

The regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board was held on Thursday, July 12, 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 was Charles Gregg, Clara Kraus Saari, Fire Chief John Dunlap, County Commissioner Ed Haik, Keith Brown of PEG, Bob & 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 June 14, 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 July. 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 May 3 & June 7, 2007 Manistee Township Planning Commission meeting were presented to each board member, accepted, and placed on file.

Correspondence was received from various sources and given to each board member to read and initial. Homeward Bound Animal Shelter would like to hold a tag day on July 27 & 28 in Manistee Township. West Shore Auxiliary would like to hold a tag day on August 10, 2007 in Manistee Township. There were no objections from the board.

County Commissioner Ed Haik stated the surcharge to establish a county wide recycling program must be approved by 14 townships, five villages, and the City of Manistee. The Manistee County Commissioners will meet on July 19 at 10:30 A.M. for a Public Hearing on the Sanitary code for Region 10. The Manistee County Commissioners will meet on July 31 at 5:00 P.M., at the Manistee County Road Commission offices to hold a public hearing on the proposal to make the Road Commission board a five-person board. The ORV Group is active in pursuing a county wide ordinance. H.B 4323 on ORV's on the road right-of way has passed 107 - 0 in the House. The bill is now waiting in Senate Committee. Blacker Airport Terminal will open in September 2007 as planned. The City of Manistee, the LRBOI, and the County are co-ordinating a county wide strategic planning mission. More details will be forthcoming.

Fire Chief John Dunlap reported the Manistee Township Fire Department held four training sessions, and responded to six fire/medical runs during the month of June. Various classes were held during the month with 124 total man hours reported for June.

Liquor Inspector Bjorkquist stated there have been no significant changes to any liquor licensees during the past month.

Zoning Administrator Rob Marble was not at the meeting.

Clara Kraus Saari reported on the Oaks meeting held on July 12. The prison has 385 employees, 920 inmates. It is the only completely Level Four Prison in the state of Michigan. The critical incidents have been low with two in April, four in May, and three in June. Gary Lands the Human Resource Director explained to those present, that every person employed at the Oaks is required to complete 64 hours of comprehensive training every year. Various civic programs have been prison sponsored.

The Little River Revenue Sharing Board will meet on October 8, 2007, at 5:00 P.M. at the Manistee County Road Commission building. Bjorkquist stated the deadline for grant applications is September 14, verbal presentations will be October 8, and the grant awards will be held on November 5, 2007.

The loss of the township paper recycling program was explained. Other options for paper recycling include Kennedy School, and Manistee Catholic Central.

In the past Camp Sauble workers have stained the hall & garage. Bids will be solicited for staining the hall & garage, with the township supplying the materials. The buildings will need to be caulked, the nails set, and the stain applied.

Bids for determining the structural safety of the Bridge Street building were advertized. Abonmarche submitted the only bid. It was moved by Bjorkquist, seconded by Dontz to accept the Abonmarche contract for professional engineering study of the 3 Bridge Street building, at a cost of \$740.00. Smith, Bjorkquist, Dinsen, Dontz, and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

Bjorkquist stated it was not his intention to apply for a grant for the proposed cement ramp, and picnic tables for the playground. Dinsen will check for possible grant sources, for the project.

The allowable millage rate to be levied by Manistee Township is 1.4812, and not the 1.43 mills advertized in February. The difference will amount to approximately \$3,150.00 for this year. It was moved by Dinsen, seconded by Dontz to adopt and appropriate 1.4812 mills for Manistee Township as the taxable rate for 2007. Dinsen, Smith, Bjorkquist, Dontz, and Anderson voting in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Anderson had not talked with the candidates for an alternate to the Zoning Appeals board. This appointment was tabled until August 2007 meeting.

Consumers Energy has requested removal of a street light at the new Blacker Airport. It was moved by Dontz, seconded by Smith to remove the street light as requested by Consumers Energy. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Dinsen provided township board members with a copy of the proposed by laws for the Manistee Township Planning Commission as adopted and recommended by that board. The township board needs to review these bylaws, prior to their acceptance or rejection.

Bjorkquist stated Manistee Township should be promoting our area, and getting businesses to locate in Manistee Township. Suggestions were to contact the Manistee County Chamber of Commerce, West Shore College Marketing classes, a private business consultant, or a group to promote our township.

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

The Manistee County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will meet at the Bear Lake Township Hall, on July 25, 2007, at 7:00 P.M.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, August 2, 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, August 9, 2007, at 7:30 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

In public comment Clara Kraus Saari was concerned with the placement and amount of interest we were receiving on our General Fund account. Treasurer Smith explained the rates and placement.

There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved by Bjorkquist seconded by Dontz to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 P.M. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC
Manistee Township Clerk