

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, October 9, 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 Charles Gregg, Clara Kraus Saari, Fire Chief John Dunlap, Keith Brown of PEG, John White, Bob and Jim Schudlich.

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

The minutes of the September 3, 2008 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 approved minutes of the September 4, 2008 Manistee Township Planning Commission meeting were presented to each board member, accepted, and placed on file. The Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2008, at 7:00 P.M.

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

The Manistee Township Fire Department held five training sessions, and responded to thirteen fire/medical runs during the month of September. Concern was expressed for the number of West Shore Hospital assists, and false alarms.

In a written report from the Zoning Administrators office, Guy Finout wrote there were eight receipts issued in September. The proposed Zoning Ordinance is ready to move to the public comment process. There will be an appeal on October 14, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. for a wind generator in the M-1 District. The allowable height is 35 feet, and this would be an 85-foot tower. Public comment can be written, or attend the meeting.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated there have been no significant changes to any liquor licensees during the past month. When the weather turns cold the establishments will be closing for the winter.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on Monday, October 13, 2008, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Road Commission building, for verbal presentations.

Keith Brown of the PEG Commission shared results of a survey by West Shore Community College, to Manistee Township residents. Three hundred people were called, with 129 answering. Of those 39 did not have cable. Eighty residents responded to the survey. According to the data given to the township board, 78 people (67%) said they would not pay 22 cents per month to support local programming. Filer Township will have the same survey in early 2009.

Attorney Richard Wilson prepared an agreement with Manistee Township and the Manistee

County Road Commission regarding the Bridge Street Boat Launch project. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to sign the Grant of Easement for Public Boat Launch at the Bridge Street project. This document is required in the grant process by the DEQ. After questions and discussion, all voted in favor of the signing of the grant easement papers. The Grant of Easement was approved.

Treasurer Connie Smith asked the board to approve a resolution to allow her to apply to the State Tax Commission for permission to use an electronic tax roll. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Dinsen to approve the resolution to allow Treasurer Smith to apply to the State Tax Commission for permission to use an electronic tax roll. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Snow plowing bids for the township buildings were advertized. Three bids were received, opened and copied for the board members.

Owens Forbes Thompson

4 Wheel Drive Truck \$ 40.00/hour \$35.00/hour \$60.00/hour
Front End Loader \$ 60.00/hour \$60.00/hour \$85.00/hour
Sander \$ 30.00/hour \$35.00/hour \$75.00/hour

After consideration by the township board, it was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to accept and approve the bid of Forbes Sewer and Excavating for snow plowing for the 2008-2009 winter season. Dinsen, Dontz, Smith, Bjorkquist, and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

Concern was expressed for the traffic light at M-55 & US-31. It is timed for a short release on M-55, and goes to a flashing mode at 9:00 P.M. The traffic signal at US 31 and Merkey Road is on a 24 hours day stop/go mode. The Michigan Department of Transportation at Cadillac will be contacted with these questions.

The same corner has become an eyesore with tall grass, and unkempt appearance. The Road Commission, or State Highway will be asked for improvement in the maintenance next summer.

John White asked if the Manistee County Road Commission will be doing anything about the inferior seal coating of 2007. The MCRC has not done anything, other than sweep up excess stones that did not adhere, and apply them to projects in the southern part of Stronach 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.

October is Fire Prevention Month. This Saturday, October 11, 2008, at 11:00 A.M. all Manistee County Fire Departments and Manistee County Jaws will be holding a parade in downtown Manistee, to Manistee Catholic Central. There will be games, refreshments, and fire prevention tips, until 5:00 in the afternoon. Manistee Township Fire Department members were thanked for the dedication and service to the people, units of government, and businesses of Manistee Township.

John White expressed concern for the waste haulers failing to pick up trash at places where people have trash at roadside only occasionally. Per White, the haulers should pick up the trash, and then find out what is happening, if there is a new business, two homes on the drive, or a summer resident returning to use a cabin. White would like this in future contracts.

Clerk Dinsen reminded registered voters that absent ballots are available, by completing an application, and returning it to the clerk's office. Applications for absent ballots are also available online at the Secretary of State web site. Presently 15% of the registered voters have voted by absent ballots.

Clara Kraus Saari asked for the support of those voting in the passage of the West Shore Hospital millage. The millage is for 0.275 mills for ambulance service to all of Manistee County. West Shore Hospital has lost revenue on the ambulance service, and can no longer afford to fund it. According to Saari the average cost would be \$12.00 to \$14.00 per year, per household.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on Monday, October 13, 2008, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Road Commission building, for verbal presentations.

The Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board will meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall.

The Manistee County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will meet at the Bear Lake Township Hall, on Wednesday, October 22, 2008, at 7:00 P.M. This will be the last meeting of the year, and the final meeting for long time chairperson Fred Alkire, who will be retiring.

The Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board will meet on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, if there is an Appeal.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, November 6, 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 second Monday, November 10, 2008, 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 Dinsen seconded by Bjorkquist to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC
Manistee Township Clerk