

BURDELL TOWNSHIP MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

August 11, 2009

The Burdell Township Board met at the Tustin Community Center for their regular August 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, Tustin Area Fire District Representative Nancy McCreery, Cemetery Sexton Donald Andreen and Cemetery Caretaker Bob Logan. Absent: Zoning Administrator Martin Dahlstrom. Guest: State Representative Darwin Booher and township resident Barbara Hazlett. Assessor Art Moyses arrived at 7:35 p.m.

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

All in attendance rose to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Asplund moved to approve the Burdell Township July 14th board meeting minutes. Norman seconded.
APPROVED

Supervisor Raab added guest State Representative Darwin Booher to the agenda, following approval of bills.

Treasurer Seguin handed out a Road Fund report which had a balance of \$30,967.34 at the end of July. The General Fund had a balance of \$50,581.52 at the end of July. The treasurer and the clerk's bookkeeping both balanced with this bank statement balance.

Clerk Peterson distributed cash account registers for the months of July and August, and the Budget vs. Actual Report for the four months ending July 31st, 2009. After reviewing, Norman moved to pay the bills as listed on the August cash account register. Raab seconded. APPROVED

State Representative Darwin Booher introduced himself as a republican candidate for State Senate, 35th District. He explained that the decision to run wasn't an easy one for him. Two reasons he gave for running were that he felt his experience was needed. Thirty Michigan Senators will be term limited in 2010. Also, he mentioned that two of his family members have lost jobs in Michigan and have moved out of state. He feels a personal need to fight for Michigan jobs. Booher commented that he is unhappy with the budgeting process in Michigan. He said that no plan is in effect to balance the budget. The budget dollar amounts are set; then figuring out how they will be covered is tackled later.

Representative Booher told us that at this time there is no bill; nothing to read or consider, regarding rumors about state and school employees being covered by the same health care plan.

He feels that taxes must be raised to improve our roads. He said that we must get the Federal Government to give back the \$1.00 for each \$1.00 we pay them in road taxes. This he feels the general public needs to pressure their Senators and Congressmen to achieve. Raab mentioned the large percentage of road finances that are used for administration fees.

Booher said that there are 11 State Representatives that are from the City of Detroit that have the advantage of blocking votes to outer rural areas. He mentioned his experience as a Township Supervisor and said that he still is a certified assessor; the only Michigan Representative who is at this time. Booher has expressed that term limits for Representatives needs to be extended, however because it would be self serving Representatives have not pushed the issue. Also, the cost to put the issue on the ballot would be approximately \$1,000,000. He said that this cost would most likely need to be covered by an outside group; Farm Bureau was mentioned.

Booher also brought up the 100 State Trooper positions that were lost. He explained that if they would have taken furlough days as suggested that these jobs could have been saved. He said that this loss had nothing to do with the new State Police facility; which is funded independently.

Tustin resident Barbara Hazlett asked Booher his feelings on mental health issues. He agreed there is definitely a problem. He said that 70% of prisoners housed have mental health issues. Booher added that it cost approximately \$33,000 a year to house an inmate. The possibility of Federal Prisoners being transferred from Guantanamo Bay to Michigan was mentioned. He said that Standish, Michigan is being considered. This would create jobs in Michigan that are federally funded. Hazlett added that health care issues associated with the Commission on Aging; such as health care providers for elderly and Hospice, from what she has heard, have been ignored or neglected by state legislators.

Robert Logan asked if local government was still in jeopardy as it seemed to be a short time ago. Booher gave the example of the importance of local small business issues being handled by local residents; not by those at the state level who are unfamiliar with their situations.

Leach asked his feelings on the cuts that were made to the Department of Histories, Arts and Libraries. Booher agreed that this was "a mess". He's not sure what will happen to the Michigan historical items that have been collected over the years, at the Library of Michigan.

Representative Booher thanked those in attendance and excused himself.

Copies of the July 15th Tustin Area Fire District meeting were distributed to the board. Representative McCreery gave details of the prior meeting. She reported the General Fund account balance of \$227,758.86, and the Truck Savings balance of \$62,602.39. The Dover Township Board is considering adopting a resolution to decrease the tax millage to 1.50 mills. Other Fire Board Representatives suggested that their townships would probably wish to decrease too if this were to happen. Fire Chief Bob Rose updated the Fire Board on the number of calls made: 82 calls have been made this year; 15-fire, 61-EMS, 2-hazardous waste, 1-false alarm, and 3-service calls. The Fire Chief also mentioned the need for communication between them and the County Road Commission so special arrangements can be made when alternative routes need to be used. It was also reported that the Truck and Jaws of Life Committee are working on truck quotes and applying for grants for a new Jaws of Life.

Seguin suggested that more Fire District savings be invested into CD's. Raab expressed concerns over the high balance in their savings accounts. McCreery was questioned on what the Fire Districts financial plans are for the future. Asplund asked if there were equipment shortages. It was suggested that the residents in the fire district area need answers so we can all be on the same page and make wise decisions on the need for taxes. McCreery commented that money will continually be needed for equipment inspections and certifications.

Assessor Art Moyses handed out his report for the month of July. The Board of Review met on July 21st. He reported that several actions were taken. He will continue field work next week. He will attempt to visit about 250 of the parcels for review using record card information. Supervisor Raab has asked to ride along on some of his visits. After reviewing this year's sales study he feels that residential property is dropping in value drastically.

Raab reported that many Principle Resident Exemptions (PRE's) were requested at the Board of Review meeting on July 21st.

Zoning Administrator Martin Dahlstrom was absent but sent his report for July to be distributed to the board. Four permits were issued and three inspections were made.

Seguin who is the secretary for Osceola County Townships Association (OCTA) informed that the next OCTA meeting will be August 31st at the Lincoln Township Hall. A representative from BS&A Software will be present to highlight their new .net software available to assist in assessing and property tax administration.

Trustee Asplund attended a Michigan Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant Workshop on July 21st in Gaylord. He explained that grants will be available for applicants that can show an energy savings and possibly create jobs. There was mention of use of LED lighting and windows that may be more energy efficient. He asked if the Village of Tustin used LED lights on their streets. The street lights in the Village of Tustin are owned by Consumers Energy. Raab suggested that the Tustin Library and Community Center building could possibly be updated with new windows, lights and insulation. Asplund said that there were other stipulations such as matching funds and grant amount limitations and a time limit. Raab offered to discuss this further with Asplund outside of the meeting.

The next Tustin Area Fire District meeting is scheduled for August 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Seguin informed that the next meeting to work on revising the Tustin Area Fire District contract will be held on August 25th at the Community Center. Representative from each of the four entities involved will continue to work together to revamp the old contract so all are in agreement and it's legally binding. They have asked for suggestions from the Michigan Townships Association.

Trustee Norman has talked to Bill Logan who feels he will be able to construct a sign for the Burdell Cemetery.

Raab has received a bid for painting the Community Center and bathrooms from Van Houten's. They would apply two coats to the walls; which will improve the wear and should make it much more washable. Their bid to complete the job is \$984. It was agreed that the registers should also be repainted. Seguin moved to approve this bid with the understanding that a reasonable additional charge may be added to paint the registers. Norman seconded. APPROVED

Raab informed that the County Road Commission Manager Cliff Young gave him the following update: D.J. McQuestion's is planning to pour the concrete footings for the 20 Mile Bridge within a week or two. Pilings are being set at the 22 Mile Rd. bridge site this week. The Hibma Rd. Bridge should be started in two to three weeks. Resurfacing of 200th Ave. north of 20 Mile Rd. is scheduled to start September 15th. The 21 Mile Rd. and the 22 Mile Rd. bridges will be paved at that time.

Moyses gave an update on the future of the White Pine Trail which runs through our township. He said that the Friends of the White Pine Trail Committee now have 2.4 million dollars collected which will be used to pave approximately 20 to 22 miles starting at a trail head in Cadillac. Pre engineering is expected to be completed in October, and then bids will be taken on the construction of this 10 to 12 foot wide state owned recreational trail.

Supervisor Raab adjourned the August 11th Burdell Township Board meeting at 8:22 p.m.