

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, October 12, 2006, 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 was Charles Gregg, Clara Kraus Saari, Keith Brown of PEG, Mike Acton, Fire Chief John Dunlap, Bob & Jim Schudlich, Frank Greco and Joanna Collins.

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

The minutes of the September 14, 2006, 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 September. It was moved by Dontz seconded by Dinsen to accept the Treasurers report as presented. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

The minutes of the October 11, 2006 Manistee Township Planning Commission meeting were not received.

Correspondence was received from various sources and given to each board member to read and initial. Those items included an Open House at the Manistee Landfill on October 18, 2006 from 11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. There will be a ground breaking at the new wing of West Shore Medical Center on October 18, 2006 at 3:00 P.M.

Fire Chief John Dunlap reported the Manistee Township Fire Department held four training sessions, and responded to four fire/medical runs during the month of September. The State of Michigan has mandated West Shore Hospital cannot tone out Manistee Township Fire Department for medical runs, because we do not have a "rescue unit." Manistee Township medical runs will be covered by the Onekama Department north of the Big Manistee River, and Stronach Department will cover medical runs south of the Big Manistee River. Manistee Township Fire Department could be licensed for a rescue unit at no charge from the State of Michigan. According to Dunlap, West Shore Medical Center would provide the equipment for the unit. Manistee Township would use the newest "brush truck," and would be required to provide liability insurance. Presently there are several EMT's in the Manistee Township Fire Department qualified to serve on the rescue unit. The rescue unit would not be a transporting unit. Ambulance service has not been an issue in the past, as the West Shore Medical Center is in Manistee Township. The board took the issue under advisement.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated there have been no significant changes to any liquor licensees during the past month. Due to the weather he feels a number of the establishments will be closing during the month of October.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on November 6, 2006, at 5:00 P.M. at

the Manistee County Road Commission building. This will be the meeting when the grant money will be disbursed.

Mike Acton of the Portage Lake Watershed Plan spoke to those in attendance. Presently there is no watershed plan for the area surrounding Portage Lake. Without a plan in place they are not eligible for any funds from the state or federal government. Acton is securing support for the development of a watershed plan to allow for maintenance and protection of Portage Lake and the streams contributing to the watershed. Northern Manistee Township would be part of that watershed district. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Dinsen to sign a letter of support for the development of the Portage Lake Forever Watershed district. All voting in favor. Motion carried. Acton asked for volunteers from those in attendance to serve on the advisory committee. He will keep us informed of the progress in developing the plan.

Supervisor Anderson stated the Oaks Prison is at 910 prisoners, with a staff of 365. It is mandatory the prisoners have at least a GED to be eligible for parole. The Oaks have graduated 38 with GED's in the past quarter. There were seventeen critical incidents in the past quarter. A number of classes are being offered, and charitable programs have been offered by the staff and prisoners.

Tamara Buswinka presented the final draft of the Manistee Township Recreation Plan. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dinsen to accept and approve the final draft of the Manistee Township Recreation Plan. Dinsen, Smith, Bjorkquist, Dontz, and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

Bjorkquist stated the playground equipment is in, with some final work to be done on leveling the ground. A group of volunteers including Dennis Bjorkquist, Chuck Gregg, Dan Gustad, Terry Anderson, John Brown, John W Anderson, Jeff Mikula, Brian & Michelle Thomas, Richard Koon, Bonnie Kenny, Debbie Solis, and Connie Smith helped with the installation. A super lunch was provided by Connie Smith, Debbie Solis, Bonnie Kenny, Anna Lempke, Breanna Monk, Loretta Staff, Chrissy Smith, and Aimee Dumas. Many thanks to all who volunteered to make this project a reality.

Snow plowing bids for the 2006-2007 winter were opened. Bids were received from Gary Owens, Marty Johnson, and Forbes. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to award the bid to Forbes, at a rate of \$30.00 for a 4-wheel drive truck, \$35.00 per hour for a sander, and \$55.00 per hour for a loader. Dinsen, Smith, Dontz, Bjorkquist, and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

Dinsen reminded those in attendance that the Absent Ballots are available for the November 7, 2006 General Election. There is greater than normal interest in the election. There are five ballot proposals on the ballot.

Anderson noted the Regional Summit will be held on Monday, October 30 at the Portage Point Inn from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.. Board members are encouraged to attend. The cost will be \$15.00 per person. Smith noted that is when the Solid Waste Amendment

will be passed out. Clara Kraus Saari stated she would like to attend from Manistee Township.

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

The Manistee County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will meet at the Bear Lake Township Hall, on Wednesday, October 25, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

The next regular meeting of the Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006 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 second Thursday, November 9, 2006, at 7:30 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 8:32 P.M. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC  
Manistee Township Clerk