

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING

May 5, 2014

Present – Supervisors Jeff Holm, Larry Handshoe, Tom Rush and Randy Atwood. Supervisor Jay Swanson was absent.

Call to Order – The May 5, 2014 regular meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Vice Chairman Tom Rush at 7:01 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda

- Move Discuss 125 ½ Street from New Business to under Approve/Disapprove 100th Street Project in Old Business
- Add Approve/Disapprove Park Dedication Form in New Business
- Add Approve/Disapprove/Discuss Lake Diann to under Old Business
- Add Schedule Balance of Road Tour under New Business

Approval of Regular Meeting Agenda With/Without Additions/Corrections – Handshoe/Atwood unanimous to approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

April 2014 Final Treasurer's Report – The clerk reported receipts of \$2,088.65 and disbursements of \$74,186.13, check numbers 18284 through 18362 and 9 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$263,395.16.

May 2014 Preliminary Treasurer's Report – The clerk reported receipts of \$415.00 and disbursements of \$26,123.66, check numbers 18363 through 18401 and 2 EFT payments leaving an unaudited balance of \$237,686.50.

Sheriff's Report – Deputy Wilson reported there were 142 calls for service in the month of April. The town board was made aware of an incident on 125 ½ Street involving a juvenile.

Fire Department Report - Jim Oliver reported there were 12 calls for service in the month of April. Robin Fischer is requesting a leave of absent from April 24 to June 24. The new rescue rig is in operation. There will be no Baldwin Fire Department business meetings in June, July or August.

Relief Association Quarterly Report – Jim Oliver reported there is a balance of \$418,000 in the Relief Association. The audit is completed and will be available after May 15, 2014.

Approve/Disapprove Change in Interest Rate for Deferred Members – Firefighter Jim Oliver said the auditor informed them that the interest rate for deferred members

cannot be changed without board approval. On April 11, 2010 the interest rate was dropped from 4% to 3%. In February of 2014 the rate was dropped from 3% to 0%. Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve the changes from both April 2010 and February of 2014.

Review Revised Bylaws – The revised bylaws will be added to the June agenda for approval by the town board. Oliver said the changes will be highlighted for easier evaluation.

Approval of Consent – Handshoe/Holm unanimous to approve the Town Board meeting minutes of April 15 and April 22, 2014.

Open Forum for Citizens – Chuck Nagle, 131st Street, provided copies of his analysis regarding taxes paid per mile of road.

Robert Freese, 133rd Street, had questions regarding the cost of repairs on 133rd Street.

Elaine Philippi, 127th Street, generated discussion on road projects, the financial burden of those projects and what is needed for improvements.

CONDITIONAL & INTERIM USE PERMITS: None.

PLATS: None.

VARIANCES:

50' Variance in Setback from Prairie Hill Lake for a Deck – George and Joy Zdenek were present. Since the size of the deck will not affect the quality of the environment, Holm/Atwood unanimous to approve the 50' variance in setback from Prairie Hill Lake for the deck.

40' Variance in Setback from the Right-of-Way for a New Residence – Jerry and Sandra Smrcka were present. Handshoe/Atwood unanimous to approve the 40' variance in setback from right-of-way for a new residence.

100' Variance in Lot Width for a New Residence – Jerry and Sandra Smrcka were present. Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve the 100' variance in lot width for a new residence.

Variance in Single Family Dwelling Size, Requirement is Minimum 720 Square Feet, Proposing 630 Square Feet – Jerry and Sandra Smrcka were present. As long as it remains uniform and conforms to the other structures, Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve the variance in single family dwelling size requirement.

1' Variance in Setback from the Side Property Line for an Addition – Tom Worthley was present. Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve the 1' variance in setback from the side property line for an addition.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discuss 125 ½ Street – Township engineer, Jon Bogart, provided estimates for gravel and paving for the area. There is approximately 3,200 feet of road. The current standard in the commercial district is for a 9 ton road. Drainage has not been addressed at this point. During the road tour Bogart noticed that the water runs to the south to 313th Avenue.

Bob Essig, 313th Avenue, who had completed a public comment form, was present. He owns Essig Construction Company and started in 1977 blading for the township. Somehow he was dismissed. He doesn't know why or how. He quoted the Princeton Union Eagle from last week's paper. He asked for the reason for the statement in the paper. Handshoe responded that he had asked for you to give us a call when blading as he wanted a Baldwin maintenance employee to go with you and 2 hours later, you call. Mr. Essig stated that he read in the meeting minutes from last month or the month before Chairman Swanson had asked if you contacted me and you said yes. That is a lie. He has not talked to you since October. He feels there is a pretty good chance for a liable lawsuit especially with the way 125 ½ Street was done last week. Handshoe responded stating that the road was graded smooth, the rains came and the trucks did not help either. Mr. Essig stated that he has worked for this township longer than most of the board members have lived here. What did he do wrong? The previous 30 years the board liked what he did. Rush stated that at a previous meeting the vote was 3-2 to go with Livonia Township with their grader and their person and the cost difference as about \$17.00. He voted no. Holm stated that he voted no also and feels that this is not a good business practice. He has not heard any complaints about the quality but he is not the road and bridge contact. He values long term relationships and is not comfortable with a whim. He has heard Livonia Township has a different operator since that decision. Rush stated that the reason he voted not is that Bob knows the roads and, with Livonia, we are on the second limb. Handshoe stated that he is trying to get the townships to work together. Mr. Essig stated that he cannot compete with a government entity. Holm stated that he would like to see it on the May 22nd agenda to revisit our grading arrangement. Mr. Essig stated that he originally bladed twice a month. The last couple of years he went out when he was told to go out. Last year he did not go out for 2 months. A resident stated that 125 ½ Street should be bladed once a week in order to maintain it. Another resident stated they are grading sand and it is not the grading but the material. The issue will be reviewed at the next regular meeting.

Barb Essig, 313th Avenue, who had completed a public comment form, was present. She stated that she is the one who gets the phone calls. After two days of solid rain on Tuesday the township maintenance employee is standing at the end of the road watching the grader and then on Saturday they come back and reblade. Twice in one week. She started receiving phone calls on Wednesday. People think they are still

blading and are hanging up on her. The person who is blading for Livonia Township has no experience. In 2011 they were blading twice a month. In 2012 it jumped to approximately once a month and they were instructed to only blade when directed by Larry Handshoe. In 2013 they bladed the whole township in April, one time in May and one time in June, partially in July and now we got the okay to blade 125 ½ Street as needed. Handshoe stated that he normally calls them out there when he goes and takes a look. Rush stated that the board will revisit at the May 22nd meeting.

Troy Anderson, Dan Ciskovsky, Tim Wolff and Leroy Anderson were present. They own businesses along 125 ½ Street. Troy Anderson questioned if it were true that the town board is instructing the grader to blade 125 ½ Street once a month. Handshoe replied that, if it is rough, he would have it bladed. Leroy Anderson questioned how you can drive it and determine once a month was enough. Troy Anderson asked for the board's opinion. Holm stated that the road is sand is not manageable as is. At a minimum it needs to be graveled. As a commercial road he believes a 9 ton tar road should be planned for in the future. Immediate attention should be given to graveling and blading. Do a band aid fix and then a budget plan with a possibility of bonding or certificate of indebtedness. Mr. Anderson stated that if Chuck's (Nagle) numbers are right they have funding township road projects. Holm stated that the lion's share of the projects done by the township have been on collector streets with no graveling projects since he has been on the board or near the board. It has been neglected for a long time. The short answer is that it is a high priority.

Dan Ciskovsky asked if the gravel was done now should it be done as a 9 ton base. He suggested stopping at the undeveloped portion of 125 ½ Street.

Leroy Anderson stated he was on the Livonia town board for 32 years. 10 years ago they had an objective to tar 2 miles or more every year. They may have a mile of gravel road left.

Handshoe stated that it was put on the agenda to do something with the road and will try to get approval for 4 inches of gravel. Bogart stated that they should dig out about 6 inches and put in 6 inches of gravel. Cut it out now and put down 6 inches and another inch before it is paved. Holm stated that step one is to approve the township engineer to go forward. Troy Anderson questioned trying to run a business with road closed signs and Tim Wolff stated that he lost customers over that road.

Holm/Handshoe unanimous to have Bogart Pederson get a real look at it; look at elevations and soft spots. Commission the township engineer and have that plan to remove 6 inches and put 6 inches in prep for a 9 ton road and be looking at the ditches and make necessary recommendations on drainage when we are doing the work or cleaning out the ditches. The board is requesting the township engineer to have it done by the first week in July. Atwood made a friendly amendment to have the township engineer look at the whole project including 125 ½ Street and 316th Avenue. The friendly amendment was accepted by both Holm and Handshoe.

Holm stated that he would like to see a schedule for road grading. Atwood questioned if it would be wasteful to put some gravel in now to fill in the holes. Rush asked if it would be a temporary patch until the engineer was ready. Handshoe stated that it is needed at least on the north side. Bogart stated that he can salvage what is put down. The board instructed Bogart to go out for quote and have it ready for the May 22nd meeting. Handshoe/Atwood unanimous to approve gravel as a temporary fix and add the item to the May 22nd agenda to approve the quotes.

Approve/Disapprove/Discuss Lake Diann – Handshoe stated that he would like to go out for quotes and add to the May 22nd meeting agenda. Jon Bogart's estimate comes in at \$34,225.15. They are not changing any drainage issues. Atwood questioned if Bogart could address the one bad area that has drainage issue and if calcium chloride could be put down right away after the gravel. Bogart's opinion was not to add right away. Handshoe/Atwood unanimous to go out for quotes on 4 inches of gravel for Lake Diann.

Approve/Disapprove 100th Street Project – Rush/Handshoe unanimous to table approving/disapproving the 100th Street project until the May 22, 2014 regular meeting.

Park Committee Report – Rush reported that Swanson is working with the contractor on the boardwalks at Young Park. Nick Swanz is working on signs and fundraising. Holm motion to suspend the Park Committee report since approve/disapprove roof and pavilion are already on agenda.

TCI Baldwin Volunteer Corps Update – Holm was unable to attend the Baldwin Volunteer Corps meeting and Swanson filled in for him. Elaine Philippi informed the town board that the Baldwin Volunteer Corps voted to remain an arm of Baldwin Township and decided to not file for a 501©3 status. The Planning Commission has asked the Baldwin Volunteer Corps to host their open houses for when the comprehensive plan is being presented. The Corps is well on their way in sorting out the details for the Baldwin FunFest scheduled for later this fall.

Joint Committee with City of Princeton Status – No update.

BR&E Update – Holm is continuing to do research and gather information.

Approve/Disapprove Portable Toilet Quote for Young Park – Atwood/Holm unanimous to approve the quote from Jim's Mille Lacs for the portable toilet for Young Park.

Approve/Disapprove Termination of Seasonal Snowplow Drivers – A motion was made by Jeff Holm to approve termination of seasonal snowplow drivers. A motion was made by Larry Handshoe to table approval/disapproval until the May 2, 2014 regular meeting. Holm removes his motion. Handshoe/Rush unanimous to table until the May 22, 2014 regular meeting.

Approve/Disapprove Letter to Road Grader Company – Holm/Handshoe unanimous to table approve/disapprove letter to road grader company until the May 22, 2014 regular meeting.

Approve/Disapprove Revised Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program Policy – Handshoe/Atwood unanimous to approve the revised Workplace Accident and Injury Reduction Program policy.

TABLED ITEMS:

Approve/Disapprove Selling Old Ambulance – Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve selling the old ambulance.

Discuss County Zoning Ordinance/Potential Amendments and Provide Comments Holm/Rush unanimous to table discussion on the county zoning ordinance and potential amendments.

Approve/Disapprove Park Building Roof – Holm/Atwood unanimous to approve Latcham Lumber & Farm Supply to replace the roof on the park building for the amount of \$3,129.53 by May 31, 2014, and to instruct the clerk or deputy clerk to obtain permits on behalf of the township.

Approve/Disapprove Park Pavilion – After quotes were reviewed Holm/Atwood unanimous to approve Latcham Lumber & Farm Supply's quote of \$8,413.91 for construction of a park pavilion at Young Park.

Approve/Disapprove Calcium Chloride Quote – Handshoe/Holm unanimous to table until the May 22, 2014 regular meeting of Baldwin Township.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discuss 125 ½ Street – See above.

Budget Numbers on Asphalt – See above.

Schedule Employee Reviews – Employee reviews will be scheduled in 20 minutes intervals on Monday, June 16, 2014 starting at 7:00 p.m.

Approve/Disapprove Resolution 14-12; Resolution to Support Princeton Youth Hockey Association Recreational Programs – Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve Resolution 14-12; a Resolution to Support Princeton Youth Hockey Association Recreational Programs.

Approve/Disapprove County Utilizing Townhall for Great Northern Trail Open House, Wednesday, June 11th, 5:00-7:00 p.m. – Holm/Rush unanimous to approve the County utilizing the Town Hall for a Great Northern Trail Open House on

Wednesday, June 11th from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. One of the park committee liaisons will attend as well as open and close the building.

Approve/Disapprove Renewal of Postal Permit – Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve renewal of the postal permit.

Approve/Disapprove Attending Township Legal Seminar, Thursday, June 26th, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Albertville City Hall – Holm/Atwood unanimous approval for the board members and clerk to attend the township legal seminar on Thursday, June 26th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Albertville City Hall.

Approve/Disapprove Park Dedication Form – Holm/Rush unanimous to approve applying for the remainder of the funds in the county Park Dedication fund which has a balance of \$4,917.94.

Schedule Balance of Road Tour – The road tour will resume inspecting the roads on Thursday, May 29th starting at 4:00 p.m.

Announcements:

- Clean Up Day, Saturday, May 17th, 8 am - Noon
- Sherburne County Association of Townships Meeting, Wednesday, May 21st, 6:30 p.m., Livonia Township
- Town Board Regular Meeting, Rescheduled to Thursday, May 22nd

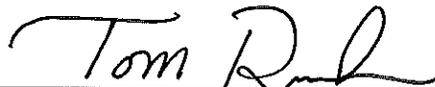
Any Other Business: None.

Motion to Approve Bills for Payment – Holm/Handshoe unanimous to approve for payment check numbers 18355 through 18401 and 4 EFT payments totaling \$30,500.79.

Adjournment – Handshoe/Holm unanimous to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.



Submitted By: (s/) Cathy Stevens
Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township



Approved By: (s/) Tom Rush
Vice Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

Date 5/22/14

Attendees: Lester Kriesel, Chuck Nagle, Dan Ciskovsky, Tim Wolff, Tom Worthley, Leroy Anderson, Joy Zdenek, George Zdenek, Rosie Storie, Craig Storie, Barb Essig, Bob Essig, Jim Oliver, Robert Freese, Audrey Misiura, Sandy Smrcka, Jerry Smrcka, Jon Bogart, Elaine Philippi, Troy Anderson