

June 20, 2016, Merrill Township Regular Board Meeting

Merrill Township Community Complex, 1585 West 11 Mile Road, Bitely, Michigan 49309

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1. Call to order Baldwin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Pledge to Flag Jackson led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Prayer Baldwin offered opening prayer.
4. Roll call Board members present: Supervisor Barry Baldwin, Clerk Marilyn Pembroke, Treasurer Debra Fisher, and Trustees Gene Fisher and Frank Jackson.
5. Approval of meeting agenda **G. Fisher moved, seconded by Jackson, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Ayes all; motion carried.**
6. Approval of consent agenda **G. Fisher moved, seconded by Jackson, to approve the consent agenda with corrected check numbers. Ayes all; motion carried.**
 - a. Approval of May 16, 2016 Board minutes
 - b. Receive correspondence (no Board action required)
 - c. Approval to pay bills General account: checks #14702 - #14740 (corrected to ending #14749), \$21,585.77, and payroll direct deposits #130 - #137, \$2,558.82; general account total \$24,144.59; and Transfer Station account: checks #3209 - #3215 (corrected to ending #3217), total \$13,915.96.

Baldwin introduced Pat Hedlund, the current Newaygo County Sheriff, who spoke regarding his candidacy and other issues on the August 2 primary election.

7. Lilley Twp. Fire Department report A copy of the May regular written report was filed. Chief Scott DeBruyne spoke regarding:
 - Brett Frederick stepping down from Deputy Chief position, but will continue as a firefighter,
 - A letter that Randy Fulton sent to the townships served by the Lilley Fire Department. DeBruyne explained the incorrect financial figures in that letter (a response letter was sent), noting that Lilley Fire Department is transparent regarding finances, and strives to make the best use of its resources.
 - The emphasis on training, both firefighting and medical, for those serving (currently 17) on the Lilley Township Fire Department.
 - Support, praise, and appreciation for the work involved in providing the fire protection services was expressed by the audience and the Board.
 - Lilley Township Supervisor Bob Bowens thanked Merrill Township for its support.

A question from the audience was asked as to whether First Responders are coming to Merrill Township. Baldwin explained that the money to support this service was voted down in our Township a few years ago.

8. Zoning Administrator's report None presented this month.
9. Supervisor's report Baldwin reported regarding:
- Work on 31st Street to be completed by the Newaygo County Road Commission during August or September
 - Working to get an estimate for paving at the Transfer Station
 - Working with Mark Bates regarding the beach.
 - Expressed thanks to Randy Paine who has offered to bulldoze and bring in sand at the beach.
 - Regarding Clean-up Week/Beautification Week: Baldwin noted that there were two volunteers from the Board and two from the public. He has written letters of thanks to the companies who gave time and money for the project. He also reported that 17 trailer loads of rubbish were deposited at the Transfer Station and that there were fewer tires dropped for disposal this year.
10. Clerk's report Pembroke reported on some further issues with her computer. She also expressed thanks to the Fire Department for their work.
11. Treasurer's report The Board received the May 31, 2016 thru April 30, 2016 written report (copy filed). Cash balances: General Fund, \$185,498.40; Road Fund, \$261,769.97; Fire Fund, \$59,159.44; and Transfer Station Fund, \$68,579.99. D. Fisher also reported that she met with a representative of Chemical Bank, and requested that the Board review the material that she received regarding Chemical Bank's checking account cost estimates.
12. Planning Commission report G. Fisher reported the Planning Commission that work on the Zoning Ordinance is winding down. Only a couple more meetings should be necessary before meeting with the public regarding the revisions.
13. Public comment Sandy Clark, from Lake Township, a candidate for State Representative of the 100th District, introduced herself and reviewed her background and experience for that position.
- Public comments were received regarding:
- Problem with people who have been removing candidate signs from people's yards.
 - Concern about the piles of tires at Township businesses.
 - Estimate to grub/grade the same Township road has more than doubled from last year to this year.
14. Correspondence, board action required Randy Fulton letter (Copy filed) No action taken.
15. Old business
- a. Attorney review: Fire Fund tax money expenditure question Cliff Bloom has sent conflict-of-interest letters for both Lilley and Merrill Township signatures before he can proceed regarding allowable uses of Fire Fund money.
 - b. Attorney review: Road Fund millage renewal Nothing received yet.
 - c. Attorney review: Fire Fund millage renewal Nothing received yet.

- d. N.C. Treasurer re: Tax Foreclosure Sale “right of refusal after the State of Michigan to ‘purchase for a public action’” There was no Board action to purchase.
16. New Business Chemical Bank Proposal D.Fisher explained that the mileage to the Big Rapids bank would be significant, and she recommended taking no action to accept the proposal. There was no Board action on the proposal.
17. Adjourn Baldwin adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Marilyn L. Pembroke, Clerk