

**MINUTES OF THE SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY JUNE 8, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Mr. Jerry Donley invited the board to a presentation on Saturday, June 25th at 12:30 p.m. at the Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department by Lakeshore Environmental updating the Sediment and Weed Control program in Indian Lake.

Ms. Teri Heagerty asked about a petition before the board. It was explained that the ambulance service petition is on the agenda.

Supervisor Saunders introduced Charles Cleaver, new Cass County Administrator, who reviewed his background and the challenges he has encountered since his appointment. He expressed his pleasure in being in Cass County.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The regular meeting of May 11, 2011 was approved, after correction, by unanimous voice vote on motion by Treasurer Kuriata, supported by Trustee Swisher.

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

General Fund	\$120,250.74
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$ 9,078.86
Public Safety-Fire/Police Fund	\$ 3,521.66
Building Dept. Fund	\$ 4,835.15
Parks & Recreation Fund	\$ 884.17
Indian Lake Weed Control Fund	\$ 13,093.39
Dewey Lake Weed Control Fund	\$ 1,405.20
Public Improvement Fund	<u>\$ 2,196.00</u>
For a total distribution of	\$155,265.17

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

READING OF COMMUNICATIONS: The clerk read the notice of Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department Golf Outing to support the Great Lakes Burn Camp. Individual donations were solicited.

A gracious thank you note was read from Kaye Swartz, whom we awarded the Southwestern Michigan College 2011 Scholarship.

POLICE REPORT: Clerk Lehmann read the report as Chief Grice is on vacation: Complaints handled: 81, Warnings issued: 31, Tickets issued: 3, Accidents policed: 3, Arrests: 0, Arrest assist to other agencies: 0, Assist to other police agencies: 5, Assist Fire & Ambulance Depts.: 0, Assist motorists and pedestrians: 5.

FIRE AND AMBULANCE REPORTS: Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department reported: 3 fire runs in May. They will have a blood drive June 18th. Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department reported: 2 fire runs and 10 ambulance runs in Silver Creek Township. Pride Care DWG reported: 3 ambulance runs in Silver Creek Township.

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TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY MAGYAR REPORTED: The Quiet Title suit on Waterson property is in notice phase.

Three Tax Tribunal cases –

Polk Properties still not finally scheduled.

Two commercial appeals just at beginning.

The Phillips arbitration results will be discussed in closed session. Asked on Gerrondo's zoning violations – A letter will go to them on things not addressed in their master deed.

BUILDING INSPECTOR HERTER REPORTED: 10 permits issued for an estimated construction value of \$345,000.

ZONING & BLIGHT ADMINISTRATOR GOODMAN REPORTED: 6 permits issued, 4 violation letters and a FEMA requirement to build in Zone A was completed.

APPEALS BOARD REPORT: No appeals entered.

PLANNING/ZONING COMMISSION REPORT: Regular meeting last month discussed accessory building change and changes for agricultural farm markets for which a public hearing will be held on June 29th at 7:00 p.m.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 13 electrical inspections, 3 permits issued.

PLUMBING INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 1 plumbing inspection.

MECHANICAL INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 3 mechanical inspections.

LIQUOR INSPECTOR'S REPORT: 6 liquor inspections. 1 violation.

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

General Fund	\$274,051.90
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund	\$ 95,632.95

COUNTY COMMISSIONER GOODMAN REPORTED: He reviewed his written report. The Road Commission Chair proposal on bridge repair annually repair fund; final disposition of the Parks Maintenance building proposal and bidding advertised; presentation by Cass County Drug Task Force and Animal Control building expansion was reviewed.

DOWAGIAC DISTRICT LIBRARY REPORT: Mrs. Goodman reviewed upcoming programs. They have received new chairs from Southwestern Michigan College. Their old chairs were donated to a charter school.

The Library at the Lakes will be discussed by the board at its next meeting. Lack of use is a problem.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS REPORT: The next meeting will be June 13th at 7:00 p.m. with the Dowagiac District Library doing the presentation.

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OPERATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

SEWER SYSTEMS OPERATIONS –

INDIAN LAKE SEWER – There have been no alarms. Storm water intrusion inspections are continuing.

SISTER LAKES AREA SEWER – Both the Riverside and Primary Lift Stations had failures on Memorial Day weekend. Pump repairs are in progress. After a special meeting to approve expenditures, safety grates have been installed.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE – They met on May 17th. Bicycle path signs were added. There is interest from Keeler Township to extend the system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. AMBULANCE SERVICE IN NORTH ½ OF TOWNSHIP – The clerk reviewed the form of the petitions as they did not meet State Election requirements. They were turned over to the board as advisory. Mr. Magyar discussed procedure. Discussion followed. On motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Clerk Lehmann, the county will be asked to place a proposal on the ballot for the election of November 8, 2011 to create a Special Assessment District of the north ½ of the township to defray cost of ALS Ambulance Service was approved.

The clerk was also directed to send a letter to Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department & EMS Service asking for cost estimates, based on possible revenue from other sources or not. This will allow the board to review these estimates to make up the wording of the proposal.

The attorney will provide a schedule of procedure.

B. IMPLEMENTATION OF AUDIO SYSTEM UPGRADE APPROVED AT MAY MEETING – Supervisor Saunders explained the components of the system based on the amounts not to exceed approved at the May meeting.

C. LISTING OF PROPERTY DONATED TO THE TOWNSHIP AT 32751 SCHOOL ST. – Tabled as Quiet Title not received yet.

D. BUILDING DEPT. INSPECTOR TRACKER DATABASE – ADDITIONAL INFO. – As Mr. Goodman was called away, the required information was unavailable. Tabled until report is available.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROPOSAL FOR COMMISSIONER'S TABLE FOR THE BOARD – The two proposal submitters from last year were contacted. One replied at the same cost. The other has not replied. An alternative source will also be solicited. Therefore, this is tabled.

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- B. ZONING COMPLIANCE PERMIT EXPIRATION DATE – Mr. Herter explained the need and suggested the zoning permit expire in six months, if no further action, which is same as a building permit. The zoning permit expiration date of six months was approved by voice vote 4-1, on motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Clerk Lehmann.
- C. AMENDMENT TO THE BOAT REGULATION ORDINANCE – NUMBER OF BOATS DOCKED PER FRONTAGE – The attorney wished to review our current ordinance, so this was tabled pending his review.
- D. TAX REVERTED PROPERTY FOR SALE BY COUNTY TREASURER – Since no interest was presented, it was approved to notify the treasurer that Silver Creek Township has no interest in any of the listed properties, on motion by Trustee Moore, supported by Treasurer Kuriata.

OTHER BUSINESS:

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR CROOKED LAKES WEED CONTROL DISTRICT RENEWAL – A letter requesting such hearing from the Crooked Lake Association was read. It was approved to hold a public hearing prior to the regular meeting of July 13th at 7:00 p.m., on motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Clerk Lehmann.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Heagerty – Length of building permits when small progress being made over years.
Answer: This is not covered as long as some progress.
Question on gun ordinance in residential area. Answer by attorney: There are no local ordinances. There are state regulations only.

Mr. Gear – Questioned the willingness of Keeler Township to cooperate in the bike path creation when they moved ahead independently in the ambulance service question.

Mr. Glynn – Comment on tax increases relative to Headlee Amendment, and its effect on a millage. Any new assessment will be a new amount on taxes.

Supervisor Saunders announced need to go into closed session. Motion approved on motion by Clerk Lehmann, supported by Treasurer Kuriata at 8:55 p.m.

Board returned from closed session at 9:09 p.m.

On motion by Trustee Moore, supported by Treasurer Kuriata, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter F. Lehmann, Clerk