

**PLEASANTON TOWNSHIP BOARD
MANISTEE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Monday, October 14, 2013**

APPROVED MINUTES

The regular monthly meeting of the Pleasanton Township Board was called to order at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag. Members present: Supervisor Carol Merrill, Clerk Amy Cross, Treasurer Judy Girven, and Trustees Rochelle Rollenhagen and Dave Ertel.

Public comment opened; closed.

Matthew Coffey, Superior Energy, was in attendance to answer questions about the proposed franchise agreement (ordinance) awaiting township approval. Merrill explained it has been reviewed by Pleasanton's attorney with "irrevocable" a concern. Mr. Coffey responded, however, the ordinance is not inclusive and there is protection for the township. Responding to some questions, he reported: (1) the reason for a thirty-year ordinance is that SEC wouldn't have to renew it for a while, (2) no one else, except possibly Bear Lake Township back in 1996, has put this "franchise agreement" on the ballot, (3) based on current prices the rates will decrease if this ordinance is approved because authority will be given to Superior Energy; the original ordinance is under Ward Lake et al who are no longer owners of the area's natural gas company.

Motion by Girven, supported by Ertel, to approve SEC's ordinance; roll call – aye: Ertel, Merrill, Cross, Girven; nay: none; AIF; Motion carried. Mr. Coffey reported SEC will cover publishing costs and a CD of the ordinance is available. (Note: SEC will also cover attorney costs regarding this matter up to \$500.)

Agenda stands approved.

Motion by Merrill, supported by Girven, to approve the 9/9/2013 regular minutes; AIF; Motion carried.

Motion by Merrill, supported by Cross, for the Supervisor to accept the Treasurer's Report; AIF; Motion carried.

Motion by Merrill, supported by Ertel, to pay the monthly bills as presented on the check register; AIF; Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: Great Lakes Water Lab reports from May and August, 2013;
County Memo re: vehicle bid.

NEW BUSINESS: The Board reviewed a service agreement draft received by our attorney, Bryan Graham. This draft is to be used for long-term independent contract services hired out by the Township. The general liability amount of \$1 million may be too high. Cross will seek input from MTA. Tabled until next month.

Ertel expressed his concerns regarding Lakes to Land Initiative to update Pleasanton's Master Plan. He stated that Lakes to Land was originally sought out, by sending two members from the Planning Commission, to seek assistance with support in our Master Plan for the commercial wind ordinance adopted by the Township. Further, he's concerned about these Master Plans all being the same even though there are several different municipalities involved which require unique plans for their townships. Ertel mentioned the changing of zoning districts by Lakes to Land, perhaps leading to regional government, a concern of his. No support was given to repeal the recent Lakes to Land/Beckett & Raeder grant application resolution nor to end ties with Lakes to Land Initiative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Quotes were received from Paul Sedlar and Ed Thompson to cut down a dead tree at the Township Park on Lakeside, which is very close to a house. Sedlar is \$375 to cut tree (no clean-up); \$675 for tree removal; does not have insurance coverage. Thompson's \$1100 to cut and remove; Merrill will check on liability insurance. Both charge extra to remove stump. Tabled until next month.

Cross sent a letter to Accident Fund requesting a re-audit due to further information she submitted, per AF's request, after the original report was received. The Township is being told by AF that they are responsible for an \$8000 invoice for lack of workers compensation for some individual contractors. There has been ongoing dispute regarding this matter. Cross will continue to seek resolution, in hopes the township will only be responsible for workers compensation on their employee(s). Currently the Township pays \$700 for WC on their maintenance employee. Other employees i.e. officials, commissions, etc. are covered under the Township's insurance policy package.

OTHER BUSINESS: John Larsen, Cemetery Sexton, is due for a new contract, and is requesting a rate increase: from \$400 to \$450 full burial (doubled in winter), from \$150 to \$200 cremains burial, \$50 extra for weekends/holidays; \$15/hour plus \$15/commission for showing/selling lots. Merrill reported other area sexton rates are similar; Cross found some close, but reported on other townships in Manistee

County, i.e. \$325 full burial (doubled in winter) in Maple Grove Township and cremains at \$125; Norman Township pays \$300 full burial and \$75 for cremains. The Board will review further and discuss next month.

BS&A quote for software cemetery management received, \$4,000. Merrill will check with Manistee Community Foundation to see if these funds can be used for such.

Transfer Station dates for 2014 have been set; Merrill will order passes to be sent with winter tax bills.

Merrill handed out bids for Hopkins Forest Drive to review and discuss next month.

PLANNING COMMISSION: Dave Ertel gave report.

The Board received a resignation letter from Mr. Ertel effective at meeting end, October 14, 2013, requesting this letter be an attachment to minutes (attached).

LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD: Jerry Stick gave report. (Cross received correspondence for next month.)

Merrill reported the ORV signs are now all correct and we may receive \$200 bill from Road Commission.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Cross, Clerk