

## VALLEY TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2010

**Call to Order:** Bill Browne called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

**\*The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

**Roll Call:** Denise Medemar, Brandee Ellis, Bill Browne, Bob Dobbins, and Rose Ann Wendt were present.

**Minutes:** Rose Ann Wendt made the motion to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2009 board meeting. Brandee Ellis seconded. The motion passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Denise Medemar noted that she had not received the statements from the bank yet.

**County Commissioner's Report:** County Commissioner Fritz Spreitzer presented his report. He noted that the old Haworth building, located on River Street has been purchased to house the new sheriffs' office. There have been 9 quotes submitted for redoing the offices.

**Planning Commission Report:** Commission Chair, Melodie Dobbins stated that they are currently waiting on information and feedback from the board on the Camping Ordinance.

**Zoning Administrator's Report:** Zoning Administrator, Paul Shamblin reported that there were a couple of compliance letters mailed out with no response received. The letters will be sent again. Mr. Shamblin presented a proposal for the valley township building inspector. He noted that he has design expertise as well as electrical, wiring, plumbing, and HVAC experience. There were a few questions and comments from the board. Bob Dobbins has some concerns and noted that he would like to speak with Supervisor Browne prior to the vote on the proposal.

**Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items:** Judge William Baillargeon reported on Allegans' mental health court. This is a program designed to help the mentally disabled which offers close monitoring to avoid being incarcerated. Judge Baillargeon discussed the court in school program, which in addition to sentencing actual court cases in the high school, presents the HBO movie "Smashed" to show students how drinking and driving can have life-long effects on family, friends, as well as the individual. He also noted the Sheriff's Department is 175 years old.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- A. Recycling – The Allegan County Recycling Coordinator, Ben Williams passed out flyers promoting recycling within the county. There was discussion regarding the status of the recycling fund for Valley Township.
- B. Hearing Officer – Dennis Johnson has accepted the nomination to serve as the Hearing Officer for Valley Township. There are currently six buildings to go before him, upon hearing the cases, he will report to the board on the level of health and safety of these buildings.
- C. Street Lighting in Ryan Woods Update – To date, we have only received payment from two residents within Ryan Woods for payment of the street lights. Bill Browne, by direction of the township attorney, made the motion to shut off the street lights in Ryan Woods until payment has been made in full. Brandee Ellis seconded. The motion passed by unanimous vote.
- D. FOIA Policy – This policy was tabled until we receive word back from the attorney.

**New Business:**

- A. Flag – Bill Browne presented the board with a flag design for the township. It was decided that if township funds were better that we would entertain the motion to have a township flag made.
- B. Swamp Tax Decrease – Treasurer Denise Medemar reported that Valley Township typically receives \$12,232.00 in swamp tax monies. Our last check was for \$10,764.00. It was discussed that a resolution to the county from all affected township should be prepared. County Commissioner Fritz Spreitzer noted that he would be willing to send it on to the state.
- C. Budget – A copy of the current amended budget was presented by Clerk Brandee Ellis. There was discussion. Bill Browne made a motion to reduce the contingency fund by \$194.58 and to increase the membership fund by \$25.00, the Treasurer’s Supplies fund by \$1.26, and the building and grounds advertising fund by \$168.32. Bob Dobbins seconded. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote.

**Supervisor’s Comments:**

- A. Bill Browne noted that our current propane provider, Ferrellgas, has high prices and are unwilling to negotiate a better price. Bill will check on any pump-out or tank removal fees they might charge for switching companies. Hamilton Farm Bureau had very competitive prices. A motion was made by Bill Browne to switch to Hamilton Farm Bureau for the township propane, provided that a pump-out and/or tank removal fee from Ferrellgas was reasonable. Denise Medemar seconded. The motion passed.
- B. Bill Browne presented a letter from the Allegan County Road Commission with their prices for sealing roads within the township. As Valley Township has very little funds available for roads, it was decided that we would be unable to reseal any roads at this time.
- C. Bill also noted that he had been made aware of a wood-burning stove that had failed inspection and was still currently in use. There was some discussion as to the safety of this.

**Approval to Pay Bills:** Rose Ann Wendt made the motion to pay the January bills. Denise Medemar seconded. The motion passed..

**Upcoming Meetings/Events:**

- A. MTA Conference from Jan. 26-29 in Grand Rapids
- B. Road Commission Meeting on Jan. 26 at 7:00 PM.

**Adjournment:** Brandee Ellis made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rose Ann Wendt seconded. The motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brandee Ellis, Clerk