

Updated: December 15, 2009

**PRAIRIEVILLE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

December 9, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Stoneburner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, Clerk Jill Owens, Trustee Bill Miller, and Treasurer Deb Newhouse

Also present 17 guests.

All present pledged Allegiance to the flag and observed a moment of silence for our troops.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Clerk Jill Owens for the agenda to be approved as amended. Supported by Treasurer Deb Newhouse. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Change: Add "Island City Ambulance" to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Treasurer Deb Newhouse moved to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2009 Special Board Meeting as written. Clerk Jill Owens supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Clerk Jill Owens moved to approve the minutes of October 14, 2009 Regular Board Meeting as corrected. Treasurer Deb Newhouse supported. Ayes - Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, Clerk Jill Owens, and Treasurer Deb Newhouse. Nays - Trustee Bill Miller. Motion Carried.

40 Clerk Jill Owens moved to approve the minutes of November 11, 2009
41 Regular Board Meeting as corrected. Treasurer Deb Newhouse supported.
42 All Ayes. Motion carried.

43
44 Clerk Jill Owens moved to approve the minutes of November 17, 2009
45 Special Board Meeting as written. Treasurer Deb Newhouse supported.
46 Trustee Bill Miller stated he boycotted meeting, because he felt the issue
47 could wait until December Regular Board Meeting. Supervisor Jim
48 Stoneburner stated that Attorney Ken Sparks was consulted. The Township
49 Board should have accepted Sharon Ritchie's resignation when presented,
50 since the Board did not, then a meeting should be held as soon as possible.
51 Ayes - Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, Clerk Jill Owens, Treasurer Deb
52 Newhouse. Nays - Trustee Bill Miller. Motion Carried.

53

54 CORRESPONDENCE

55

56 Treasurer Deb Newhouse received an email from Cindy White, MTPP Risk
57 Control Field Rep stating that the Township should not supply public
58 internet access from the Township computer, because it is placing the
59 Township in an unnecessary liability position. Clerk Jill Owens moved to
60 temporarily remove internet access and computer from public use. Treasurer
61 Deb Newhouse Supported. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

62

63 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner stated he had an email from a resident with a
64 complaint of manure on the road. He contacted local farmer that was
65 causing problem. Farmer stated that he had over filled the spreader, but
66 would try to limit the problem for the future. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner
67 also stated that tickets can be given to farmers for spilling manure on the
68 road if caught in the act.

69

70 COMMISSIONER'S REPORT by Robert Houtman

71

72 Commissioner Robert Houtman stated the Board of Commissioners is
73 reorganizing in January. They plan on having committees of the whole
74 instead of small committees. This should save approximately \$6,400.00 a
75 year.

76

77

78 PUBLIC COMMENT

79

80 Dave Gray complained about minutes not being approved at previous
81 meeting and requested information on email from Gary Hayward. Bruce
82 Miner requested a letter be sent to Schultz Park's residents with information
83 from Attorney Sparks.

84

85 PARKS COMMISSION REPORT by Jennifer VanOverloop, Vice
86 Chairperson of Parks Commission

87

88 Jennifer VanOverloop reported that the Parks Commission accepted Robert
89 Ritchie's letter of resignation at last meeting.

90

91 FIRE REPORTS

92

93 Fire Reports were received and filed. A request from Chief Rick Garrison
94 was read requesting leave of absence for Chip and Karen Vickery.

95

96 Clerk Jill Owens moved to give leave of absence to Chip and Karen Vickery
97 until April 2010. Supported by Treasurer Deb Newhouse. All Ayes. Motion
98 Carried.

99

100 POLICE REPORT

101

102 Police report was received and filed.

103

104 TREASURER REPORT

105

106 Treasurer Deb Newhouse presented a Treasurer Report.

107

108 Treasurer Deb Newhouse stated she received information regarding BS&A
109 Internet Services. BS&A will charge \$2.00 a record for viewing of records,
110 but no charge to the Township.

111

112 Clerk Jill Owens moved to use BS&A Internet service for Tax and
113 Assessing Records. Trustee Bill Miller Supported. All Ayes. Motion
114 Carried.

115

116 CLERK REPORT

117

118 Clerk report was received and filed.

119

120 APPROVAL OF BILLS

121

122 Bills were presented and discussed. Professional Code Inspection needed to
123 be added to list of bills for \$1,208.00 and \$75.00.

124

125 Motion made by Trustee Bill Miller for the bills in the amount of
126 \$28,378.96 to be paid. Supported by Treasurer Deb Newhouse. All Ayes.
127 Motion carried.

128

129 Professional Code Inspection Contract for Zoning Administrator and
130 Construction Code Administration

131

132 Clerk Jill Owens moved to accept Professional Code Inspections contract for
133 Independent Public Official's Contract for Zoning Administration and
134 Enforcement for two years. Supported by Treasurer Deb Newhouse. All
135 Ayes. Motion Carried.

136

137 Clerk Jill Owens moved to accept Professional Code Inspections contract for
138 Independent Public Official's Contract for Construction Code
139 Administration and Enforcement for two years. Supported by Treasurer Deb
140 Newhouse. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

141

142 Channel Drive/Fords Point - Heystek

143

144 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner stated that Heystek performance of pavement on
145 Channel Drive and Fords Point was poorly done. The residents would like
146 the road sealed in the spring. Heystek would accept less payment, to allow a
147 different service to seal. Wolverine Asphalt contacted Prairieville Township
148 and stated that Heystek did not pay them for materials. Attorney Rob Thall
149 recommends that Prairieville Township hold payment to Heystek until
150 Attorneys of all involved come up with an agreement.

151

152 MTA Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan

153

154 Clerk Jill Owens stated that the conference is \$235.00 per person for January
155 27 to 29 in Grand Rapids. She feels that the Township needs the training
156 that MTA provides to keep the Township updated and informed.

157

158 Clerk Jill Owens moved to send four members of the Board to Grand Rapids
159 for the MTA Conference and adjust the budget from 101-299-702
160 (\$1,000.00) and 101-299-960 \$1,000.00. Supported by Treasurer Deb
161 Newhouse. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

162

163 Appointment Prairieville Township Board Trustee

164

165 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner stated that he would like to recommend Jim
166 Grundy. Jim Grundy has a BS and MS in Mechanical Engineering and at
167 the present a Realtor with Jaqua. He is a board member of the Zoning Board
168 of Appeals.

169

170 Clerk Jill Owens moved to appoint Jim Grundy as Prairieville Township
171 Trustee per Supervisor Jim Stoneburner request. Treasurer Deb Newhouse
172 Supported. Ayes -Supervisor Jim Stoneburner, Clerk Jill Owens, Treasurer
173 Deb Newhouse and Nays - Trustee Bill Miller. Motion Carried.

174

175 Trustee Bill Miller stated that the Nay vote was against the procedure used
176 in selecting the candidate, not the candidate.

177

178 Planning Commission Renew Appointments

179

180 Clerk Jill Owens moved to reappoint Joe Tobin and Dave Federinko to
181 Planning Commission to December 31, 2013. Supported Trustee Bill
182 Miller. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

183

184 Cemetery Winter Fee

185

186 Clerk Jill Owens moved to accept request from Sexton Scott Adams an
187 additional \$100.00 fee for burials during snow and ice conditions.
188 Supported by Treasurer Deb Newhouse. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

189

190 Snow Plowing

191

192 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner reported that we had received four bids for snow
193 plowing. All bids were from respectable candidates and would do a great
194 job for the Township. Trustee Bill Miller stated that Barry Mitchell's quote
195 was the lowest price. *Barry Mitchell changed bid from price per hour to*
196 *price per occurrence.*

197

198 Trustee Bill Miller moved to accept Barry Mitchell's quote for snow
199 plowing for Prairieville Township Hall and Cemeteries. Supported by
200 Treasurer Deb Newhouse. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
201
202

203 Resolution Requesting Michigan Legislature to Adopt State-Wide Ban on
204 Use of Residential Fertilizers Containing Phosphorous

205

206 Trustee Bill Miller moved to adopt Resolution Requesting Michigan
207 Legislature to Adopt State-Wide Ban on Use of Residential Fertilizers
208 Containing Phosphorous. Supported by Clerk Jill Owens. Roll Call Vote:
209 Trustee Bill Miller - Aye, Treasurer Deb Newhouse - Aye, Clerk Jill Owens
210 - Aye, Supervisor Jim Stoneburner – Aye. Motion Carried.

211

212 Resolution Requesting Michigan Legislature to Adopt State-Wide Ban On
213 Use of Residential Fertilizers Containing Phosphorous

214

215 **Whereas**, excess phosphorous introduced to lakes, streams and reservoirs produces conditions
216 that promote the growth of nuisance plants, increases anaerobic conditions reducing available
217 oxygen (oxygen dead zones) for fish and other aquatic organisms resulting in algal blooms that
218 can result in further fish kills; and

219

220 **Whereas**, high phosphorous levels were responsible for oxygen “dead zones” in Jordan Lake and
221 the Nashville Mill Run (Thornapple River) in Barry County and there are alarming signs that
222 many inland lakes and streams are not supporting designated uses due to phosphorus loading;
223 and

224

225 **Whereas**, the vast majority of residential property soils do not require phosphorous
226 supplementation and that unneeded supplementation will not stay in the soil but rather run off
227 into local water supplies such as lakes and streams; and

228

229 **Whereas**, according to the State Department of Environmental Quality, one pound of
230 phosphorous is enough to promote the growth of 500 pounds of algae; and

231

232 **Whereas**, recent research shows that phosphorus levels in the Huron River dropped an average
233 of 28 percent after Ann Arbor adopted an ordinance in 2006 that curtailed the use of
234 phosphorus on lawns; and

235

236 **Whereas**, Governor Jennifer Granholm also recently signed a law significantly reducing the
237 amount of phosphorous allowed in household dish and laundry detergents sold in Michigan
238 beginning in 2010; and

239

240 **Whereas**, this year local officials in some Michigan communities that already banned the use of
241 phosphorous containing residential fertilizers indicate the transition was seamless and without
242 difficulty; and

243

244 **Whereas**, many retailers and some lawn care companies have already begun voluntary
245 elimination of phosphorous containing fertilizers out of concern for our waters; and

246

247 **Whereas**, the Right to Farm Act Allows the agricultural industry to use phosphorous necessary
248 to sustain crop production and that this industry will not be impacted by residential fertilizer
249 phosphorous ban; and
250

251 **Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Prairieville Township Board requests the Legislature of
252 the State of Michigan to draft and pass a state-wide ban on the use of residential fertilizers
253 containing phosphorous to preserve our lakes, streams and reservoirs from degradation.
254

255 **Be it further resolved** that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Governor Jennifer
256 Granholm, Representative Brian Calley, Senator Patricia Birkholz, Township Boards in Barry
257 County, Lorna Wilson, MTA Chapter President and Colleen Schwartz, President of Michigan
258 Township Association.
259

260 Parks Commission Appointment

261
262 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner stated that he received a memo from Parks
263 Commission that they had accepted Robert Ritchie resignation from Parks
264 Commission and they would recommend Rebecca Kahler as replacement.
265

266 Clerk Jill Owens moved to appoint Rebecca Kahler to Parks Commission
267 per their recommendation. Treasurer Deb Newhouse supported. All Ayes.
268

269 Island City Ambulance EMS

270
271 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner stated that the State of Michigan revoked Island
272 City Ambulance EMS License. Barry Township had a Special Meeting to
273 terminate the contract with Island City Ambulance EMS. Trustee Bill Miller
274 requested that Supervisor Jim Stoneburner and Supervisor Wes Kahler work
275 together to make sure our township has ambulance coverage. Supervisor
276 Jim Stoneburner stated the Townships are working together and a BPH
277 meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Barry
278 Township Hall.
279

280 Trustee Bill Miller moved to mail letter to terminate the Island City Area
281 EMS contract for ambulance service. Treasurer Deb Newhouse supported.
282 All Ayes. Motion Carried.
283

284 PUBLIC COMMENT

285
286 Dave Gray asked if the PCI contract was renewed for two years. Supervisor
287 Jim Stoneburner stated yes it was. Bob Pence, Pine Lake Fire Department,
288 stated that the Island City Ambulance EMS responded quickly and did a

289 great job for Prairieville Township. He stated a fast response ambulance
290 service is needed in the Township.

291

292

293 BOARD COMMENTS

294

295 SUPERVISOR STONEBURNER

296

297 Supervisor Jim Stoneburner introduced Boy Scout Wes McManus attending
298 meeting to receive a merit badge.

299

300 TREASURER DEB NEWHOUSE

301

302 Treasurer Deb Newhouse welcomed Boy Scout Wes McManus to our
303 meeting.

304

305 CLERK JILL OWENS

306

307 Clerk Jill Owens thanked Jim Grundy and Becky Kahler for accepting
308 appointments.

309

310

311 TRUSTEE BILL MILLER

312

313 Trustee Bill Miller stated that the Pine Lake Pump ran at the end of
314 November 2009.

315

316 Clerk Jill Owens moved to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Treasurer
317 Deb Newhouse. Supervisor Jim Stoneburner adjourned the meeting without
318 objection at 8:20 pm.

319

320 Respectfully Submitted,

321 Jill Owens, Clerk

322