

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Wednesday, January 2, 2008 at 7:30 P.M., at the Manistee Township Hall. Board members present were John W. Anderson, Dennis R. Bjorkquist, John M Dontz, Connie L Smith, and M. Rebecca Dinsen. Also present were Zoning Administrator Rob Marble, Charles Gregg, Fire Chief John Dunlap, Steve Wheeler, Keith Brown of PEG, Jim and Bob Schudlich.

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor John W. Anderson with the pledge to the United States flag.

The minutes of the December 13, 2007 Manistee Township Board meeting were provided. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to approve the minutes as provided. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer Smith gave the Financial report for the month of January. It was moved by Dontz seconded by Bjorkquist to accept the Treasurers report as presented. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was received from various sources and given to each board member to read.

Rob Marble, Zoning Administrator stated December had been a quiet month with only two permits issued.

Fire Chief John Dunlap reported the Manistee Township Fire Department held three training sessions, and responded to eleven fire/medical runs during the month of December. There were 18 burn permits issued, and two training classes held during the month of December. There were 118 runs for the 2007 calendar year.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated there are only three active liquor licenses in Manistee Township at this time, with the closure of Happy Chappy's Party Store.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on February 11, 2008, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Court House in the Board of Commissioners Room, for their organizational meeting.

The Oaks Prison Liaison meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 5:00 P.M..

The Manistee County Commissioners held a Study Session on January 2, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. to consider the distribution of the LRBOI PILT money.

Bjorkquist has received confirmation from Jordan Bielak of the DEQ, of the grant for the Bridge Street Boat Launch. Bielak has been on vacation through the holidays, and unavailable for clarification on a number of issues with the proposed resolution. Bjorkquist had discussed the project with the Manistee County Road Commission.

However there needs to be clarification of a few points within the grant, before it is approved by the Manistee Township Board.

Dinsen had talked with Donna Fike regarding the Charter Franchise agreement. Our agreement does not expire until November of 2008. Dinsen will check with the MTA next week, on any things the township should be aware of, prior to signing the agreement. It is a nonexclusive agreement.

The Manistee County Road Commission has decided to hold combined meetings of all townships on one day. The meetings will be held January 17, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. or 5:00 P.M., at the Manistee County Road Commission offices. Bjorkquist asked if there was an agenda of proposed projects to present to the Road Commission. The joint meetings have been informational without individual township projects being discussed. Questions are answered, and if there is something that is not covered you can contact the road commission office. Schudlich encouraged the grinding and resurfacing of River Road from 1/4 mile off the highway to Coho Bend, approximately 2 miles. It was agreed to ask for an estimate on the project through the road commission, and possibly through a commercial contractor as a comparison. MCRC Manager Jerry Peterson will be asked to come to the February or March Manistee Township Board meeting. In maintenance issues, the seal coating stones never had adhesion on Pine Creek Road - with numerous complaints received prior to the snowfall. Board members will attend the Road Commission meetings at the time best for them.

The Alliance for Economic Success has scheduled a meeting on the recycling options for Manistee County, at the Manistee Township Hall on Thursday, January 17, 2008 at 6:30 P.M.. This meeting will include the Village of Eastlake and Manistee Township. The Alliance will also be at the Manistee County Chapter of MTA on January 23, 2008 at 7:00 P.M.. The intent of these meetings is to identify opportunities, concerns, and answer questions.

It was agreed to hold a Public Hearing on the proposed 2008-2009 budget, prior to our next board meeting. The Public Hearing will be Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 7:00 P.M., at the Manistee Township Hall.

Dinsen provided an update on the Presidential Primary to be held on January 15, 2008. Due to a change in election law, absent ballot applications can no longer be mailed without a prior request. This change has been in the newspaper, on the radio, on our web site, and in our newsletter. Copies of the in precinct applications were distributed. Each voter will be required to show a photo identification prior to voting. At the presidential primary you must select a Democratic or Republican ballot. Anyone with questions should contact the clerk prior to the election.

The current bills for the month of January were presented. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Smith to pay the bills as they are received for the month of January. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Anderson asked for and received no further public comment.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on February 11, 2008, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Court House, in the Commissioners Room, for their Organizational meeting.

The Manistee County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will meet at the Bear Lake Township Hall, on January 23, 2008, at 7:00 P.M.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. and then Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board will be held on the Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at 7:30 P.M. with a Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved by Dontz seconded by Bjorkquist to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 P.M. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC
Manistee Township Clerk