 49337
(231) 652-6763

November 15, 2011

Approved

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

Members Absent: None

Public Present: Warren Bender and four 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 Haynor to accept the agenda with the addition of two items under Correspondence.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

MINUTES:

Moved by Badgero, **Seconded** by Deater to accept the minutes of the Regular, October 18, 2011 Township Board Meeting as presented.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

AUTHORIZATION TO PAY BILLS:

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

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

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

Haynor pointed out the Newaygo County Road Commission bill wasn't just for a sign. Badgero said the \$70,793.90 included limestone and grading on Basswood for \$19,370.73 and limestone and grading on 72nd was \$51,284.27 and the sign bill was \$138.90 for S. High Meadow and a stop sign.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (attached)

Received and Accepted Treasurer's Report as presented.

GF 101 – Beginning Balance \$598,925.79, Receipts \$173,964.88, Disbursements \$148,912.38, Ending Balance \$623,978.29.

PA 103 – Beginning Balance \$.00, Receipts \$12,179.72, Disbursements \$112,179.72. Ending Balance \$.00.

CD 246– Beginning Balance \$700,553.62, Receipts \$186,644.60, Disbursements \$161,092.10, Ending Balance \$726,106.12.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

REPORTS:

Planning Commission: Deater said the PC is working on Ordinance Review.

Zoning Administrator: (See attached) There are 81 zoning compliance permits issued so far this year. Last year at this time we had 82. There are 23 open violations. Five were closed since September.

The ZA talked about different conferences he has been to regarding revenue sharing, things that can be done with our web site, and audits. He also attended one on economic development for the area. They are pushing towards education by trying to get the community college in the area and get people better educated to build a better work force.

He also attended the ORV Use in Newaygo County meeting. They have a draft ordinance that Commissioner Maikie will present to the County Commissions later this month. This ordinance allows ORV's on public roads. However, primary roads (like the state roads) are off limits.

There was a lot of discussion regarding ORV's on the township roads regarding accidents, insurance coverage, speed, and placement on the roads of the ORV's.

The ZA also attended a seminar on Natural Shore Scaping. They are trying to get away from sea walls and rip rap. The DEQ wants coconut logs where you can get vegetation growing. They recommend vegetation plants. The ZA has a list of plants recommended.

Fire Board Report: Badgero said they are working on a 10 year plan. They are trying to figure out what to do if the First Responders are a part of the Fire Board.

Newaygo Area District Library: Libants said circulation was up ten percent. Circulation was 3,000 in October. The library staff is trying to figure out what to do with the "E readers". They are awaiting news on several grant requests.

Coolbough Management Commission: Haynor said their meeting has not been rescheduled. She thought they would have one after the first of the year.

Chain of Lakes Sewer Authority: Dutkiewicz reported the auditor was at their meeting last week. They are getting a handle on the budget. There are approximately 30 nipples that need to be replaced. They are all in the high water table. Bob is working on procedures to submit to the DEQ so they can do these when they fail.

Pat Baker was there and received the resolution from Garfield Township last month on refunding and is awaiting Everett and Brooks resolutions.

NCRA: Badgero said they talked about a map to go out to Croton. The ice skating form is in. The hours are going to be dawn to dusk. The DPW will open the house in the morning and the police will lock it at night. Last year some people donated extra skates that were left in the house for use.

The Marshall Trail was cleaned up after the wind storm blew some trees down.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Charter Communications: Badgero received their semi-annual newsletter if anyone is interested in seeing it.

2. Recycling: Badgero received the fall newsletter. In 2011 they have recycled 960 tons of material. Since they opened December 6, 2004 they have recycled 44,440 tons of material. The township had some fresh gravel spread out by the recycling trailers. Haynor said she would like them to put “watch your step” signs as the boards on the walkways get slippery when they are wet and icy.

3. Besser - Resignation: Dick Besser is moving and sent a letter of resignation for the boards he is serving on. They include the Fire Board, ZBA and the Hess Lake Board effective Friday, November 11, 2011. Badgero read through his letter of resignation.

Badgero will run an ad in the paper for a replacement for him on the Fire Board and ZBA.

4. FEMA: Bender said he received a flood rating from FEMA for our township. This application started three years ago with the Community Rating Service (CRS). We were rated Category 8 because of our flood control and dam control. People along the river will receive a 10% decrease in their flood insurance starting January 1, 2012 because of this rating.

To keep this rating or make it better requires constant maintenance. Bender has a log where he has to keep track of calls he gets regarding property on the river, whether he gives them flood information and a newsletter has to be sent out at least once a year to the people along the river. The elevation certificates have to be kept.

5. State of Michigan: Badgero received a letter informing her about the Uniform Video Services Local Franchise Act. This is something they have to let us know about every year.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2011-271 Refunding Contract – COLA: Salacina said when all townships have approved this resolution the county can solicit new bond bids on the remaining bonds. If we can resell to lower the interest rate, the county will do it.

Haynor said if they find out that the interest rate doesn’t improve, they won’t resell. It is a win, win situation. The township has nothing to lose on this.

Moved by Libants, **Seconded** by Haynor to approve Resolution 2011-271 Refunding Contract.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Legislative: Libants said the House Transportation Committee voted in favor of legislation to allow county boards of commission the option to abolish their road commissions. Salacina said he heard they are doing this because in Wayne County and a couple other counties the road commissioners are getting paid \$100,000 a year. Salacina said our road commission is a bunch of good, hard working people.

Intergovernmental: Nothing to report.

Communications: Haynor said the tax bills will be received on December 1st. A newsletter will be sent out with the taxes.

Roads: Salacina said Basswood was worked on between Croton Drive and the railroad tracks.

72nd Street is a lot better. The high banks were cut through. However, because of the driveways there, they can't cut through all the banks. They made a crown in the road so the water does move quickly through there.

They did fix a drainage problem at the end of 72nd Street. They also had an extreme flooding problem in Cottonwood Flats by Gardner. They fixed the problem so the flooding doesn't go into the yards and homes. The county covered 80% of the cost. There is only \$16,000 left to do.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS: Badgero thanked the election workers for doing a good job at the school election.

Deater said she thought ORVs can be considered motor vehicles. There was more discussion on this.

There was a reminder that the PC meeting will be held November 21, 2011 this month.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Libants, **Seconded** by Haynor to adjourn at 7:48 p.m.

Ayes – All

Nays – None

Motion Carried.

Jennifer Badgero – Clerk

Maureen Dutkiewicz – Recording Secretary