

Milton Township
Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2014

Members present: Bargy, S. Ball, Atkinson, Cole and Pharo

Also present: Attorney Derman, Weinzapfel, Stilson, and 13 audience members

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

Agenda Approved with the addition of
Mary Hoadley to give an update on the Tri-Township Committee

Public Comment:

Tom Vranich asked regarding any improvements at the township access at Winters Road. Bargy stated that we stabilized the ramp around July 3rd. This was done as a minor repair. Major repairs scheduled for a later time.

Dick Sanborn Board of Directors of Orchard Hills came to discuss the paving project. Why aren't all of the streets being re-paved in Orchard Hills? We are paying road taxes too. Bargy explained, in your subdivision ordinance, some roads were made public and some were made private. The law doesn't allow townships to spend money on private roads. The developer of your subdivision made some roads private and some public. Not the township. You should to take this up with the county.

Wolverine Electric

Ron Sneller of Wolverine Power discussed the facilities in the township and requested the renewal of their franchise in Milton Township. They serve five co-ops including Great Lakes Energy. Most of our power is purchased on the open market. The last franchise agreement was done in 2004 for ten years. They would like it renewed for the max term of 30 years but they are open to whatever the township can offer.

Derman said he evaluated the agreement. I have seen nothing to indicate why we shouldn't continue a 10 year agreement. I would recommend extending the agreement for another 10 years. We will work to draft the resolution.

2004-04 wording, but change the ordinance number to **2014-02**.
Wolverine Power will cover any necessary publishing expenses.

Motion to approve the Wolverine Power Franchise Agreement to extend the 2004 agreement for 10 years by Cole. Seconded by S. Ball.

Roll call:
Cole: yea
Pharo: Yea
Atkinson: Yea

Bargy: Yea
Ball: Yea
Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Vranich

The 150th anniversary for Milton Township will be next year. I would like to publish a book on the townships history. Citizens would need to be interested and we could form a group to create an outline with general history/family history. Would there be any interest? The resulting book would be affordable to the citizens. The board liked the idea and thought that this would be interesting. Vranich will run an ad in the paper to see if there is any interest.

Library Survey: I am serving on the library board. This is a Milton/Elk Rapids library district. We received a gift of \$400K from an estate. We have hired a team to help us do a study for the library's needs for the future. They will help us write a new strategy for the library. We are doing a survey on the library website that can be downloaded. Currently we are searching for people that would be interested in being part of the survey committee. We are having sessions August 9th and August 23rd. We are also doing telephone interviews for community leaders. We hope to have this done by this fall. That should give the committee time to put together a report for us. Libraries are changing and we want to be ready. I will leave copies of the survey. We welcome your comments.

Tree Removal Estimates

We have four estimates to take down dead trees. The bid from Northern Tree at \$1050 is the lowest. The highest is Unlimited Outdoors at \$2725. The only major difference is that Northern will drop the tree and the other companies wanted to limb the tree. Atkinson asked if they were insured. S. Ball will contact the company for proof of insurance. The stumps will be left at ground level.

Motion to approve Northern Tree of Bellaire for \$1050 for tree removal by Cole.
Seconded by Atkinson. Motion carried.

Park and Rec Committee Report

Atkinson requested to go to phases 3 and 4 with Gosling Czubek. This will allow us to have visual designs to show the public and qualify for grant funding. We are looking to have this done in September.

Motion to approve continuing into Phases 3 and 4 with Gosling Czubek by Pharo.
Seconded by Cole. Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes dated June 9th, 2014

Motion to approve by Atkinson. Seconded by S. Ball. Motion carried.

Mary Hoadley gave a presentation regarding the Tri-Township Team Committee. Our mission is to determine Ambulance Service cost and comparisons, and needs of the township citizens. We are researching four options. Three Ambulance Service companies have submitted information. The fourth option would be a consortium of three townships.

At the conclusion, we will prepare a spreadsheet with all of the information. We will pursue bids for hiring a consultant with specific knowledge of the situation. The team has four consultants in mind. We will have to see how the bids come back. The price can really vary. Pharo said he's willing to send out bids, but he's not willing to approve the hiring without knowing the cost.

Motion by S. Ball. Seconded by Cole to request bids from four consultants. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Report

188 calls for June.

Zoning Report

As presented by Weinzapfel

A letter sent from Pat and Mary Skarnulis regarding parking on the east side of Cherry Ave., People are parking all the way to the corner. Vehicles exiting SW Torch Lake Drive can't see around the parked cars. They have talked to Burt Thompson about this issue. They are requesting a solution.

There is no ZBA or Planning Commission meetings this month.

Parks and Rec committee met regarding a couple road end accesses and discussed the need for upgrades. Indian, Waring, and Sutter are on the list. We haven't gotten costs back yet. This could possibly be covered by grant monies. The long term plan is to repair the launch ramps and divert water runoff.

Ambulance Report

As presented by Weinzapfel

43 runs for June. The total is 205 for the 2014 year. We will have CPR classes at Harbor Days. The Elk Rapids Yacht Club had a pancake breakfast and donated \$800 to the ER EMS. Thank you. We would like to thank Rick Young for the donation of food for the breakfast. We are looking to hire a couple more EMTS on the department.

Planning Commission Report

As presented by Stilson

Planning Commission met and discussed Food Trucks. The applicant has not come back. The issue is on hold for now.

We also approved the bylaws. The master plan has been sent to the county and surrounding townships. We have a few things on our to-do list regarding changes for the zoning ordinance. These changes have been sent Bill Derman to determine if there is a need for a public hearing.

There is no meeting for July as there was nothing on the agenda.

Attorney's Report

As presented by Derman

Updates Regarding:

Antrim County Road Commission, Recycling, Township towers and lease agreements, Tax tribunal matters, August Ballot Proposals and the Fireworks Ordinance

Supervisor's Report

As presented by Bargy

We have information that a white Escalade with a Torch Lake sticker attempted to dumped unacceptable trash at our recycling location. He was told not to leave his items, but then came back and dumped the stuff at night. It was too dark to get the plate number, but we know what the person and vehicle look like.

We received a bill from Elk Rapids Township for \$68,710. This is the remanding balance of Milton's share for the cost of Ambulance Service for 2013. This is close to double of what was anticipated for the millage.

Public Comment

Joyce Grammar has seen ER Art signs up. This signage was incorporated into the zoning ordinance because this is a non-profit. But, when you take away my right as a tax paying citizen and give it to a group that pays no taxes in the township, I think there is something wrong. The only place I'm allowed to put a sign up is on my property. I can't put it at the end of my road. I don't believe ER has an ordinance against it. I'm pretty sure Torch Lake doesn't. I don't buy this concept. Cole said we worked on the sign ordinance for over a year. This specific "non-profit" was done in the re-write. Originally, this wasn't allowed. Now we allow non-profits to put signage on corners while they are having an event. Derman clarified that ER does have a sign ordinance.

Approval of Bills

Motion to approve the bills as presented by S. Ball. Seconded by Pharo. Motion carried.

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

These minutes are subject to approval at the August 11, 2014 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Ball
Milton Township Clerk