

Boston Township Board Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Dunton at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Dunton, Stuck, Spoelstra, and Perry. Olson joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Lamphere joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m. Absent: Harvey

Citizens Comments –

- Roger Phillips was present and commented on a dispute he has regarding the disabled veteran tax exemption for his home.

Agenda Approval – A motion was made by Dunton to approve the Agenda. Supported by Perry. All ayes. Passed.

Consent Agenda Approval –

- February bills payable – Checks 15873-15908 for a total amount of \$41,128.00.
- January board meeting were reviewed.

A motion was made by Olson to approve Consent Agenda, with the correction in Supervisor's Notes stating that Dunton was in attendance at the Township Officers Meeting. Supported by Perry All ayes. Passed.

Clerk's Reports

- Morrison Lake Readdressing Issues – Township recently received notification from the county with information on the readdressing issue. We will be working on that next week providing that the Bureau of Elections Street Indexing Dept.
- Cemetery Buy Back update – Spoelstra has not prepared a resolution to add an administrative fee to cemetery lot repurchases yet but will for a future meeting.
- Budget Workshop – A 2010-2011 Budget Workshop was scheduled for all board members for March 3, 2010 at 3 p.m. at the township hall.

Treasurer's Report

- Winter taxes are coming in.
- Lowell Schools – Ionia County erroneously billed 388 parcels in Boston Township 3.5 mills rather than the correct 7.0 mills. This error was discovered on January 25, 2010. The County revised the bill and resent a corrected statement to each parcel.
- BS&A Software – Lamphere proposed a new tax program to the board. This issue will be addressed at the Budget Workshop to be held March 3, 2010.

New Business –

- Ionia County Road Commission – preliminary annual report

Board members of ICRC present were Fred Chapman and Earl Strater. Also present was Scott Peterson, Road Supervisor. Estimates on limestone and tree removal and road widening were presented to the board for intersections at McArthur & Darby and Peck Lake Rd & Darby.

Dunton invited comments from residents in attendance. Rosemary Moon spoke regarding a safety issue with regard to the narrowness of Nash Highway north of Peck Lake Road.

The “No Parking – Tow Away Zone” signage question at Morrison Lake public access was deferred back to Harvey for a future meeting.

- Ionia County Road Commission - Agreement for Portland Road bridge over Lake Creek

The May 14, 2008, Board Meeting Minutes were provided regarding this project. This project was presented by the ICRC on that date. Supervisor Dunton, at that time, made a motion to propose the two bridges as “possible items to be done in 2011” by the ICRC, supported by Olson and approved by all in attendance.

The road commission then applied for a grant for this project, with the board’s approval, and the grant was approved. With the approval of this grant, the road commission believes that the township is responsible for the costs incurred in the estimated amount of \$31,350 for engineering costs and \$7,500 for estimated construction costs. Total project costs on the project are estimated to be \$800,000. The majority of the costs (95%) will be paid by state and federal funds. The county and township will split the remaining 5% (\$15,000), with \$7,500 for each. The costs will be split between 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 budget years.

- Diane Smith, ICEA – Downtown revitalization survey results

Diane Smith from the Ionia County Economic Alliance presented the results of a survey that was conducted for business owners as well as one for residents and high school students. There is a Town Hall Meeting – “Envision Saranac” to be held at Saranac High School on March 25 from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

- Review status of blight issues

Chris and Tracy Rybicki were present to discuss with the board the issue of fencing on their property on Winslow Drive. The purpose of bringing this matter to the board is to determine whether the type of fencing proposed to be used is of appropriate materials and is acceptable to the board.

Rybicki presented to the board a handwritten plan for fencing.

The board expressed concern that because the fencing would not be permanent, it may not be structurally sound. To comply with the shielding from adjacent property owners, the fence must be built 6-8’ high on the north side. Rybicki was granted 90 days to complete the fencing. The board felt that the Rybickis met the intent and good faith requirements.

A Fencing Agreement was prepared by Clerk Spoelstra and signed by Mr. and Mrs. Rybicki as well as Spoelstra on behalf of the Boston Township Board. Lamphere and Perry witnessed. The agreement states that in accordance with Ordinance 98-3 fencing requirements, the fence (as proposed on the fence plan) would be completed 90 days from today’s date (May 11, 2010).

Ordinance to Amend Ordinance No. 98-3 – Boston Township Blight Ordinance

The board reviewed the proposed amendment, removing “(90% or more solid, opaque material)” in Section 3(d) of Ordinance 98-3. All else remains the same.

Perry moved to adopt an amendment to 98-3 Section 3(d) with the omission of “(90% or more solid, opaque material)”. Dunton supports. Roll call vote: Perry (yes), Lamphere (yes), Stuck (yes), Olson (yes), Spoelstra (yes), Dunton (yes). Harvey Absent. Yes (6), No (0). Motion passed.

Supervisor's Notes:

- Mika Meyers, Becket & Jones Bill – The November statement was not received at the township for work performed from October 1-31, 2010. The missing bill was not noticed until the following month when a previous balance was noted in the amount of \$9,945.24. \$6,640.58 of that bill is to be applied to the Dausman Park and Hawks Landing SAD accounts. These amounts leave these projects over budget in the legal fees. Dunton has been communicating with the attorneys regarding this bill and options were discussed.
- A letter dated February 10, 2010 from Attorney Mark Van Allsburg to Robert Dunton was provided to all board members for their review regarding proposed Riverside private road.

Citizens Comments:

- Roger Phillips again addressed the board with additional comments and questions.

Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, March 10, 2009, at 7 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

Board Meeting Minutes submitted by

Lori Spoelstra
Boston Township Clerk