

BURDELL TOWNSHIP MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
October 13, 2009

The Burdell Township Board met at the Tustin Community Center for their regular October meeting. Present: Supervisor Charles Raab, Treasurer Julie Seguin, Clerk Laura Peterson, Trustee Virgil Asplund, Trustee Darwin Norman, Deputy Clerk Sandra Leach, Deputy Treasurer Mary Ellen Holmes, Zoning Administrator Martin Dahlstrom and Cemetery Sexton Donald Andreen. Assessor Art Moyses arrived at 7:40 p.m. Absent: Tustin Area Fire District Representative Nancy McCreery. Guest: Sue Andreen and Barbara Hazlett.

Supervisor Raab called the October Burdell Township Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

All in attendance rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

Added to the agenda under old business was placement of the new cemetery sign. Energy conservation and MTA's annual Educational Conference were added to new business. Also, Deputy Clerk Leach mentioned that she had a few things to discuss.

Clerk Peterson informed that a couple corrections needed to be made to the September minutes. First on page two, paragraph three; Sharmain Lewis should be Sharmaine Lucas. Then in paragraph five the word ware should be spelled wear. After corrections were made, Norman moved to approve the September 8th minutes. Asplund seconded. APPROVED

Treasurer Seguin handed out fund reports to the board. The General Fund had a balance of \$49,458.55 at the end of September which balanced with the clerk's General Fund balance. The Roads and Bridges Fund had a balance of \$31,217.94 at the end of September. She informed that there isn't much we can do about the cuts being made in revenue sharing. She said that we will be getting about 4.2% less next year which is just under \$3,000.00. Seguin will soon be working on the winter newsletter. She asked that we call or E-mail her with any information we would like included.

Peterson provided the board with copies of cash account records for September and October along with a budget versus actual report for review. Peterson filled the board in on correspondence that was received by the township. First, a letter from Dan Massy said that the county is currently in the process of updating its Recreation Plan and is allowing the public to review it and make suggestions. You may view it on the county web site or in one of the counties local libraries. If you wish to respond you may Email comments to the Osceola County Planning Commission at massyd@msu.edu, write to the Osceola County Planning Commission at 301 W. Upton, Reed city, MI 49677 or attend the Planning Commission meeting which will be held on November 18th at the county courthouse. The Clerk also mentioned receiving a letter from Wolverine Power Cooperative that said that they will again be removing brush and trees along power lines in our township. Work is scheduled to begin October 12th and last approximately eight weeks. After reviewing the cash account registers for September and October Seguin moved to pay the bills as presented. Raab seconded. APPROVED

The clerk mentioned receiving a flier from the township insurers that stressed the importance of wearing appropriate (steal toed) boots when mowing lawn. She wasn't sure if the cemetery workers were, but feels they should if they aren't.

Minutes from the September 16th Tustin Area Fire District were distributed. Fire Rep Nancy McCreery was not present to give a verbal report.

Seguin informed that the Fire District Contract Committee didn't meet in September as planned. They will be meeting at the community center on Wednesday October 14th at 9:30 a.m. They hope to have a proposed contract ready by March for the three township boards to consider.

Zoning Administrator Dahlstrom handed out reports to the board. He said that the previous month was the busiest of the year. Six permits were issued; two for new dwellings. He also investigated numerous possible zoning violations.

Trustee Norman and Cemetery Sexton Andreen asked the board for approval to place the new cemetery sign. They explained that Lot 122 on the north side of the Burdell Cemetery is close to the storage shed so electricity for the lighted sign is easily installed, but still very visible to the public. Norman made a motion to approve the placement of the new sign. Seguin seconded. APPROVED

Dahlstrom excused himself at 7:15 p.m.

Peterson introduced Rex Houseman who she invited to the meeting to talk about the future of the Rails to Trails which runs through Burdell Township. Houseman introduced himself as a member of the Friends of the White Pine Trail. He told the board that \$2,243,000.00 has been raised to pave part of the trail. Engineering is in the process now. Paving should begin in the spring of 2010; starting from Cadillac, then proceeding south. The trail will consist of a two inch paved base with a one inch snowmobile paved topping. This extra topping that will hold up longer for snowmobile use. Cost is \$19,000.00 per mile. Raab mentioned that the trail that passes through Reed City has some bad spots. Houseman explained that this was root damage; and that there are new ways of preventing this with barriers. He said that the time is now to seek out grants for our community to benefit from this recreational project. He discussed what had been done in other communities along the trail and the possibilities for our community. A staging area in the Village of Tustin was mentioned. Houseman said that they plan to have the trail jog to the east in the open area in front of the old Tustin depot; which would leave ample space for a staging area. Also, the possibility of extending trails to the schools and Village Park were mentioned. Houseman said that at one time there was a railroad crossing in the Village of Tustin that ended in Manistee. There will be a historical marker at this point. Houseman informed that the Village of LeRoy hopes to put in heated bathrooms and a trail leading to the school and ball diamonds. Many possible sources for grants were mentioned. He added that the Friends of the White Pine Trail would help in any way they can with projects that would enhance the trail. When asked, Houseman agreed to attend the November Village of Tustin Council meeting.

Norman informed that the Planning Commission met on September 16th. They reviewed a wind energy ordinance. Their hope is to have something written on wind energy and some other issues by spring. A hearing will then need to be held before any amendments can be approved by the township board and added to the zoning ordinance.

Rex Houseman excused himself at 7:35 p.m.

Seguin returned attention to the Fire District Contract. She said that Dover Township wants to contribute 1.5 mills, not the 2 mills as has been. She feels that 2 mills should be written in the contract. All three townships should pay the same tax rate. She again mentioned that representatives for each township will be meeting on October 14th at 9:30 a.m.

Raab updated those in attendance on the progress made on the 20 Mile Road Bridge. He said that the wing walls are being poured. The County Road Commission still plans to have it open by the first or second week of November. The contract has been signed for the 200th Avenue overlay project. The Road Commission has all the gravel for the edge work and there is a contract with Reith Riley. The weather may have delayed progress.

Assessor Moyses entered at 7:40 p.m.

Moyses handed out assessor reports to the board. Raab and he covered about 100 parcels which were reviewed from record card information. His plan is to look at approximately 250 parcels a year so every record card will be reviewed every five years. Moyses mentioned two residential sales in our township that were excessively high. He feels they should be taken out when considering values. There were very few land sales in Osceola County this year. County wide residential value is approximately 8% lower. Moyses believes that land values for all size parcels are apt to decline this year.

Resident Barbara Hazlett mentioned that her main concern at this time was the completion of the paving of 200th Avenue. She mentioned tire size pot holes that needed filling. Raab reassured her that the township board has done what they can. The paperwork is signed. He again mentioned the weather possibly being a reason for the delay.

Seguin asked the board if they received the registration brochure for the MTA Annual Educational Conference which will be held in Grand Rapids this January. She expressed interest in attending. Seguin said that she has looked the form over and feels that there are many classes that would benefit her. Norman made a motion that if Seguin would like to go to the MTA Annual Educational Conference in January 2010 that she be sent. Peterson seconded. APPROVED

Leach who is also the Tustin Village Clerk and Tustin Library Librarian gave an update on the paint job completed by Kelly Van Houten and his wife. She felt that they did a very good job. There was a little problem with some of the register flaps that were painted shut. Cans of paint to use for touch ups were left by the painters. The total cost for the job was \$1,181.00 which was a shared expense between the village and the township. Leach expressed displeasure with recent renters of the Community Center who left black mark on walls. Because of this and because they didn't leave the room as it was, leach didn't return their deposit. There will be three different 4-H groups meeting in the Community Center this year; Leach has asked them to do their best to stay clear of the walls and registers.

The parking lot outside the Tustin Library and Community Center has recently been seal coated. The parking lines have not been completed yet because of broken equipment. Leach informed that the village feels that the cost should be reduced because of some holes that weren't filled and the untimely and thus far incomplete painting of parking lines. The price quoted was \$2,840.00. Raab will be contacting the company.

Raab asked Van Houten to provide an estimate for staining the outside of the Tustin Library and Community Center. Parts of the building that that are exposed to the sun are very faded. A bid of \$1,300.00 - \$1,600.00 was given by Van Houten. This would include two coats of stain on the badly faded areas and one on the rest. It was suggested that this should be a spring project.

Also, Leach mentioned that Waste Management would like a signed three year service agreement. The charge would be \$71.51 plus fuel surcharge per month which is a shared expense between the village and the township. This includes two pick ups per month. If the agreement is signed now they will deduct \$20 of f the account. The village agreed to sign the contract. Leach said that the payments have been around \$82.00 - \$83.00 in the past. The decision was not contested.

Raab received a letter from Jennifer Jones who is Water Resources Director for Lakeshore Environmental Inc. regarding an assessment of the weed growth on Diamond Lake, and advising on how to renew the water quality for recreational purposes. They have determined that Diamond Lake contains approximately 25.8 acres of an exotic aquatic species called Eurasian Watermilfoil. Raab talked to Jones who said that some residents on Diamond Lake are considering forming a special assessment district to raise the money to pay for their service to spot treat the lake. Raab explained that this company has

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worked with other nearby lake communities to control weed growth. As of this time, Diamond Lake residents have not approached Burdell Township with plans that would require their involvement.

Supervisor Raab adjourned the October 13th Burdell Township Board meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Laura A. Peterson, Clerk