

Approved
2-10-10

Boston Township Board Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Clerk Spoelstra at 7:08 p.m. with the following members present: Harvey, Lamphere, Stuck, Spoelstra, and Perry. Dunton and Olson joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Citizens Comments –

- * Jim Bandfield was present with comment regarding Dausman Park special assessment.

Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Harvey approve the Agenda Supported by Olson. All ayes. Passed.

Consent Agenda Approval –

- January bills payable – Checks 15833-15872 for a total amount of \$27,314.67.
- December board meeting minutes and December special meeting minutes were reviewed.

A motion was made by Olson to approve Consent Agenda, with the exception of Check 15847 to Ionia County Economic Alliance, and the addition of checks to be paid to JW Marriott and Amway Grand Plaza for hotel charges incurred for the Michigan Township Association conference for January 27-29, 2010, not to exceed \$3,000. Supported by Dunton All ayes. Passed.

Clerk's Reports

- Morrison Lake ReAddressing Issues – Clerk Spoelstra advised the board that the house numbers and street names have changed at the lake. Once Spoelstra receives a corrected list from the county, Clerk Spoelstra and Deputy Clerk Tutak-Hill will be working on making those changes for the Qualified Voter File.
- Cemetery Buy Back update – Spoelstra posed the question of administrative fee to other Michigan townships and received 25 responses back. All varying in response. A copy of those responses was provided to the board. Spoelstra will prepare a resolution to add an administrative fee to cemetery lot repurchases, and will present it to the board at the February meeting.

Treasurer's Report

- Received two payoffs in Dausman and one for Tiffany
- Taxes are continuing to come in. Treasurer Lamphere advised the board that \$1.2 million came in the last week of December.
- Accounts balances and activities were provided and reviewed.

New Business –

- Consider resolution of conditional approval of private road off Riverside Drive – Dar VanderArk and Paul Henderson from Roosien & Assoc. were present at the meeting to explain the plans for Riverside Woods, second phase. Dunton posed some concern about 8% grading in a short area of the proposed paved road which is over the state limit. Henderson said they would remedy that so that it remains within state guidelines. Dunton also shared concern regarding the performance bond that is due to expire on the 24th of January, 2010.

Dunton made a motion to approve Resolution 10-01 Approving Private Road Application contingent upon the performance bond requirements be fulfilled. Supported by Olson. Roll call vote: Harvey (yes), Perry (yes), Olson (yes), Lamphere (yes), Stuck (yes), Spoelstra (yes), Dunton (yes). Yes (7), No (0). Motion passed.

- Determine applicability of blight ordinance to pending issues – Supervisor Dunton introduced the issue regarding junk cars in a residential yard and whether a canvas covering is sufficient to eliminate a blight issue. Also, whether to restrict the type of fencing to a certain type for board approval.

The resident in question was asked by Dunton to submit a written plan on the type of fencing he planned to use. No plan has been provided, and the resident is not present at the meeting.

The board discussed this issue at length with regard to the central issue of what type of fencing is appropriate. Our blight ordinance makes no distinction between commercial property and residential property.

The board discussed the possibility of modifying the blight ordinance to “tighten up” the fencing requirements to include wording such as “fencing appropriate to the character of the surrounding area” or “aesthetically pleasing to the eye and conforms to the character of the neighboring properties.” Perry volunteered to speak with the township attorney regarding this as well as changing the wording of “cement” block to “concrete” block or masonry to keep the wording within industry standards.

Supervisor’s Notes:

- Township Officers Meeting was held on Monday, January 11, 2010. Dunton able to attend.
- Ionia Free Fair and Fair Grounds – It looks to be that the Ionia County Free Fair will not be receiving state funding for the 2010 fair. The ground buildings are in great disrepair.
- Signs at Morrison Lake – Bernie at the Ionia County Road Commission will look into this further and then come to the board for public meeting. The board can address this issue at the time the road commission comes for their annual township meeting visit.

Citizens Comments:

- Richard Goodman was present and spoke concerning a health threat due to pollutants (DDT) that have been buried in the soil at 8839 Rickert Road in Keene Township. There was some miscommunication regarding how he came to Boston Township. Nevertheless was welcomed by the board to make comment.

Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 10, 20¹⁰~~09~~, at 7 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes submitted by

Lori Spoelstra
Boston Township Clerk

Lori Spoelstra
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