

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, December 13, 2007 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, Jim & Robert Schudlich, and Keith Brown of PEG

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

The minutes of the November 8, 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 December. . It was moved by Dontz seconded by Bjorkquist to accept the Treasurers report as presented. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

The approved Manistee Township Planning Commission meeting were not available.

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

Mike Acton of the Portage Lake Watershed Forever asked to be scheduled at the January 2, 2008 Manistee Township Board meeting, as he will have the revised plan available at that time.

Rob Marble, Zoning Administrator stated the Planning office is working with the Douglas Valley PUD on a meteorological tower to be used for one year to collect data. It appears it will be handled with a temporary permit. The office has been busy for this time of the year.

Fire Chief John Dunlap stated the Manistee Township Fire Department held four training sessions, and responded to eleven fire/medical runs during the month of November. The tank on Truck 33 was leaking, and had to be repaired. Now the pump on the same truck is leaking, and parts for the 1979 truck are hard to find. Dunlap stated the Fire Department has been approved for a Forestry Grant in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated Happy Chappy's Store will be closing at the end of December. Other than that, there have been no significant changes to any liquor licensees during the past month.

Bjorkquist has received confirmation from Jordan Bielak of the DEQ, of the grant for the Bridge Street Boat Launch. However there needs to be clarification of a few points within the grant, before it is approved by the Manistee Township Board.

It was noted the street lights at Kemmer Road and River Road on US 31, and the street

light at Main Street & M-55 are not working. Dinsen has notified Consumers Energy Systems, and they should be repaired within 72 hours.

Dennis Bjorkquist attended the Maple Grove Township Board meeting on Monday, December 10, and discussed the letter received from them on the equity and legality of the PILT payments from the LRBOI. There were several inaccurate points, half truths, and completely false information contained in the letter which was sent to all townships. Bjorkquist stated the Revenue Sharing Board has talked with state, tribal, and federal offices on the compact. The compact is with the State of Michigan and the LRBOI. Changes to the compact cannot be made at a local level. Bjorkquist asked that before another letter or comment is sent out, that those who are upset, talk with the people directly involved, and get the facts straight.

Manistee Township established Poverty Exemption levels on homesteads tax payments in 1998. The State of Michigan has released new suggested guidelines. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to accept and adopt the new guidelines for poverty exemptions on homestead properties. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

The proposed calendar of meetings for 2008 was discussed. It was suggested to change November 13 meeting to Monday, November 10, 2008. Dinsen will publish the calendar.

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. Board members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Jim Schudlich asked if anything will be discussed on the deteriorated condition of River Road. The board agrees that River Road needs work, however the estimates have been too expensive to consider. Schudlich was encouraged to attend the meeting at the Manistee County Road Commission office.

Clerk Dinsen explained the Presidential Primary is scheduled for January 15, 2008. There have many changes in election law. Clerks are no longer permitted to send unsolicited absent ballot applications to those more than 60 years of age. The Presidential Primary will require candidates to select a Democratic or Republican ballot. Those voting in person at the polls, will be required to show a photo ID to receive a ballot.

Charter Communications has sent a new franchise agreement to Manistee Township. There are a number of issues to be clarified prior to bringing it to the board in January.

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

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. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board will be held on the Wednesday, January 2, 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 Dontz seconded by Bjorkquist to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 P.M. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC  
Manistee Township Clerk