

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 7:30 P.M., at the Manistee Township Hall. Board members present were John W. Anderson, Dennis R. Bjorkquist, John M Dontz, and M. Rebecca Dinsen. Absent Connie L Smith. Also present was Zoning Administrator Guy E Finout III, Charles Gregg, Clara Kraus Saari, County Commissioner Ed Haik, Keith Brown of PEG, Mr. & Mrs. Russ Edenburn, 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 March 12, 2009 Manistee Township Board meeting were provided. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Bjorkquist to approve the minutes as provided. All voting in favor. Smith absent. Motion carried.

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

The approved minutes of the March 5, 2009 Manistee Township Planning Commission meeting were presented to each board member, accepted, and placed on file. The Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board met on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, and the minutes will be forthcoming.

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

Russ Edenburn is operating a recycling business at Merkey Road and US 31. He is offering recycling of all products, except glass at this time. He is collecting these items at no charge to the users. He would like to see the volume increase, where they can be open more days. Presently they are open 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, and Thursday, and 8:00 A.M. to Noon on Saturday. They will provide us with flyers on their business, hours, and acceptable items.

County Commissioners Ed Haik stated the county is looking into hybrid vehicles when they replace county cars. The County Commissioners passed a resolution in opposition to the Deputizing of Tribal DNR officers, and sent it to the Governor. However, the Director of the Michigan State Police, and Governor Granholm have approved the deputizing of the Tribal DNR officers. This will affect 36 entire counties from the Grand River, north to Marquette. The Manistee Post of the Michigan State Police is preparing to implement this program, in Manistee County.

County Commissioner Ed Haik noted the Board of Commissioners will be voting on the ATV/ORV Ordinance on April 28, 2009 at 6:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Court House.

Guy E Finout III, Zoning Administrator stated the office has been quiet with only two receipts in March. The work on the ordinance is about 2/3 finished, with weekly work sessions with Attorney Wilson to cross the t's and dot the i's.

The Manistee Township Fire Department held five training sessions, and responded to nine fire/medical runs during the month of March. There were 196 man hours plus the training session/ meetings for the month of March.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated there have been no significant changes to any liquor licensees during the past month. However, with spring, the Heathlands, Douglas Valley, and Insta-Launch will be back in business.

The Oaks Prison Liaison Committee met this month. The Oaks is a Level 4 Prison with 944 prisoners, and a capacity of 1056 prisoners. The prison employs 340 people. Clara Kraus Saari asked if the rumors of the possible closing of the Oaks were accurate. There is a possibility of the Oaks closing, as the State of Michigan is considering early release of 3,500-5,500 prisoners, as a cost saving measure. The changes in sentencing guidelines at the state level would expand the population of the local county jails. County Commissioner Haik stated Manistee County is looking at ways and means to expand the county jail.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on Monday, April 13, 2009, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Road Commission building. This will be the time for oral presentations.

The Bridge Street Boat Launch is in the review process at the State level.

The lawn maintenance for the spring is in the process. The Boy Scouts who use the old hall will clean around that building. Gregg from Victorian Cars will clean the front lawn at the old hall, due to the debris plowed up during the winter. The children who vandalized the playground equipment will be picking up around the new hall and the fire hall.

Dinsen noted May 5, 2009 from 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. will be the School Election Day. All registered voters are urged to vote in this election.

The Eleventh Annual Trash Day for Manistee Township will be held on Saturday, May 9, 2009 from 8:30 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.. Metal will be separated from trash, with each person unloading their own trash. The Boy Scouts have volunteered to help. Any other community member is invited to help on this day.

The land lease with Jim Sievert will expire in May. It was moved by Dinsen, seconded by Dontz to approve the renewal of the land lease of the parcel north of the Fire Hall, with Jim Sievert. Sievert does maintain liability insurance. All voting in favor. Smith absent. Motion carried.

It was recommended by Supervisor Anderson to reappoint Jack Dinsen, and Mike Willett to the Manistee Township Planning Commission. It was recommended by Anderson to appoint Clara Kraus Saari to the Manistee Township Planning Commission, to fill the unexpired term of Guy Finout III. It was further recommended by Anderson to appoint Jeff Mikula from an alternate to a board member of the Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Bjorkquist to accept the recommendation of Supervisor Anderson and appoint Jack Dinsen, Mike Willett to the Manistee Township Planning Commission for three year terms expiring in 2012, Clara Kraus Saari to complete the term expiring 2010 on the Manistee Township Planning Commission, and Jeff Mikula to the Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board, for a three-year term expiring in 2012. All voting in favor. Smith absent. Motion carried.

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

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on Monday, April 13, 2009, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Road Commission building. This will be the time for oral presentations

The Manistee County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will meet at the Bear Lake Township Hall, on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, at 7:00 P.M.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Zoning Appeals Board will be held on Tuesday, May 5, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street, if there is a scheduled meeting.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, May 7, 2009 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 14, 2009, 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 Bjorkquist seconded by Dontz to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M. All voting in favor. Smith absent. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC
Manistee Township Clerk