

Solon Township Board
Regular Meeting

Thursday, November 13, 2008, 7:00 P.M.
Cedar Fire Department Meeting Room
8907 Railroad Ave., Cedar, MI 49621

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Carl Williams called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present: Supervisor Carl Williams, Treasurer Joan Gauthier, Clerk Shirley Mikowski, Trustee George Rosinski and Trustee Robert Dezelski.

Guests present: Tim Cypher, ZA, Brian Boals/Gourdie Fraser, Jim Lautner, Mike Cox/DEQ, David Bieganowski/Attorney, Bonnie Rivait and Ron Novak.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Joan Gauthier and supported by George Rosinski to approve the agenda as presented.
Motion carried 5-0.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Robert Dezelski and supported by George Rosinski to approve the October 9, 2008 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

5. Sewer/Mike Cox

Sewer Grant

Mike Cox from the MDEQ explained his department's position with the Sewer Project plan. At the public hearing on June 14, 2007 Mike Cox recommended that the Board adopt the large system to include all properties due to a July 1, 2007 deadline for state funding. He told the Board at that time that they would have the option to downsize the project at a later date. The Board approved to downsize the project at the August 8, 2007 meeting. Unfortunately the DEQ was never notified of this decision. Mr. Cox believes that the Sewer Project can still be salvaged, but there are restraints because of the S2 Grant. Mr. Cox also said that the project is in the fundable range and qualifies for a loan from the state with a 2 1/2% interest rate until the states fiscal year ending of September 30, 2009. It is yet to be determined if this hopscotch Special Assessment District is legal.

A large concern with the Sewer Project is that most of the septic systems in the village of Cedar predate 1970, and those systems that have been opted out of the project may be contaminating the ground water. Those that prove they have a working septic system can opt out of the Sewer Project, but the Board will need to adopt an ordinance which will state what the future cost will be and how they will pay to hook up to the system in the future. The township does have the authority to mandate the inspections of the systems and the cost for the inspections can be included in the S2 Grant. William Crawford from the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department will be contacted to do the inspections to make sure the systems are compliant with the health code.

Mr. Cox gave the following guidelines that will need to be met. The Board will have to agree with a State Revolving Fund (SRF) Project Milestone Schedule by December 11, 2008. A loan application will need to be completed and submitted by January 10, 2009. The present project plan will have to be redrafted to include a plan for 20 years of use. We will need to meet a deadline for funding by September 30, 2009 or pay back the incurred S2 grant amount of \$29,825.68 plus interest. Another public hearing will be scheduled. And then the Board needs to make a decision on whether to proceed with the Sewer Project.

Another big concern is the money that has already been spent on the project and if the Township should spend any more money on the project or should they pay back the \$29,825.68 plus interest and penalties that has already been received from the S2 Grant.

Motion by Robert Dezelski and supported by George Rosinski to authorize the engineer and/or attorney to have the health department inspect all systems that did not sign up for the sewer project. Carl Williams opposed. Motion carried 4-1.

Tim Cypher/ZA volunteered to follow up with the health department in regards to the inspections.

6. Deputy Report

No Deputy Report.

7. Correspondence

A letter was received from Blarney Castle that they have purchased Lawson Oil.

Department of Labor and Economic Growth sent notice of the proposed amended plat and vacated portion of Quincy Street, Plat of Boughey's addition to Cedar.

We received a notice from Lynn/Tobin and Company that the State of Michigan has received the F-65 form for 2007.

MTA has scheduled a new public official training for December 2, 2008 at the Great Wolf Lodge.

Consumers Energy will have a public hearing on December 2, 2008

8. Treasurer's Report/Authorization for Payment of Vouchers:

Solon Township:

The budgeted amount for elections will need to be amended at the next meeting.

Chase Bank Checking \$9,645.21, Chase Bank General (Gov't Oper) \$6,424.46, Bank One Municipal Road Improvement (Gov't Oper) \$35,577.42, Fire Sinking (Northwestern Bank) CD \$12,958.82, (Chase Bank) Savings \$41,457.41, Computer Equipment (Northwestern Bank) \$971.32, Computer Equipment CD at Northwestern Bank, \$13,242.76, Roof Repair Fund 5th/3rd \$139.75, CD#3 \$17,403.34, Sidewalk Fund 5th/3rd \$633.02, CD# 1 \$11,602.04, DDA (Chase Bank) \$1,134.88, for a total of \$151,190.43. Vouchers #8441, 8482-8525 was submitted for payment. Motion by Shirley Mikowski and supported by Carl Williams to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and pay vouchers presented. Motion carried 5-0.

Solon-Centerville Fire Department:

Shirley Mikowski will call Blarney Castle to fill the Fire Department oil tank.

Chase Bank Checking \$20,840.10, Bank One Municipal Fire Operating (Gov't Oper.) \$20,407.44, Bank One Municipal Saving (Gov't Oper) \$11,645.29, Chase Bank High Yield Savings \$14,487.44, Chase Bank Escrow-Memorial Fund \$2,524.49, Chase Bank Escrow Memorial Fund-CD \$12,409.14, Equipment Replacement (Chase Bank) \$5,200.80, CD's \$25,070.96, Northwestern Bank CD (General) \$6,063.23, Hanni Morenz (Northwestern Bank) CD \$24,768.31, Hanni Morenz (5th/3rd) 1st CD

\$64,886.53, 2nd CD \$27,838.06 for a total of \$236,141.79 Vouchers # 7720-7778. Motion by Robert Dezelski and supported by George Rosinski to accept the Treasurer's report as presented and pay vouchers presented. Motion carried 5-0.

9. Committee Reports:

George Rosinski gave a report on the Planning Commission meeting held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008. There were six members present.

- There were no zoning requests.
- Finished reviewing the Master Plan.

Zoning Administrator Report is attached.

10. Unfinished Business

A. Streetscape

The Leelanau County Road Commission paved a pedestrian walk-way/bike path by the Cedar ball field. The Cedar Chamber of Commerce paid 60% of \$4,448.50 and the Township is to pay the remaining 40%. This is part of the streetscape expense agreed upon at the budget meeting. Motion by Robert Dezelski and supported by Joan Gauthier to pay the \$1,779.40 for the streetscape to come out of the sidewalk fund. Motion carried 5-0.

Ron Novak told the Board that all the parts for the light posts are in and will be installed soon.

B. Sidewalks

Tim Cypher/ZA told the Board that the sidewalk meets the requirements because a wheelchair can get around the light posts.

C. Park Ordinance

The Park Ordinance will be published and will go into effect 30 days after publication.

D. Township Hall

Joan Gauthier and Shirley Mikowski will be working on writing up a job description for the Township Hall custodian position, and new rental agreement.

Shirley Mikowski recommended to the Board that professional cleaners be hired in the spring to clean the hall top to bottom. The cost for the cleaning will be looked into and will be discussed at the next year's budget meeting.

K.D. Plumbing and Heating gave an estimate of \$1,865.00 to replace the water heater and convert the boiler system to natural gas. Motion by Carl Williams and supported by Shirley Mikowski to accept the estimate of \$1,865.00 from K.D. Plumbing and Heating to replace the water heater and convert the boiler system to natural gas. The bill will be paid from the line item Township Hall Maintenance. Motion carried 5-0.

E. Vlacks Pond

Tim Cypher has been consulting with the engineer David Chrysk who has given two options to repair the water level problem at Vlacks Pond. The first option is to replace the existing boards with steel. The second is to use the existing wood, brace it up and pour some concrete in. The second option is the least expensive and most productive. The water levels do need to go down as low as possible before the work can be done. Mr. Chrysk has offered his services, provided it does not get too out of hand and Mr. Cypher will be seeking prices for the cement work and the construction.

F. Mich-Con Gas

Shirley Mikowski will contact Mich-Con Gas Company to get a time frame when the natural gas line will be installed at the Township Hall.

G. Snow Plow Bids

The three snow plow bids received for the Township Hall were: Schaub Outdoor Service-\$25.00, Todd Denny-\$23.00, KJM Outdoor-\$30.00. Motion by Joan Gauthier and supported by Robert Dezelski to accept the low bid from Todd Denny of \$18.00 and an additional \$5.00 to shovel the handicap ramp. Motion carried 5-0.

The three snow plow bids received for the Fire Department were: Schaub Outdoor Service-\$42.00, Todd Denny-\$58.00, KJM Outdoor-\$70.00. Motion by Carl Williams and supported by Joan Gauthier to accept the low bid from Schaub Outdoor Service of \$42.00 provided they remain the low bid after including shoveling in front of the doors on the weekends, if not the bid from Todd Denny for \$58.00 will be accepted. Motion carried 5-0.

Note: Todd Denny did not accept the job of plowing the Township Hall because he did not receive both bids. Schaub Outdoor Service received both jobs for \$25.00 for the Township Hall and \$42.00 for the Fire Department (which included shoveling in front of doors on weekends).

I. Any Other Unfinished Business

There was none.

10. New Business

A. Dubai Speed Zones

Mr. Dubai has asked the Board to look into a 40 mile speed limit sign by his property, which is a ½ mile north of town on Schomberg Road. Carl Williams will contact Jim Johnson at the Leelanau County Road Commission to see if this can be done.

B. Equalization

Motion by Carl Williams and supported by Shirley Mikowski to approve an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Leelanau County Equalization Department to print the winter tax bills without a duplicate for .8303 per parcel. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Carl Williams and supported by Joan Gauthier to approve the Assessor 2009 Letter of Agreement with the Leelanau County Equalization Department to print the notice of property tax assessment for 1.3980 per parcel. Motion carried 5-0.

C. Commission Appointments

The Township Board will advertise to fill the Commissions and positions of the Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, Park Commission, Board of Review, Township Hall Custodian and Sexton.

Shirley Mikowski will set up a time before November 20, 2008 for the Board members to take the oath of office.

11. Citizens Comments

The Board gave Bonnie Rivait permission to have the Fire Department as a drop off site for blankets and winter jackets for the Father Fred Foundation. A portable sign will be by the department and flyers

will be posted in all the businesses.

Tim Cypher/Zoning Administrator, along with the Board, thanked Carl Williams for his many years of service to the Township, and also welcomed Jim Lautner as the new supervisor.

Ron Novak shared his concerns about the Sewage Plant and if there is enough property by the township hall. The township may need to purchase some additional property for the plant.

The ad for Fire Chief Position will be posted in the Record Eagle on this Sunday and next Wednesday. The Board gave the okay to publish it in the Leelanau Enterprise as well.

12. Announcements

There were none.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Joan Gauthier and supported by Shirley Mikowski to adjourn. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley I. Mikowski
Solon Township Clerk