



**GREENWOOD TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**7/09/2018**  
**7:00 PM**



Call to Order  
Pledge of Allegiance

**Members Present:** Tom Deater, Sandra Gustman, Ron Stroven, Stacey Budde, Cora Conley

- 1) Approve Agenda – motion by Ron Stroven to approve the agenda as amended. **IN FAVOR 5-0**
- 2) Approve Minutes of 6/11/18 Regular Meeting – Motion by Ron Stroven to approve the minutes as presented. **IN FAVOR 5-0**
- 3) Treasurer’s report was presented by Sandra Gustman with motion to approve by Ron Stroven. **IN FAVOR 5-0**
  - a) Fund Balance = 301,978.56
  - b) Restricted Balance = 38,294.90
  - c) Balance Available for Township operations = \$263,683.66 – which reflects a correction to the stability fund - Metro Act balance.
- 4) Public Comment: (Please limit comments to three minutes)
  - a) Jerry Beattie comments:
    - i) The Township should do 3 road brine applications.
    - ii) The County needs to do a better job of grating.
    - iii) Gravel should be spread on 184<sup>th</sup>.
    - iv) We have high tourist and high traffic on roads both for recreational and business traffic with no help for roads coming from the State or Federal government for needed repairs resulting out of this type of usage.
  - b) James Kibart comments:
    - i) He called the Oceana Road Commission (ORC) about the condition of Greenwood Township roads and was told that our Township is at fault too because we will not contribute to the cost of repairs.
    - ii) He asked the Board whether the two track section of McKinley could be grated to improve it for use – he advised the ORC told him it is not a seasonal road.
    - iii) He asked if we could invite Mark Timmer, ORC Managing Director to a meeting for a Q & A session.
  - c) Jamie Holcomb comments:
    - i) Perhaps the ORC is giving preference to townships that share the cost and contribute to road repairs.
    - ii) He asked of the 36 sq. miles in our Township, representing over 23,040 acres, how much was owned by federal government.
    - iii) He asked if the Board knew whether the road commission properly trains workers to repair pot holes because, as a runner, he sees asphalt waste on sides of the roads often and poor repair jobs. It was agreed this could be asked of Mark Timmer if he agrees to comes to a meeting for a Q & A session.
  - d) Tom Deater commented or agreed to the following actions:
    - i) He will again look into whether there are any grants or monies from DNR available for us to apply for considering, for example, the Horseshoe Lake recreational traffic (although his previous attempts have resulted in no returned calls from the DNR).
    - ii) It will be fall before the County will be able to assess the need for additional gravel on 184<sup>th</sup>.
    - iii) He will research the potential McKinley 2-track improvements.
    - iv) He will invite Mark Timmer to our township meeting.
    - v) The undeveloped forest represents about one half of Greenwood township property and the result is, we don't have the tax base other more developed townships do which helps contribute to their road repairs.

5) Committee Reports:

- a. Fire board meeting - Ron Stroven presented the minutes from the meeting held 6/13.
- b. Library board meeting - Marie Rose presented the minutes from the meeting held 6/19.
- c. Cemetery board meeting - Tom Deater advised the meeting will be held later in July.
- d. Planning Commission meeting – there will be no meeting in July.
- e. Ambulance Committee Report –Sandy Gustman attended the County Commissioner meeting on 7/7 in anticipation that the ambulance service issue would be discussed. She advised that she sat through all committee meetings first. She stated that ambulance service was not listed as a topic for discussion or action on the Commissioner Meeting Agenda and that many people who were present for the committee meetings left prior to the start of the Commissioner meeting. The Commission did actually open up a discussion on the ambulance service and ultimately approved a motion to terminate its contract with Service Employee International Union (SEIU) of Michigan with a 60 day written notice. Sandy asked the Commission if they were going to vote on 7/12 on a new service contract and if that would be an open meeting. She was advised that the Commission may go into a closed session if a service contract was presented for consideration but then would re-open the meeting if the Board was going to vote.
  - a. Martha Meyette, Commission Board Member, commented that she is not confident an ambulance would be stationed in Hesperia, but that Oceana EMS did have that placement as one of their long-term goals, and in her opinion, we would be better off staying with them.
  - b. Martha also asked the Board what our opinion was and what we wanted. The Board commented in general that we want ambulance service for our township and that we currently have no facts on which to evaluate or provide an opinion about Oceana EMS or any other service provider.

6) Correspondence / Communications

- a) Reed College/Democracy fund – 2018 survey of local election officials was received by Cora Conley
- b) Incident at Taylor Bridge - Sandra Gustman received a complaint by phone from an individual stating he stepped into a hole between the fence and the river along the bank at our Taylor Bridge landing. The individual stated that they were not seriously hurt and not planning to sue the Township but that someone else might and the caller wanted us to be aware. Tom Deater checked the area and found natural erosion. We do not have a specific date or name of the caller. It was agreed that future complaints or incidents of this nature, and our investigation of the matter as well as any action taken by the Township, would be documented formally and kept on file.
- c) Sandy Gustman reported that she has taken calls from residents inquiring about the township position on Marijuana operations as well as ORV use.

7) Old Business:

- a) Acker Lake improvements status report – Tom Deater reported that he and Sandy Gustman are researching the legal property description and survey.
- b) Website quotes – Cora Conley reported that this project is tabled until after the August primary election.
- c) Ambulance Committee member pay – Cora Conley reported that she and Sandra Gustman participated in a conference call with MTA wherein they reviewed MTA’s guidance related to State law and the Township’s authority to pay individuals for participation and attendance on non-statutory Boards or committees such as the current joint-township ambulance committee. MTA advised the township does have authority to pay individuals for participating on non-statutory boards and that to do so the Board must take the following action: (1) establish upfront, upon the Board’s appointment of the individuals to the Board or Committee, whether the participant would be compensated or considered volunteering their time without compensation, and (2) if compensated, what the rate of pay would be. MTA advised that a Board also has authority to take the action retroactively but that compensating the participants would first require approval by the Board. Cora Conley made a motion that the Board authorize payment of compensation to Sandra Gustman and Stacey Budde, at the “Other Boards” per meeting rate, for each joint-township ambulance committee meeting they have attended. Sandra and Stacey abstained from the vote. **IN FAVOR 2-1.**

- d) Fire Millage Ballot proposal language was presented by Cora Conley for review and approval of the Board for consideration by the electors of Greenwood Township in November 2018. The proposal asks for renewal of (1) mill (1.00 for each \$1000.00 in taxable value), levied for a period of 5 years, raising an estimated \$29,896.36 in the first year for fire protection services. **IN FAVOR 5-0**
- e) Roads – Tom Deater stated he would check on estimated start and finish dates for the work to be performed on Garfield and the 194<sup>th</sup>/192<sup>nd</sup> curve.

8) New Business:

- a) Sandra Gustman reported her current deputy has moved out of state and that she has appointed Jim Gustman as her new deputy. Sandy will begin the process of updating bank signatory cards to reflect this change.
- b) Cora Conley made a motion to increase election inspector wages to a flat rate of \$15.00 per hour for the Chairman and the Inspectors. Cora stated the rate is in line with the Township’s established rate for administrative services and is on par with rates paid by other Michigan townships. Cora stated the proposed rate of pay is reflective of the responsibility of the role and the commitment required of the inspectors to achieve a successful election process. **IN FAVOR 5-0**
- c) Tom Deater made a motion to pay Sandra Gustman for her attendance at the County Commissioner meeting attended on 7/7 at the “Other Boards” per meeting rate. **IN FAVOR 5-0**

2) Board discussion

- a) Tom Deater made a motion that Greenwood Township apply for an American Red Cross designation as an “approved shelter” for Greenwood residents in the event of an emergency situation. **IN FAVOR 5-0**. Tom will investigate next steps we need to take to achieve this designation.
- b) Cora Conley asked about use of our hall by residents for purposes such as wedding and baby showers, graduation parties, etc. Tom Deater replied that it is the Township policy not to rent or allow use. Cora asked why and how the Board came to the policy position as she has received calls inquiring about whether it could be used or rented. Cora stated that one way to add value to our township for residents may be opening the hall for resident’s small scale use. Various comments were made by members of the board citing concern over election equipment, wear and tear on the building and carpet, etc., and the fact that our hall does not have a full kitchen.
- c) Payment of Bills: Ron Stroven made a motion that we pay the bills. **IN FAVOR 5-0**

Meeting ended at 9:25 pm



Cora Conley – Greenwood Township Clerk