

**SYNOPSIS OF THE  
MINUTES OF THE SILVER CREEK TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 14, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., with flag ceremony.

Roll call showed all board members present.

Public Hearing for the Special Assessment District for Little Crooked Lake Weed Control: The supervisor opened the hearing and called for comment. Petitions received. The clerk reported on petitions: Total signatures – 36, 3 questioned, totaled 12.67 acres, taking out the questions = 12.29 acres. There are 23.27 acres in district, required 11.64 acres, therefore, the 12.29 are 52.814%. Therefore, the petitions are sufficient.

Mr. Magyar reviewed procedure to go forward. On motion, the petitions were accepted. Noticed properly, the assessor will prepare the tax roll and spread the cost and notify all property owners in district, approved. The public hearing on the roll was set to be at 7:00 p.m. on October 12<sup>th</sup>, approved. The hearing was adjourned at 7:10.

The agenda for the business meeting was approved.

The supervisor introduced Kevin Radde, CPA of our auditors, Schaffer and Layher, who reviewed the audit of fiscal year 2010/2011. The audit was a “clean audit”, no errors or problems. He went over highlights of the audit. There were no questions. The audit was accepted. The clerk announced copies of the Financial Statements are available for anyone desiring.

Public Comment: There was none.

The minutes of the regular meeting of August 10, 2011 and Public Hearing of September 8, 2011 were approved.

Bills & Claims totaling \$ 89,111.62 approved.

Police Report: Chief Grice reported: Complaints handled: 91, Warnings issued: 32, Tickets issued: 7, Accidents policed: 3, Arrests: 0, Arrest assist to other agencies: 0, Assist to other police agencies: 7, Assist Fire & Ambulance Depts.: 0, Assist motorists and pedestrians: 9.

Fire & Ambulance Reports: Indian Lake Volunteer Fire Department: 8 fire runs. Sister Lakes Volunteer Fire Department: 9 fire runs and 9 ambulance runs. Pride Care Dwg: 6 ambulance runs.

Township Attorney Reported: An intervention in a lawsuit by a tenant vs Phillips.

Building Inspector Reported: 8 permits issued for an estimated construction value of \$51,200.

Zoning & Blight Administrator Reported: 7 violation letters sent, 7 complaints filed, 2 Zoning Compliance permits issued, 1 variance filed, letter sent on building without permit, if no response, will go to attorney. The board approved the Silver Creek Township Police Department investigate zoning violations at Car Credit on M-51 North.

The building inspector reported on repairs progressing at the Brunkel residence.

Appeals Board Report: No activity. A variance is scheduled for October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Planning/Zoning Commission Report: The meeting of August 31<sup>st</sup> discussed Sign Ordinance amendments to cover digital signs. The recommended amendments to the Zoning Ordinance were presented. The Cass County Planning Commission has reviewed and recommended approval changes to Chapter 3, Section 3.11,A.5, adding a shower and tub. A motion to add this in Ag/Res only, approved.

Change to Chapter 5, Section 5.02 and Chapter 13, Section 13.06 encouraging farm market development, approved.

Electrical Inspector's Report: 8, 6 permits.

Plumbing Inspector's Report: 3.

Mechanical Inspector's Report: 6 mechanical inspections.

Liquor Inspector's Report: 6. 0 violations.

Treasurer's Report: Unallocated fund balances: General Fund \$148,262.98  
Indian Lake Sewer Maintenance Fund \$ 89,542.50

County Commissioner Reported: Report is on information table, and can be e-mailed to anyone providing him with their e-mail address.

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Dowagiac District Library Report: Held a Public Hearing on fiscal year 2011/2012 budget. Approved a new contract for Director Johnson. Approved staff raiser. Officers were elected for 2011/2012.

“Library at the Lakes” on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at Township Hall continues.

Community Awareness Report: Reviewed the September 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Next meeting October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with presentations by the director of the Cass County Medical Care Facility and by Council on Aging.

Operational Committee Reports:

Sewer Systems Operations –

Indian Lake Sewer – A possible leak in the pipeline on M-62 West is being investigated. The monitoring system is up and running.

Sister Lakes Area Sewer – Violations fee letters have gone out. Fees will be added to the next billing cycle. Two hook-ups were discovered on Karl St. The attorney will research whether Township Board or the Sewer Authority decides connection fee.

Police Committee: Discussed the purchase of a taser. Approved, cost not to exceed \$1,000 to purchase a taser.

Unfinished Business:

Approval of Use of Mailing Service for Assessment Notices and Creation of a Fact Sheet for Election Procedure – The clerk outlined the bid of Lake Michigan Mailer to send notices to all property owners in the Special Assessment District for ambulance service of \$1,347.80. He compared this to internal cost which appears to be at least \$1,517.76. Approved to accept the quotation of Lake Michigan Mailers.

New Business:

A. Approval of Tax Rate Request for Operating Millage for FY 2011/2012 – The supervisor reviewed the Headlee adjusted amount of .6963 for operating millage. The police/fire millage is set at 1.00 for this year, approved by unanimous roll call vote, on motion by Supervisor Saunders, supported by Treasurer Kuriata.

B. Land Division Request – Cynthia Mueller et al– The parcel split was presented to the board by the assessor because they are non-conforming lots, platted before our Zoning Ordinance, approved by unanimous voice vote, on motion by Trustee Moore, supported by Supervisor Saunders.

Public Comment: Ms. Heagerty thanked Mr. Goodman for sending out his Commissioner’s report.

Mr. Schultz asked about surplus revenue collected. The board answered, explaining cost increases and possible revenue dropping from other sources.

Mr. Donley expressed his displeasure in the Zoning Ordinance amendment change.

Mr. Bergquist complained of bicycle riders cutting through private property.

Mr. Nevins expressed that road mowing was deficient. Cass County Road Commission mowed only primary roads.

Mr. Schultz expressed the positive cooperation of mutual aid in the drowning at Indian Lake.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved for Publication by:

Walter F. Lehmann, Clerk

Bill J. Saunders, Supervisor

A complete copy of the minutes is available upon request at the Silver Creek Township Hall.