

**MINUTES OF THE SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bill Saunders at 7:00 p.m. with flag ceremony. Present: Supervisor Bill Saunders, Treasurer Maureen Kuriata, Clerk Walter Lehmann, Trustee Joel Moore and Trustee Doug Swisher. Attorney John Magyar was present as guest.

The agenda for the business meeting was approved by unanimous voice vote on motion by Trustee Moore, supported by Trustee Swisher.

At call for public comment, there was none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Approval of the minutes from the regular meeting and Budget Public Hearing of March 16, 2011 and special meeting of April 9, 2011 were approved by unanimous voice vote, on motion by Trustee Swisher, supported by Treasurer Kuriata.

BILLS & CLAIMS: Treasurer Kuriata presented bills and claims to be approved from the following funds:

General Fund	\$ 37,638.51
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$ 14,963.14
Liquor Control Fund	\$ 3,699.01
Public Safety-Fire/Police Fund	\$ 70,132.58
Building Dept. Fund	\$ 5,070.54
Indian Lake Weed Control Fund	\$ 1,920.00
Magician Lake Weed Control Fund	\$ 7,177.02
Public Improvement Fund	\$ 2,450.00
For a total distribution of	\$143,050.80

On motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Clerk Lehmann, the bills and claims were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: The Cass County resolution authorizing a County Planning Commission. Mr. Goodman made comment it needed to be revised.

POLICE REPORT: Chief Grice read his report. Complaints handled: 68, Warnings issued: 28, Tickets issued: 8 Accidents policed: 3, Arrests: 0, Arrest assist to other agencies: 0, Assist to other police agencies: 1, Assist fire & ambulance depts.: 0, Assist motorists and pedestrians: 2.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE REPORTS: Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department reported: 5 fire runs in March. Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department reported: 3 fire runs and 11 ambulance runs in Silver Creek Township. Pride Care DWG reported: 2 ambulance runs (av. response time 6.00 min.) in March in Silver Creek Township. Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Dept. presented a request for funding from the discretionary amounts in the Fire-Police Fund. As the total distribution has not been determined, this was tabled until June.

TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY MAGYAR REPORTED: One matter before the State Tax Tribunal, Polk Properties – amended. Phillips vs Silver Creek Township has been scheduled for arbitration. This will be heard May 23rd. A motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Clerk Lehmann, the mediators fees of \$730.96 were approved to be paid prior to the May 11th Board meeting by unanimous roll call vote.

Questions of status: 1) Burned home on M-152 – Approved for attorney to proceed with suit to clean up, on motion by Clerk Lehmann, supported by Supervisor Saunders by unanimous voice vote. The deed transfer by Gerrandos II will be pursued.

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BUILDING INSPECTOR HERTER REPORTED: 8 permits issued for an estimated construction value of \$294,500.00.

ZONING & BLIGHT ADMINISTRATOR GOODMAN REPORTED: Issued 4 Zoning Compliance Permits. Attended 3 training sessions and sent out 5 blight letters. Details were explained. Cited a zoning violation of 2 bathrooms in an accessory building. A F.O.I.A. is requested by attorney for owner. Also a violation for putting in deck without a permit, pending reply.

APPEALS BOARD REPORT: No meeting held.

PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: A resolution by the Board directs the Planning Commission to review Farm Market amendments to the Zoning Ordinance, approved on motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Trustee Moore. The chairman reviewed the Public Hearing on March 30th on Zoning Ordinance amendments, recommendation for Board approval. The amendments will be sent to the Cass County Planning Commission for review.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 9 electrical inspections, 4 permits issued and 1 amended permit.

PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 3 plumbing inspections.

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 3 mechanical inspections.

LIQUOR INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 5 liquor inspections. No violations.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Kuriata reported unallocated fund balances:

General Fund	\$306,611.48
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$ 83,567.56

COUNTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN REPORTED: Openings on County Boards and Commissions.

The agreement with the Teamsters Union for three years was approved.

The Sheriffs Department and Dowagiac Union School District has reached agreement on sheriffs cars fueling at the Dowagiac Union School District's transportation center.

A new truck has been purchased for Animal Control.

Census data – Cass County population +1,189
Silver Creek Township decreased (-) 273
City of Dowagiac decreased (-) 268
Largest increase – Mason Township +1,232
Largest decrease – Village of Vandalia -43%

Night of 4,000 Eggs at Lawless Park will be Saturday, April 16th from 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

The Cass County Household Hazardous Waste collections will be Saturday, May 23rd from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

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DOWAGIAC DISTRICT LIBRARY REPORT: Library at the Lakes, has resumed on the second and fourth Saturday's, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at the Township Hall. We need to use the service to keep it.

The library has new computer. The state access of books is available.

The outside building renovation of the library is complete. Landscaping is ongoing. A rain garden will be installed.

The Keeler Township Board member seat is open, applications being taken.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS REPORT: The April meeting demonstration of crime reports.com was reviewed.

Meeting of May 9th, the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals chair and supervisor will discuss procedure for applications, permits, variances, blight complaints and all township services.

OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SEWER SYSTEMS OPERATIONS –

INDIAN LAKE SEWER – The Reconciliation Audit of City of Dowagiac treatment costs resulted in a charge of \$5,789.10. A sewer maintenance fee increase may be indicated in the future. The treatment rate goes up this year.

SISTER LAKES AREA SEWER – The Reconciliation Audit of City of Dowagiac treatment cost resulted in a charge of \$15,000.00. The treatment rate went up. Sewer inspections for storm water intrusions will continue.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE – There is a proposal for a marked bicycle path along roads from Russom Park to Sister Lakes area. Details on signage, liability and implementation are being reviewed. There will be a meeting of the Russom Park Operation Committee, joint City of Dowagiac and Silver Creek Township at Dowagiac City Hall on April 18th.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- A. AMBULANCE SERVICE IN NORTH ½ OF TOWNSHIP – SURVEY RESULTS – The clerk reviewed the opening of the surveys Saturday, April 9th. No irregularities. For “No Millage”: 336, for “A Millage”: 511, for a total response of 847 (54%). He read letter from Sister Lakes Ambulance Service proposing a one year contract and asking for Silver Creek Township to appoint a liaison. A proposal for Special Assessment District had been received from Attorney Magyar. Supervisor Saunders inquired on further extension of the current contract. Board discussion ensued. After consideration of questions and timing of a referendum, it was approved by unanimous roll call vote to extend the current contract to August 30th, on motion by Clerk Lehmann, supported by Trustee Moore.

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- B. AWARD OF CONTRACT TO DEMOLISH 33273 SCHOOL STREET ADDRESS CORRECTION – The publishing and notice was read. One bid was received. The Board decided that sufficient notice had been sent to allow anyone to bid. The clerk read bid of Merrill Excavation for \$2,195.00. The bid was accepted and moved to award, on motion by Treasurer Kuriata, supported by Trustee Moore.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. DISCUSSION & APPROVAL OF ROAD CONTRACTS FOR 2011 – The road contracts proposed by the Cass County Road Commission were read. The total of all projects is \$249,749.54 including County Matching Funds of \$74,161.44. This is \$9,204.80 over budget. It was approved to go ahead with this total, taking the additional cost from the Road Improvement Fund, on motion by Trustee Moore, supported by Treasurer Kuriata, approved by unanimous roll call vote.
- B. DUST CONTROL PROGRAM FOR GRAVEL ROADS 2011 – The clerk read the county rates and discussed the two roads we need to do, on motion by Trustee Swisher, supported by Trustee Moore, approved by unanimous roll call vote.
- C. TOWNHALL MOWING & GARDEN MAINTENANCE FOR 2011 REBID OR ACCEPT CURRENT? – The current contractor proposes to continue at the same rate, approved by unanimous roll call vote, on motion by Trustee Swisher, supported by Trustee Moore.
- D. LISTING FOR SALE OF TAX REVERTED PROPERTY 30765 M-152 – The proposed listing contract by township realtor, Jerdon Reality, and the provisions of such sale were reviewed. Approved by unanimous voice vote, on motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Trustee Swisher.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Terry Heagerty inquired of the need for a gun discharging prohibition in the township. Answered it will be researched with other municipalities and the Michigan Townships Association.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter F. Lehmann, Clerk