



Milton Township

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**Minutes for Milton Township Board of Trustees
Regular Board Meeting
Milton Township Hall - 32097 Bertrand St., Niles, MI
Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm and the pledge was recited.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Benjamin, Treasurer Susan Flowers, Clerk Steve Sante, Trustee Kelly Sweeney

Board Members Absent: Trustee Eric Renken

Community Reports:

Planning Commission Ex Officio Member:

Renken Not Present

Robert Ziliak-Cass County Commissioner-District 5:

Not Present

State Senator John Proos:

Senator Proos indicated there are three main issues being worked by the senate in Lansing. They are energy policy, roads, and energy policy. A lengthy discussion followed. At the end Mr. Proos was questioned on automobile insurance reform in the state and he spoke at length regarding the topic.

Public Comment: None

Board Member Comments:

Benjamin indicated the administrative assistant will be out of the office during this week.

Approval of Agenda:

The board agreed that the agenda is acceptable

Approval of Previous Minutes

Motion: Sweeney made a motion to approve the August 18th minutes as written

Second: Flowers

Discussion: None

Motion Passed Unanimously

Business (w/attendees):

2014-2015 Audit Presentation

Mike Layher presented the township audit report for fiscal year 2014-2015. Mr. Layher reports that no material misstatements were found in the accounting statements for the mentioned time frame. Mr. Layher went to discuss some of the figures which can be found in the audit report.

Old Business:

Law Enforcement Services

The township board plans to put on the November of 2016 ballot a proposal to fund added police protection in the township.

Fire Services

An assessment will be created to fund fire services and the plan is to have that in place for the next fiscal year.

Outstanding Building Issues

Flowers reported on outstanding building issues. Numerous warranty issues have been taken care by the building contractor over the past several days. Those issues not yet taken care of have a time frame to be completed.

OCR Project

Flowers made indicated the township has need for a scanner that is OCR capable.

Motion: Flowers made a motion to approve \$250 for an OCR scanner.

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: Benjamin suggests doing further research before purchasing a machine. Also, he questioned where the funds would come from but then later noted there are funds available in the computer/software portion of the budget.

Sante questioned of this was to be a machine for interim use until a new office copier is purchased and agreed to research the cost of a new machine.

Benjamin commented this issue should be resolved by the next meeting.

Roll Call: Flowers Y; Sweeney N; Sante N; Benjamin N

Motion Failed

New Business:

Milton Township Fire Services:

Benjamin presented a proposal from West Shore Services, Inc. to install additional weather sirens. The cost per siren is approximately \$20,000.

Sante indicated taking funds from savings over the next nine years to install sirens is likely not a good idea.

No action taken on this issue

Rental Updates

Sante reported there has been no interest in renting the old building in the past thirty days. The board questioned on reducing the asking price and short term rentals.

Flowers reported that there has been one booking for the great hall in October of 2016. There has also been a recent inquiry.

Planning Commission

Renken has resigned from the planning commission.

Motion: Benjamin made a motion to accept this resignation

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Motion carried unanimously

Motion: Benjamin made a motion to appoint Sweeney to the PC.

Second: Flowers

Discussion: None

Motion carried unanimously

Paul Snaidecki reported he has worked 36+ hours on revising the new zoning ordinance. He went on to say that he recommends stopping his work on the document, as there are three issues that need to be addressed:

The creation of the document was created as the RTFA was ramping up. Zoning ordinance no longer fits with this document.

Document is one large file and he does not have the ability to work with it any longer

The PC is having difficulty working through some of the issues and needs outside help

The township attorney indicated she feels the PC needs outside assistance as well. It is to much work for a part time board.

Benjamin indicated going back to revise the master plan is not feasible, as the zoning ordinance would never be completed. Suggests finishing zoning ordinance and then going back to zoning map and master plan.

It was suggested that we contact Williams and Works to have them help us finish the zoning ordinance.

Budget Review

A discussion on the budget occurred regarding the loan to fire fund from the general fund, committee mileage costs, and electrical labor.

Motion: Benjamin made a budget resolution 2015-16R to increase the following budget items:

Electrical Labor	+\$1,000.00
Building Inspector Wages	+\$4,000.00
Committee Millage	+22.00

These expenditures are to be offset by the general fund.

Second: Sante

Discussion: None

Roll Call: Flowers Y; Sweeney Y; Sante Y; Benjamin Y

Motion carried unanimously

Financial Reports

Flowers reports the following

Total in checking, savings, cash boxes, & CD's \$506,184.05

Total In Fire Fund \$31,612.75

Approval of Checks

Motion: Sante made a motion to approve the checks as written with the addition of \$10,387.08 to the Berrien County Road Commission.

Second: Benjamin

Discussion: Flowers indicated a check written to her needs to be made to chemical bank

Motion to amend the original motion

Motion withdrawn

Roll Call: Flowers Y, Sweeney Y; Sante Y, Benjamin Y

Motion Passed Unanimously

Adjournment:

Motion: Flowers made a motion to adjourn at 8:57PM

Second: Sweeney

Discussion: None

Motion Carried Unanimously