

## **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP**

### **REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

#### **COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571**

**MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010, 7:00 P.M.**

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Board members present at roll call were Supervisor Neubecker, Clerk Hodges, Treasurer Lambert, Trustee Bondy and Trustee Corrado. Ten members of the public were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - Two items were added under New Business (1) Adopt the Township Improvement Fund Budget (2) Adopt the Building Fund Budget. After approval of minutes we added Cal Benke from the Census Bureau. M/Lambert S/Bondy to adopt the agenda as amended. All in favor. Motion carried.

Establish any conflict of interest of items that are on the agenda. None were presented.

Approval of Minutes - M/Lambert S/Corrado to approve the minutes from the February 8, 2010 regular board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Cal Benke from the Census Bureau was present and said that the Census Bureau was hiring people to work on the 2010 Census and if anyone was interested or knew of anyone that would be interested to please contact him or the Census Bureau, because they like to hire people that live in the area if possible.

Correspondence was reviewed.

#### **Committee Reports:**

(A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bondy said that she still has not heard anything from the Sheriff's Department about the Work Crew program. She said that she contacted a lumber company about buying the trees that we may be cutting down at the park, but they said that they were not interested because the trees were not straight enough. Another company said that they would cut them down for firewood, but Bondy said that we had them once before and all they did was cut down the choice trees and did not clean up after and left a big mess. Neubecker said that we aren't sure how many trees we want cut down since we really don't have the plan yet. Bondy asked if we want to put

the septic in the same spot. Discussion followed. Neubecker said that we should all go over to the park after the snow is gone and try to vision where would be a good spot for the restrooms and the pavillion. Bondy said that she ordered the buoys for the swim area.

(B) Fire Board - Minutes from the March 3<sup>rd</sup> Fireboard meeting were presented. The minutes showed that there were 0 fire runs and 9 rescue runs for the month of February. Copy of the minutes is on file.

(C) Road Commission Meeting - Trustee Corrado said that he was unable to attend the Road Commission meeting this morning due to his work schedule although he said that he was able to attend the County Affairs meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup>. He said the reason he attended the County Affairs meeting was basically to voice concerns in regards to the on going problem that we are having with the road commission as well as to support Blue Lake Township in their efforts in conjunction with ours to bring some kind of resolution to the problems that we are enduring with the road commission. He said that he met with the committee and there were approximately 12 people present including the board itself. Corrado said that he voiced his concerns about the road commission as to the operations, the lack of concern on the part of the board as a whole, their personal agenda rather than the agenda of the taxpayers and that appointments need to be made to the road commission with people that are qualified as business people with common sense. He said that it doesn't take an engineer to run the road commission but it does take someone with a good level head. He said that there will be two positions open on the road commission at the end of this year and he stressed that this County Affairs committee take these concerns to the commissioners and stress the importance of putting people on the road commission that have the thoughts of the people that elected them to their positions. He said that our township board has one main objective and that is to take care of the money and the problems in this township and take care of our people. Corrado said that that is not happening with the road commission. He said that the road commission is taking care of themselves and that they will tell us that without the townships they would not be able to operate. Corrado said that when you have 75% of your money going out to benefits and wages, no one could operate a business with 25% of their income. Corrado said that the County Affairs listened to him and Blue Lake Township and other people that were present that exerted the same concerns. He said he feels that the CA committee understands and realize that a board has to be made up of people with class and character.

Neubecker said that in conjunction with what Corrado was discussing, he said that he had invited the other eleven township supervisors for a meeting here at the township hall as kind of a spearhead to part of the mediation that we agreed to with the road commission, for input and decision making for a new contract with the road commission on how they will do their road improvement. He said that six township supervisors attended the meeting and since then he has had three more that have indicated that they would like to get on board. He said that they are having another meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup> and that there will be nine supervisors present and it will be strictly on what position they will take on

the road commission's proposal for roadwork. He said that the road commission's proposal is to charge the townships 110% of the project before the work is even started, they also want to charge 8 ½% just to give us a bid on a project, which would be 8 ½% of the total cost of the job plus they want to charge us labor and for equipment, which Neubecker said is unsatisfactory and the other supervisors agree also. He said that the road commission would tell you that if it were not for the townships, they would not be able to function. However, Neubecker said that we are not here to support the road commission and take care of their roads. He said that taking care of their roads is their statutory requirement.

Neubecker said that the supervisors were supposed to meet with the road commission today to discuss the road commission's proposal, however this is the week for Board of Review and all supervisors are required to be at the BOR and they asked to have the meeting the week of March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The road commission said no that they were going to move forward with this at the road commissioner's meeting on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Neubecker said that he contacted our attorney, who contacted their attorney and the road commission did fax a letter to all of the supervisors today saying that they will take this matter up on April 12<sup>th</sup>. Neubecker said that in the meantime there will be a meeting of the supervisors on March 17<sup>th</sup> and they will have legal counsel present and they will also have legal counsel present on April 12<sup>th</sup> when they meet with the road commission.

Neubecker said that it is unsatisfactory that the road commission should be run on the back of the taxpayers of the county and to pay for equipment that has already been paid for. He said that it is also unfair for us to pay the wages of the road commission when they get ACT 51 money that is supposed to be budgeted correctly to pay their people and to pay for their equipment and correct the problems of the roads.

Corrado said that Neubecker has brought the supervisors together and he feels that collectively they will be able to bring a closure to the problems that the townships have been having for the last few years with the road commission. Short discussion followed.

(D) Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Wendy reported that she has no new open or closed cases at this time. She said that in regards to the property on 571, north of us, they have been doing some cleanup on that one. She said that she has an appointment with Zoning to go over some of the Zoning Ordinances that have to do with unsafe structures. She said that she would be sending out a second letter towards the end of the month, to some other property owners on 571 where there is a problem, to resume cleanup.

(E) Liquor Enforcement - Nothing to report

(F) Commissioner Lou Nemeth - Not yet present

Treasurers Report - Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of February. The report showed that there was \$397,169.96 in the various

bank accounts, \$19,099.67 in the Township Improvement MM account, \$249,642.10 in the Tax account and \$100.00 in the Petty Cash account. Lambert said that she would be making the final payout for the tax account this week. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the treasurers report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### Old Business:

(A) Grants - Treasurer Lambert said that she attended a workshop on Grants, in Grayling, that was put on by the DNR. She said that there are grants available through the DNR and that we as a township would qualify for a grant for Sands Park. She said that we would qualify under both the Land & Water Conservation Grant program and also under the Community Recreation Area program. Lambert said that currently the DNR is expecting about \$35 million dollars for 2010 and this is money that has to go specifically into land acquisition for recreational improvement. She said that about 75% of the money goes into land acquisition and 25% goes into recreational improvement, which is what we would qualify for under the Park. Lambert said that we could make application under both programs even though we would only receive one grant, and the reason we would make application under both programs is because we may not meet all of the qualifications under one of the programs but we may meet them under the other one. She said that unfortunately the deadline for applications is April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year and we wouldn't have time to put something together to meet the deadline. She said that they do require a five-year plan and you also have to have a Park & Recreation committee in place and we would also have to have a resolution on file that we are going out for the grant. Lambert said that if we put in the new restrooms this year that would show them that we have funds and have the plan in place and if we are approved for the grant then what we spent on the restrooms would go towards our share of the matching funds. Discussion followed. Lambert said that some townships do their own grant applications and some townships hire someone to write them. She thought that we might want to look at hiring someone to write a grant for us because it is such a big project. More discussion. M/Neubecker S/Corrado to move forward for the 2011 application for grants through the DNR. All in favor. Motion carried.

#### New Business:

(A) Pay BOR members prior to the April meeting - M/Neubecker S/Lambert to pay the BOR members their wages prior to the April meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

(B) 2010 Maintenance & Support agreement for the Optech Voting Machine - M/Neubecker S/Bondy to opt for the full service agreement on the Optech Voting Machine in the amount of \$271.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

(C) Approve payment to the Fire Department of the final payout from the tax account prior to the April meeting. M/Neubecker S/Bondy that we make payments from the final tax distribution prior to the April board meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

(D) Adopt the 2010-2011 Cost Center Budget - Neubecker said that the only major change that we made to the budget this year, which was discussed at the budget hearing held prior to the regular board meeting, is that we did include an \$80,000.00 expenditure for the removal of the current change facility and bathrooms at the park and the construction of two individual pit toilet bathrooms. There were no wage increases this year as it was a negative year for cost of living increases, no changes to mileage reimbursements and no changes to the meeting allowances. Neubecker asked if the public had any questions regarding the 2010-2011 budget. There were none. M/Neubecker S/Lambert to adopt the 2010-2011 Cost Center Budget as discussed at the Budget Hearing. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Corrado yes, Hodges yes, Lambert yes and Neubecker yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Neubecker asked to skip item E for now and do Items F & G first.

(F) Adopt the Township Improvement Fund Budget - Neubecker said that the Township Improvement Fund Balance is \$225,205.32 along with a special Money Market account with \$19,092.36. \$16,551.37 from the Money Market account has been set aside for that \$25,000.00 payment that we are currently under court order to make to the Road Commission. He said that we are not putting any additional funds into the Township Improvement Fund at this time. We will be using \$80,000.00 out of the TIF to put into the bathrooms at the park. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to adopt the Township Improvement Fund Budget as proposed at the Budget Hearing. Roll call vote. Lambert yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Corrado yes and Bondy yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

(G) Adopt the Building Fund Budget - Neubecker said that at the Budget Hearing we also discussed the Building Fund and currently we have \$62,486.43 in the fund and we are not proposing making any expenditures out of the Building Fund this year and we are also not making any deposits into the Building Fund this year, so the amount of \$62,486.43 will carry over into the 2010-2011 budget. M/Neubecker S/Lambert to adopt the township Building Fund budget as proposed at the Budget Hearing. Roll call vote. Bondy yes, Corrado yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes and Lambert yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

(E) Internet Towers & Phone Service - Neubecker said that he would like to investigate the possibility of the township paying to erect a tower on the ten acres that we purchased recently and invite rentals into that tower such as Chain-o-Lakes internet wireless and see if we can't get Verizon to put in a repeater on the tower so we can have better phone service and maybe AT&T also. Discussion followed.

County Commissioner Lou Nemeth - Nemeth gave an update on the Broadband.

Approval of Bills - Bills were reviewed. Addition of \$271.00 to Election Source for the maintenance agreement for the year 2010 for the Optech Voting machine. M/Lambert S/Bondy to approve the bills as presented with the one addition. Roll call vote. Hodges

yes, Neubecker yes, Bondy yes, Corrado yes and Lambert yes. All in favor. Motion carried. Checks #11508 through #11534 in the amount of \$17,832.08 were issued for payment.

Public Comments began at 8:24 p.m. - Chuck Vernon asked if we were still going to put in a dock at the boat ramp. Neubecker said yes, this spring we are going to put a dock in at the launch. Chuck Vernon also said that if this project at the park does go forward and he can assist in any way, he would like to do that. Newsletter & stickers for large items were also discussed. Public comments ended at 8:27 p.m.

Upon proper motion the meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Mary Hodges  
Coldsprings Township Clerk

