



WEESAW TOWNSHIP
New Troy, MI 49119



**TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING &
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**
Wednesday, August 19, 2015

The Public Hearing was called to order by Clerk Wanda Green at t 7:01 pm, in absence of Supervisor McKamey.

- **OPEN TRUTH-IN-TAXATION PUBLIC HEARING**
- Roll Call: Wanda Green, Jack Jones, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt. Members Absent: Sandy McKamey
- Presentation of Statistics & Reason for Hearing: Angela Kirby, Assessor. Angie gave a brief explanation for the Hearing, which is held annually. She suggested that we adopt the Headlee roll back of .9954, which would collect 2015 winter tax revenues as follows:
 - \$82,010,662 x .0008356 = \$68,528.10 for General Fund
 - \$82,010,662 x .0009954 = \$81,633.41 for Fire Dept. Millage
 - \$82,010,662 x .0009954 = \$81,633.41 for Roads Millage
- **CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING at 7:05 p.m./OPEN REGULAR BOARD MEETING at 7:06.**
- **APPOINT CHAIR FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING:** Motion by Green, supported by Jones, to appoint Trustee Sommers as Chairman in the absence of Supervisor McKamey.
- **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.
- **ROLL CALL BY CLERK GREEN:** Members Present: Wanda Green, Jack Jones, Gary Sommers, Michelle Tackitt. Members Absent: Sandy McKamey
- **BERRIEN COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPT REP:** A Berrien County Deputy Sheriff was present and presented the report to the Board. Stats for 06/01/15—06/30/15 as follows: 24 complaints, 0 tickets issued, 2 arrests.
- **AUDIT REPORT:** Audrey Salesberry/Schaffer & Layher was available to present the audit report. She reported good news, an unmodified opinion. She went through the audit report and gave special thanks to Green, Tackitt and Sommers for providing information to her towards the audit. She gave an overview of last year's figures of \$44,837 additional in General Fund, \$78,724 for roads millage. Motion by Green, supported by Sommers, to accept the audit as presented by Audrey Salesberry. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Sommers, Jones, Tackitt), McKamey absent. Motion carried.
- **SET/AMEND AGENDA ITEMS:** No amendments. Motion by Jones, supported by Tackitt, to accept the Agenda as presented. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **HEARING OF PERSONS PRESENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:** None
- **TRUTH-IN-TAXATION DISCUSSION/VOTE:** Motion by Green, supported by Tackitt, to adopt the Headlee Rollback of .9954, as follows for the 2015 millage amounts: .8356 General Fund; .9954 Fire Dept.; .9954 Roads Millage. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Jones, Tackitt, Green) McKamey absent, motion carried.
- **BOARD VOTE AS TO ADOPTION OF STREET LIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT:** There was a Public Hearing relating to the Street Lights Assessment District. The Township pays out approx.

\$5000 annually for street lights, and only takes in \$759 in taxes towards the street lights annually, which is a considerable amount for the General Fund to cover over the past many years. It was mentioned that the Township's share should be 10% of the expenses annually. After considerable discussion and questions, motion by Jones, supported by Tackitt, to set the new annual amount to be assessed to each parcel in the Assessment District to \$23.00 to be placed on the winter taxes beginning this December; with an annual look at the amount being charged being reviewed annually at a Public Hearing on the 3rd Wednesday of each August to determine if the assessment should be changed either up or down according to actual expenses vs. revenues. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Tackitt, Jones, Sommers), motion carried. Motion by Jones, supported by Green, to adopt Resolution 2015-16 Weesaw Township Street Lights Assessment District, of 8/19/2015. Roll call vote, all ayes (Tackitt, Sommers, Green, Jones), motion carried.

- **APPROVE PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Jones mentioned that in the August 12 minutes, a word should be changed from “be” to “we”, and another in August 18 Special Board Minutes change “with” to “will”. Motion by Jones, supported by Green, to approve the Regular Board Minutes of 7/15, and Special Board Minutes of 6/29/15 and Street Lights Public Hearing of 8/12/15, and Special Meeting Minutes of 8/18/14, with the changes as noted. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.
- **CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED TO BOARD:** MI Twp Participating Plan letter regarding the adoption of Fire Dept. policies read by Sommers.

A letter from Adam Schaaf re. his quarterly sewer fees was received concerning a home he recently purchased, which is uninhabitable, and he would like to have a moratorium on paying the sewer bill until he has it renovated it to the point where it is livable. He is already paying sewer on the other house and is living in it. He said he should have it livable in approx. 6 months. Motion by Green, supported by Jones, to provide a moratorium for 2 quarterly billings for Adam Schaaf's second property, beginning with the date of inspection by Robert Krauss. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

- **APPROVE EXPENDITURES:** Motion by Jones, supported by Sommers, to approve the expenditures as presented in the following amounts: General Fund \$16,243.41; Fire Dept. \$4,135.78; Ambulance \$2,311.27; Sewer \$3,980.46 for a Grand Total of \$26,670.92. Roll call vote, all ayes (Jones, Tackitt, Sommers, Green), motion carried.
- **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**
 - **Treasurer:** Tackitt provided bank balances, and has collected 300 property taxes. The taxes are due September 14.
 - **Fire Dept.:** Fire Chief Tim Williams gave a verbal report: 3 calls – 1 motorcycle PI, kitchen fire, and a rollover. He received 3 estimates for remodeling the Fire Dept. training room, and presented a plan for repairing the sewer problem in the Fire Dept. Plan #1 \$14,160; Plan #2 \$26,015.00; Plan #3 \$14,192.00; plus Cabinets amount of 1,294.00. Drain repair \$2000. It was advised that the Electrical Inspector should be contacted and get him involved in the process. Tackitt spoke to various remodeling issues, and suggested that the Fire Dept. may want to get together a venue at FONT or American Legion. Comments from audience. All board members spoke regarding pros and cons of the renovation plan. Motion by Jones, supported by Sommers, to table the remodeling issue. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. A Special Meeting Workshop will be held on TU, September 8, 2015, 6:00 p.m., to further discuss the renovation.
 - **Enforcement Officer** – Robert Krauss. Robert Krauss stated that he had a cell phone now, and is working to get an email address set-up through the Township email. He also presented copies of the International Property Maintenance Code and a generic letter to send to property owners with code violations. Metz to provide Zoning Book information.

- **Back to Fire Dept.**: Skipped over “Approval for New Fire Dept. Employment Application” earlier in the Agenda. Motion by Jones, supported by Tackitt, to approve the Fire Dept. Employment Application created by Green recently. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried. Green will put together packets for the Fire Dept. with all the employment documents therein.
- **Building, Zoning Administrator Report**: Report provided by Bob Kaufman.
- **Planning Commission Minutes**: Minutes provided by Green.
- **Parks & Rec. Committee**: No meeting. Graffiti was scraped from the Mill Rd. Park Bridge by Jack Dodds. Loose paint was scraped with grinders by Jack Dodds, Gary Sommers and Jim Pastryk and then repainted. The reward signs that were purchased cannot go on the bridge, per B.C.R.C., so they will be put in a location that is highly visible. There is a need to purchase posts and hardware for the signs, requiring 2 – 4”x4”x8’ posts. Motion by Sommers, supported by Jones, to purchase posts and hardware as necessary up to \$100 to put the two signs up. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Green, Tackitt, Jones), motion carried.
- **Victor Palulis Requested moving Public Comments to here**: Mr. Palulis read and presented a letter to the Board regarding the handling of Complaints at the April Board meeting and noted there were other people in the entourage supporting the request for cleaning up New Troy. Sommers mentioned we have sent a letter to all township residents requesting and providing information regarding clean-up, and that some are getting free dump passes and cleaning up their properties. A resident mentioned that we should not go too heavy-handed. After further polite comments, Mr. Palulis left.
- **Road Committee**: Sommers and Jack Dodds presented the Road Committee report. There is a deficit in the Matching Funds, as approved by Mr. Csokasy. There will be 12-14 miles of roads being renovated this year. A “No Thru Trucks” road sign should be placed on Log Cabin Rd. upon entering the Township after it is repaved. It was reported that B.C.R.C. has an app to report pot holes. The Elm Valley Road bridge cost has increased, but the Township will still pay the quoted price.
- **Website Committee**: Jack Dodds reported the FOIA documents are now online. There will be an upcoming meeting between Metz and Dodds. There is a need for a Fire Dept. Rep. Daryl DeRossi was suggested as the rep, as he is proficient in computers.
- **Drains Committee**: No update.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **REPAIR CEMETERY DRIVEWAY POTHoles/FONT PARKING LOT POTHoles IN TOWNSHIP PARK**: Sommers mentioned there are potholes needing filled in the driveway at Glendora Cemetery and also the Township portion of the Weesaw Township Park parking lot. Motion by Green, supported by Tackitt, that Sommers spend up to \$200 for five gallon cans of cold patch to repair those potholes. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Tackitt, Jones, Sommers), motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **ATTY. SARA BELL UPDATE**: Nothing further than the Street Light Assessment District information with her invoice provided.
- **OLSON ELECTRIC ESTIMATE**: The Township copier has not been working properly and the repairman indicated that our electric service is not sufficient for the copier. He indicated that we needed a dedicated outlet for the copy machine. Olson Electric supplied a quote for \$1,085, and

indicated to Green that it was high but that if it does not cost that much to run the line, he would change the billing to time and materials, which should be a lower amount. Motion by Jones, supported by Sommers, to approve Olson Electric's estimate of up to \$1,085 to run a new circuit and other requirements, estimate #S3064. Roll call vote, all ayes (Sommers, Tackitt, Jones, Green), motion carried.

- **2nd LOOK LAPTOPS:** Green asked to have this issue tabled due to time constraints.
- **GRSD REPAIRS Log Cabin Rd. Lift Station:** Sommers explained the outdated Omni radio signals needs to be repaired and replaced at the Log Cabin Road Lift Station, as the Wee-Chik Rd. Lift Station has recently undergone. Motion by Sommers, supported by Jones, to spend up to \$600 to have these repair made. Roll call vote, all ayes (Green, Sommers, Tackitt, Jones), motion carried.
- **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.
- **ADJOURN:** Motion by Jones, supported by Tackitt, to adjourn at 9:43 p.m. Voice vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Wanda Green, Clerk