

Milton Township
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2014

Members present: Bargy, Atkinson, Cole and Pharo
Ball, absent excused

Also present: Attorneys Derman, Weinzapfel, Stilson, Karen Bargy, and 10 audience members

Bargy called the meeting to order at 7 pm and the Pledge was recited

Agenda:

Approved by Consent

Approval of meeting minutes dated March 10, 2014

Motion by Atkinson to approve the minutes. Seconded by Pharo. Motion carried.

Approval of special meeting minutes dated March 25, 2014

Motion to approve by Atkinson. Seconded by Pharo. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak

Karen Bargy, County Commissioner gave an update on positions that are seeking candidates. The commissioners are considering a countywide road millage. Bargy feels that a countywide road millage won't be good for our township. Lon Bargy said he feels that as long as we got the money back we put in, that would be okay. Cole said he feels that the money would be spread evenly over the county and we pay the lion's share of the taxes. There are some townships that don't have any road millage so we would be funding their road efforts. Cole said he would also be against this as well.

Keith Termaat

President of the Milton Township Neighbors Network apologized for a statement made in the TNN newsletter regarding ground water depletion.

Dan Doherty of Rex Terrace Road

He asked the board for their assistance in getting their road repaired. The road has never been brought up to county standards. This year it is one big muck hole. There is no gravel. No drainage. The response we've gotten is that this is a seasonal road. A seasonal road means that the county is not obligated to remove snow. They have nothing to do with maintaining the road. We have called and not gotten any response from the county. It is unsafe for us to live where we live. Pharo has seen the road and agrees that it is very unsafe. Cole asked about getting stuck? People are getting stuck in mud, not snow. The biggest concern is getting help out there incase of an emergency. Pharo said they might be able to put a culvert in now but until the frost laws are off, there may not be much they

can do. Bargy said he would find out what the road commission will charge to fix it. We may be able to get it done cheaper. Jeremy Ball said he drove by there after work and it is pretty bad. From a public safety standpoint, it would certainly delay any first responders in an emergency. He would be glad to speak from a public safety perspective if that would be necessary. Bargy said he would discuss it with the road commission. Bargy asked if the residents would help with the cost. They said they find that difficult to commit to. We pay the same taxes as everyone else. However, at the end, they agreed that if they had to pay something, they would consider it.

Fire Department Report

As presented by Chief Ball

Five total calls for service for the month of March. To date they have had 18 calls for service this year, an increase of six over last year. They have been working with the Red Cross to see if Station 2 could be considered a shelter in emergency disasters. Torch Lake and Milton and ER fire departments are working together on rapid intervention group policies. Working on extending our mutual aid agreement on the southern end of the township with Rapid City. Update on maintenance issues. Working on developing a website for the fire department. Getting bids on the replacement of the furnaces at station one. Working on the Knox Box program. This would be a safe secure type box that would be placed near the front entrance of a business or residence that would contain an entry key to the front door. Working on a smoke detector program. We would donate or replace the detector or batteries for citizens who were unable to do so. Chief Vandenberg of ER has been given approval to hire a full time person for staffing the fire station during the daytime.

Motion to go with the Dennis McQuillin's bid for furnace repair at Station one for \$3,900 by Pharo. Seconded by Cole. Motion carried.

Zoning Report

As presented by Weinzapfel

Election of officers and approval of meeting dates at the ZBA meeting last week. There was a final violation notice issued for a home on Quarterline Road, which included the new cost and fine from the updated zoning ordinance.

Ambulance Report

As presented by Weinzapfel

37 - Dispatched calls for March. 106 total dispatched calls for the year so far. Update on upcoming training and staffing. Weinzapfel thanked Pharo for his service.

Planning Commission Report

As presented by Stilson

No meeting last month. This month we will review the final draft of the Master Plan and future land use map. Mark Anderson would like to review with the commission what could be done with the boat storage unit at US 31 and Campbell.

Attorney's Report

As presented by Derman

78 dispatched calls for the month. Update on HD encryption with Chater. Update on Antrim County Road Commission. The state passed a road appropriation bill, which included \$250K for Antrim County. According to Bargy was just enough to cover the fuel overage from this winter. Tax Tribunal matters update. Tap in Agreement is signed with Elk Tip Drive. Fireworks are in our sheriff's department's hands. The deed for the Boals property has been received and recorded.

Supervisor's Report

As presented by Bargy

Bargy asked the board to discuss two millage proposals to possibly put on the ballot. The first proposal is for emergency service (ALS.) We do not generate enough funds from the current millage. Elk Rapids is requesting an increase to cover the cost of a full time ALS service. Rather than pulling from the general fund, the township board is requesting that the ambulance millage be increased. We are proposing an increase of .65 mills.

The second proposal is for an increase on the road millage .70 mills.

Pharo said we are now depleting our general fund rapidly. I think it would be in our best interest to put both proposals on the ballot.

Atkinson said she is afraid to ask for both at the same time. Cole said he is not in favor of asking for just one and then another. Cole said it doesn't matter if they are staggered or not. We need to let people know what our actual track record is for levying the allowed amount. We don't ever take more than what we need. If we know now what we need, we should ask for it. We can see what's coming down the road.

Jerry Mensing agreed with the idea of educating the people with the newsletter. The people are aware of the ambulance situation and the need for additional money. As far as the roads, everyone knows about the roads.

Stilson asked regarding the mills on the road. They are at .30 tenths now and they want to add seven tenths, for a total of 1 mill.

Cole said it would help if we could explain the road millage. The state and the county used to pay for all of it. Now we do 100 percent of all materials. This is a big change in a 20-year span of time with the same budget. There is no-longer cost sharing to help.

Resolution #2014-12

Motion to increase the Ambulance Millage an additional .65 mills by Pharo. Seconded by Cole

Roll call:

Cole: Yea

Pharo: Ye

Atkinson: Yea
Bargy: Yea
S. Ball, absent
Motion carried.

Resolution #2014-13

Motion to increase the Road Millage an additional .70 mills for repairs/maintenance by Pharo. Seconded by Cole

Roll call:
Bargy: Yea
Pharo: Yea
Cole: Yea
Atkinson: Yea
S. Ball, absent
Motion carried.

Township clean up day is Saturday April 26th.

Bargy presented an estimate of \$3540 to fix the stucco on the township building from Midlake Builders.

Motion to approve Midlake Builders with an estimate of \$ 3,540 by Atkinson. Seconded by Cole. Motion carried.

The Post Office in Kewadin will be cutting down to six hours at the window. The rumor is that they would like to close the Kewadin Post Office.

We have purchase agreements on two parcels of lakefront property. 160 feet of the Sarasin property across from the old Township Hall; and also the Earl property for parking and 38 feet on the water.

Approval of Bills

Motion to approve the bills by Atkinson. Seconded by Pharo. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

No one wished to speak

Meeting adjourned by order of the chair at 8:13 pm.

These minutes are subject to Board approval at the May 12, 2014 regular meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Ball, Clerk