

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, April 12, 2007 at 7:30 P.M., 2007, 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 Zoning Administrator Rob Marble, Charles Gregg, Clara Kraus Saari, Fire Chief John Dunlap, County Commissioner Ed Haik, Keith Brown of PEG, County Commissioners Glen Lottie & Allan O'Shea, Sandy Saylor of the MRA.

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

The minutes of the March 8, 2007 Manistee Township Board meeting were provided. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Bjorkquist to approve the minutes as provided. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

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

The proposed minutes of the April 5, 2007 Manistee Township Planning Commission meeting were presented to each board member. The board will accept and place on file approved minutes of the Planning Commission.

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

Sandy Saylor, Director of the Manistee Recreation Association presented material on the philosophy of the MRA, the past and future budgets of the MRA. Approximately 13% of the users of the MRA are from Manistee Township, and are provided a half price user fee, by the contribution of Manistee Township. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Bjorkquist to authorize a one year contract, in the amount of \$9,000.00, for services with the MRA. Bjorkquist, Dinsen, Dontz, Smith, and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

County Commissioner Allan O'Shea presented material on the proposed change in the solid waste amendment, to include a surcharge of \$1.00 per cubic yard to finance a recycling program for Manistee County. The program would have a three-year sunset clause. Each township would annually be refunded \$5,000.00 toward their recycling program. O'Shea went on to say Emmet County has accomplished a 60% rate of recycling by their curbside service, after 15 years in the program. O'Shea also spoke of concerns over the odors being emitted at the land fill now. No action was taken by the board. Approval of the wording change is required by 2/3 of Manistee County units.

County Commissioner O'Shea also handed out material on the Michigan Energy Fair to be held at the Manistee County Fair Grounds on June 22-24, 2007. There

will be 65 speakers, 80% of the exhibit space is full at this time, there will be children programs as well as those for the adults. It is anticipated there will be 6,000 in attendance. Volunteers are needed to help, in three hour shifts. Volunteers may contact O'Shea.

Rob Marble, Zoning Administrator stated there were six permits issued in the past month with four of those for construction. The proposed draft of Manistee Township Zoning Ordinance has been sent to Wade Trim. It is anticipated the final draft should be back to be copied prior to the next Planning Commission meeting.

Fire Chief John Dunlap reported the Manistee Township Fire Department held four training sessions, and responded to ten fire/medical runs during the month of March. The men spent 150 man hours, and Dunlap had an additional 35 hours in service during the month of March. Presently there are six fire men from Manistee Township Fire Department receiving 40 hours of training for service at Blacker Airport. The airport just received their new fire truck. The airport is paying for the training and will pay the men if they are required for standby service.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated there have been no significant changes to any liquor licensees during the past month. He expects the activity will pick up with warmer weather.

Clara Saari attended and reported on the Oaks Prison quarterly meeting. The critical incidents over the past three months have been down in number. The Oaks staff is at just three vacancies. They hired prior to the state hiring freeze.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on May 7, 2007, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Road Commission building for grant awards. There are 28 grants in the amount of \$408,000.00.

Anderson had talked with Jerry Peterson of the MCRC in regard to the seal coating on Manistee Township roads. Dontz will make arrangements and go with Peterson to determine the Manistee Township roads needing seal coating. The cost of seal coating has gone from \$239,000.00 last year to \$371,000.00 this year.

Brown Township has \$20,000.00 to work on the Milarch Road project. Their share would be \$37,329.27. Anderson told the Road Commission we were not interested in working on it, if Brown did not have the money.

Bjorkquist stated he had talked with a Jordan Byelich regarding the Waterway Grant for the Bridge Street Boat Launch. The total cost of the project would be \$40,874.05. Byelich stated we would need to match 50%. It was moved by Dinsen, seconded by Bjorkquist to offer a 50% match of \$20,427.00, on the Waterway grant for Bridge Street.

Dinsen, Bjorkquist, Dontz, Smith and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

Bjorkquist has talked with Linda Hagstrom regarding regional grants for the playground equipment and expansion. Prior to any grants, the Manistee Township Recreational Plan must be on file with the Manistee County Planning, the Regional Planning office, and the State of Michigan.

County Commissioner Ed Haik stated due to Michigan State Police cuts in funding, their hours are also cut. Manistee County Commissioners have agreed to extending the hours of the Sheriff's Department from 20 hours to 24 hours per day. This is at a cost of \$53,000.00. Appointments have been made to the Mental Health Board, and the Jury Board. There will be Public Hearings on expansion of the Manistee County Road Commission Board from three to five members. The Manistee County Sheriff's Department Marine Patrol has received a grant for \$110,000.00 for a new patrol boat. Specifications are being drawn up at this time to get the best possible boat with the funds available.

The term on James Baker on the Manistee Township Planning Commission expires this month. Several applications were received for the position. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Smith to appoint Guy Finout III, to a three-year term on the Manistee Township Planning Commission. All voting in favor. Motion carried. James Baker has served on the Planning Commission since December of 1986. He was thanked for his past service and dedication.

The annual land lease of the property north of the fire hall was discussed. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Dinsen to renew the lease with Jim Sievert in the amount of \$300.00 for the property north of the Fire Hall. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Dinsen reminded those in attendance the annual trash day will be May 12, 2007 from 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.. Volunteers are needed, and the Boy Scouts will be asked to help this year.

The final payment is due the PEG Commission for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Smith to pay the PEG Commission the final payment of \$900.00, making this fiscal year equal with the prior year. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Anderson stated the old hall is in need of a roof, the new hall needs to be stained, and the old hall needs to be painted. It was the consensus to advertize for bids on the projects.

The current bills for the month of April were presented. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to pay the bills as they are received for the month of April. 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, April 25, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2007 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, May 10, 2007, at 7:30 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

In final public comment Clara Saari stated Guy E Finout III has been an asset to the Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board, and feels he will also be an asset to the Manistee Township Planning Commission.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved by Bjorkquist seconded by Dinsen to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 P.M. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC
Manistee Township Clerk