

**CLARK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
7-18-18 AT 8:00 AM**

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance: 8:00 AM

Roll Call: Present – Clymer, Sherlund, Patton, Schuster, Rutledge.

Others Present: Scott Myers, Jack Otstot, Dan Reelitz, John Torsky, Mike Stoll, Julie Smith, Ken Drenth, Bob Dunn, Erich Doerr (St. Ignace News), Mark Merchberger, Bob Smith.

Approval of Agenda

Clymer requested moving Fire Dept. from Committee Reports and Cedarville Harbor from old business up on the agenda following the Consent Agenda.

Motion: Sherlund made the motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Patton supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Consent Agenda

Minutes: 6-20-18 and 6-27-18

General Fund Invoices:

Young, Graham & Wendling Attorneys \$709.50

Sewer Fund Invoices: none

Year End Budget Amendments

Motion: Sherlund made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda with General Fund invoices in the amount of \$709.50. Schuster supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Department

Jack Otstot provided his monthly report. It was evident that they had a very busy month including assisting the DNR and Federal Forest Crews at the Steele Creek forest fire.

Jack offered his letter of resignation as he will be leaving the area.

Motion: Rutledge made the motion to accept Otstot's letter of resignation as Chief Administrative Officer for the Clark Twp. Fire Dept. effective 8-31-18. Patton supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Clymer offered the following resolution of appreciation supported by Rutledge:

WHEREAS: Jack Otstot has completed 16 years of dedicated service to Clark Township Fire Department on September 18, 2018;

WHEREAS: Jack has undertaken the Administrative Officer duties since 2014, always performing outstanding and quality work ethics while striving to maintain open communication and

co-operation with the Clark Township Board of Trustees;

WHEREAS: Jack has been a very valuable asset to Clark Township and very supportive to all offices and departments, we will all miss his positive presence.

This Board, by unanimous vote, extends to you their wholehearted appreciation. Your services will be missed by the many people of Clark Township and we feel that they unite with us in wishing you many happy and wonderful years to come.
Roll Call: Aye – Clymer, Rutledge, Sherlund, Patton, Schuster. Resolution adopted.

Cedarville Harbor

Clymer explained that after the re-bidding and scaling down on some of the aspects of the project, the total is still \$86,000.00 over what we expected.

One idea is to have the Township cover \$43,000.00 of that amount and private funds cover the other \$43,000.00.

The second idea is to go back to the beginning and re-bundle the project into packages to save on costs. Clymer feels by breaking the project up, local contractors may be able to participate in various parts of the construction process.

John Torsky agreed that the projected price for the harbor building is too expensive per square foot. He also feels that a local contractor may be less expensive.

Clymer explained that Waterways originally required us to put everything together as a complete package.

Ken Drenth asked for clarification on the docks and the ability to deal directly with the dock builder businesses.

Clymer reported that there is another dock builder in the Muskegon area that is approved by the State that would also be able to bid on the dock project. He went on to say that one other costly item was that it was thought in the beginning that coffer dams were needed to complete the project, but these would not have to be put in place to stabilize shoreline with rip-rap versus the poured wall UPEA originally specified, so that would be a huge savings.

Clymer reported that the revisions were not handled perfectly but we are doing the best we can and moving forward.

Clymer has been verbally promised an extension on the Waterways Commission Grant and the Michigan Trust Fund money does not expire until next year, and can be extended then.

The representatives from the Harbor Committee and the Community Foundation present at the meeting agreed and supported the re-bidding process and felt that separating the projects out would take some more time, but this project *needs* to happen and this may be the best route and hopefully lower costs in the most effective way.

Schuster felt that the Township would be the best to take on the General Contractor position to organize the project to help reduce the costs.

Motion: Schuster made the motion to support the re-bid process that would be brought back before the Twp. Board before it is fully pursued so that we would have the State's approval to do it in this way and we would have a projected timeline and the Twp. would be the General Contractor. Rutledge supported.

Roll Call: Yes – Sherlund, Patton, Clymer, Schuster, Rutledge. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Sherlund stated, "We are good!" Tax bills are out and coming back in. The General Fund bank balance is currently \$470,525.26 and the Sewer Fund balance is \$397,011.57.

Supervisor's Report

Road Ends – Clymer has received a letter from the attorney explaining that the Twp. can regulate the road ends in general. Evashevski and Clymer will move forward. The County is willing to work with the Township concerning Lakeside Rd. end.

Airport – garage and gas leases are signed and set. Sherlund questioned if a lease is required with the Sheriff's Dept. Clymer will have Evashevski draft a lease with their department and Clymer will meet with Scott Strait and discuss rent.

The next step is getting lease agreements set with the pilots that will be renting hangar space.

Enforcement – Clymer has been informed that the Sheriff's Dept. will not enforce "some" ordinances, like parking, unless they are contracted with for *all* the ordinances. We could resurrect a Constable position. Clymer will look further into this.

Mackinac Environmental - now under contract to do the Phase I audit on the Hessel property.

Recreation Committee – met and prioritizing work on the peek-a-boo trail and working alongside of the Friends of the L.C. Area Trails group on grantable projects.

Hessel Harbor – an issue concerning a commercial fishing boat renting space at the marina came up. Clymer is looking into that for answers. In the past, the marina has not been thought to be available for commercial use.

Hessel Harbor Grant – we have received confirmation of the \$40,000.00 grant for the preliminary engineering study. Decisions will be made in the future as to how to proceed.

Correspondence

The Board received a letter from Lee Chatfield congratulating us on our acquisition of a mini-grant to improve the access to the Aldo Leopold Preserve.

DEQ Permit – Susan Hallums for placement of pea gravel.

DEQ Permit – Jim Lynch to replace a crib dock.

DEQ Permit – John Torsky to replace a crib dock.

DEQ Public Notice – Cedar Campus to replace an existing dock with a new one.

Letter of resignation from Jack Otstot as alternate on Board of Review Board

Motion: Sherlund made the motion to accept Jack's resignation letter from the Board of Review. Schuster supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Committee / Commission Reports

Planning Commission

Patton reported that the P.C. had discussion concerning vendor permits and activity. It was felt that the ordinance was not clear as to some cases such as religious organizations selling baked goods or if individual vendors at Community events need permits or if a weekly vendor constitutes "more than 3 days". Waybrant or Evashevski may need to be consulted on this. Clymer agreed that some clarification is needed. Another topic that needs clarification is the vacation rental by

owners (VRBO's). It was discussed that if this activity is allowed, certain information should be on file in the Township's office ensuring that the property owner has provided important information to the renter such as local regulations, emergency numbers, insurance, liability, etc. This also could be discussed with Evashevski for more information and if there should be an ordinance established concerning VRBO's.

Fire Department – Rutledge shared with the Board a memo that she has prepared that will be sent to our fire chief Steve Honnila regarding Jack Otstot's resignation and the filling of his position. More information will be coming in the future and decisions will need to be made.

Old Business

Resolution in Opposition to HB6049 and SB1025

Patton offered the following resolution supported by Schuster:

WHEREAS: House Bill (HB) 6049 and Senate Bill (SB) 1025 seeks to completely restructure the tax assessing qualifications, process and boundaries of local assessing units in Michigan; and

WHEREAS: HB 6049 / SB 1025 will impose a huge financial burden on Mackinac County as well as Michigan's other counties and local units because its mandates will require increased staffing levels and office space while providing a woefully inadequate 1% administrative fee and undefined "start-up funding" to compensate the counties and other local units for the drastic expenses that will surely accompany the new mandates; and

WHEREAS: HB 6049 / SB 1025 changes the manner in which local boards of review (BOR) are conducted. By putting specialized BORs at the county level, HB 6049 / SB 1025 has the potential to strip elected township supervisors and local assessing units of control over the tax assessing process, depriving them of the ability to account for unique conditions and values unknown to county-wide, regional and/or statewide assessing units but well known in the local units; and

WHEREAS: HB 1069 / SB 1025 appears to have been designed without any input from existing assessors or their associations and the previous drafts were not made public to the counties and townships directly affected by its sweeping changes until nearly ready for introduction into the Michigan Legislature. In this context, it is difficult to view HB 1069 / SB 1025 as anything other than a power grab generating from Lansing; and

WHEREAS: there are no guarantees that quality education will be available locally or even regionally to allow for the increased certification levels imposed by HB 1069 / SB 1025; and

WHEREAS: HB 1069 / SB 1025's proposed levels of certification for assessors will not achieve the results that are being sought. The real problem is bad assessors, not their levels of certification. The solution lies in better policing of assessors by the State Tax Commission, not simply imposing increased educational requirements that may be impossible to achieve and that do nothing to weed out the bad actors; and

WHEREAS: Clark Township views HB 1069 / SB 1025 in its current form as an unconstitutional unfunded mandate which does little or nothing to accomplish its stated goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that Clark Township hereby opposes HB 1069 / SB 1025 and asks that it be withdrawn from consideration until the problems identified above can be properly addressed.

Roll Call: Yes – Clymer, Sherlund, Rutledge, Patton, Schuster. Resolution adopted.

Copies of the above signed resolution will be sent to Senator Wayne Schmidt and also to Representative Lee Chatfield.

Personal Residency Exemption Policy and Audit Procedures

Clymer explained that some revisions have been made to the audit procedures for granting property exemptions, personal residency exemptions policy, and a newly revised application for exemption from property taxes.

Motion: Patton made the motion to approve the new audit procedures, the personal residency exemption policy, and the application for exemption from property taxes. Schuster supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

New Business

Wm. Karr Airport Survey - \$3,800.00 Proposal

Clymer explained that in moving forward with improvements to the airport, we will need a survey of the property completed. This survey would encompass the area for future hangars, the taxiway over to the Industrial Park area, the fuel area, the current buildings on the property, etc. Wm. Karr is familiar with airport safety regulations and specifications.

Motion: Patton made the motion to spend up to \$3,800.00 for the airport survey with Wm. Karr. Schuster supported.

Roll Call: Yes – Clymer, Sherlund, Schuster, Patton, Rutledge. Motion carried.

Township Audit

Sherlund has contacted Anderson Tackman to conduct our audit again for this year. He is waiting for a call back as to the cost. August 13 is tentatively scheduled.

The Board agreed to proceed.

Trash Recycle Millage Reminder Advertisement

After discussion, the Board thought it best to put a reminder to vote in the paper for two weeks for the recycle program millage.

Motion: Sherlund made the motion to run an ad for two weeks to remind residents to vote for the recycle millage. Schuster supported. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Set Millage For Ambulance Personnel

Sherlund explained that the millage is up for renewal once again. The original millage was .75 mills and the current millage was .45 mills. Anticipating increased wages sometime within the next 5 years, Sherlund is proposing .60 mills.

Motion: Patton made the motion to approve the following ballot language supported by Schuster: Shall Clark Township impose an increase of .60 mills (\$0.60 per \$1000 of taxable value) of the Tax Limitation imposed under Article IX, Sec. 6 of the Michigan Constitution and levy it for five (5) years, from 2019 through 2023, to provide funds for Emergency Medical Services Personnel Coverage in Clark Township? (The revenue being generated by this tax is estimated to be \$117,740 for the first year.)

Roll Call: Clymer, Sherlund, Rutledge, Patton, Schuster. Motion carried.

Airport Security Bid

Clymer suggested that we upgrade our security system at the airport. He received a quote in the amount of \$2,500.00. The system we currently have there could be removed and used in another location, but the newer system would have better features for the security needed as we upgrade and use our airport.

Motion: Patton made the motion to upgrade the security camera system in the amount of \$2,500.00. Rutledge supported.

Roll Call: Yes – Schuster, Sherlund, Patton, Clymer, Patton. Motion carried.

Other Comments

Rutledge handed out information concerning possible fire call fees that she would like the Board to think about and then discuss at next month's Board meeting.

She also mentioned that the Sewer Advisory Board needs to meet and discuss increasing our current quarterly sewer rates. The current rates have been at this level since 2014.

Sherlund agreed that the rates need to be looked at as the "REU's" affect our commercial properties greatly when increases are applied and maybe there could be a different type of rating developed for commercial than what is used for residential properties.

Review is definitely needed. Our sewer department revenue is not meeting our expenditures.

Public Comment: none

Adjournment: 10:55 AM

Motion: Patton made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Rutledge supported.

All Ayes. Motion carried.