

**COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
COLDSPRINGS TOWNSHIP HALL-COUNTY ROAD 571**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2011, 7:00 P.M.

Supervisor Neubecker called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was said by all. Board members present at roll call were Supervisor Neubecker, Clerk Hodges, Treasurer Lambert, Trustee Corrado and Trustee Bagnell. Approx. 11 members of the public were also present.

Adoption of the Agenda - Hodges said to delete item B under new business and put it on the agenda for December. Corrado asked that Zoning be put under New Business as item B. M/Lambert S/Corrado 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:

(A) October 10, 2011 regular board meeting. M/Lambert S/Corrado to approve the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

(B) Punch & Judy Special Assessment 2nd Public Hearing of October 26, 2011. M/Lambert S/Bagnell to approve the minutes as written. All in favor. Motion carried.

Correspondence was reviewed - Hodges said she did receive two requests under the Freedom of Information Act, one was from Mr. Drys who lives on S Maple Valley Rd and he requested the Oaths of Office for the board members and also the Bonds for the board members and the second request was from Scott Sonnenberg requesting copies of the minutes from August 8th, October 12th and October 26th public hearings for Punch & Judy Special Assessment, both written and audio recordings. Sonnenberg also requested a copy of the formula to calculate benefit and the methodology employed to apportionment formula and who determined the methodology. She said that she has responded to both requests.

Committee Reports:

(A) Planning & Maintenance - Trustee Bagnell reported that the fall cleanup of the cemetery has been completed except for the removal of the flags. He said that he does have to get hold of the maintenance person and have him trim the bushes around the township hall.

(B) Fireboard - Minutes from the November 2, 2011 fireboard meeting were presented. The minutes showed that there were 9 fire runs and 15 rescue runs for the month of

October. Complete copy of the minutes is on file.

(C) Road Commissioners Meeting - Trustee Corrado reported that they are going to take care of the large holes that are on E Shore Dr and also 612 near Rogers Rd. He said that they are also talking about doing 612 east of 571 up to the new part that they did last year, with an overlay. Plans for Starvation Lake Road are being implemented now as to how they are going to take of that as well. Corrado said that they are also thinking about stopping all brining unless it is a main road and then the townships would be responsible for contracting to have the secondary roads brined. They said that their equipment is getting outdated and they can't push it that hard anymore. The road commission said that they would have to contract it out and that the townships would have to contract through the road commission for the brining and that the brine is running between 8 and 10 cents a gallon. Neubecker asked why would the townships have to contract through the road commission for brining and pay for something that is provided to them free of charge. Corrado said that that was one of his questions to the road commission and the other question was that he understood that the road commission was responsible for maintaining roadways and that would include brining. He also said that they raised the secretary's salary to \$45,000 and the manager's salary to \$50,000. Corrado said that the road commission is going to buy a snow plow truck from Leelanau County for \$35,000, equipped and ready to go for the winter, whether than spend \$150,000-\$200,000 for a new truck. They said that the truck only had 100,000 miles on it and was in excellent condition. He also said that the road commission sent a letter to the three property owners on Pike St., with an estimate of \$82,000, to upgrade Pike Street to current road standards for year around maintenance. The letter stated that any costs incurred for any part of the project would be the responsibility of the residents on Pike Street and could be funded through a special assessment district set up by the township.

(D) Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Wendy reported that she has received two responses back from letters that she had sent out regarding property that appeared to be abandoned. One was on Central Avenue and the other was on Cunningham Road. She also reported that she spoke with the property owner that has the burned out trailer on Central Avenue and that someone is supposed to meet with him this month to assist him with the removal and cleanup of the mobile home.

(E) Park & Recreation Committee - Brenda reported that the meeting scheduled for November 1st was cancelled due to not having a quorum so there were no minutes. There was \$6.03 in the donation box by the boat launch last month. She said that she received a phone call from a family that is interested in possibly donating a parcel of land at the north end of Manistee Lake to the township. She said that they are seeking legal counsel at the present time to see how they would proceed with that and they will let us know. Neubecker said that he went out and looked at the property and that that property is land bound. He said that there is currently no access to it. Short discussion. Neubecker said that there is no platted access and unless there was the township really wouldn't be interested. Brenda will contact the family. Brenda also reported that all of the notices have been published in the paper for the Kalkaska Farmers Picnic Association concerning the park and the attorney said that we have to wait 28 days before we can

have the hearing in front of the Judge. She gave the board an updated list of all the grants that the P&R Committee has applied for. She said that they have also applied for a grant from Shell and they are in the process of applying for a grant from Trans Canada. She said that we should hear back on the MNRTF Grant around December 7th. She said that that grant was the big one for \$47,000 and would go towards the new restrooms and pavilion. The big news was that the Passport Grant was approved. It is for \$25,000 and the township matching funds portion of \$11,500. She said that would go for the restroom down near the boat launch, playground equipment, the well and the pump. Brenda gave the board members a copy of the agreement and resolution that will be on December's agenda. She said that the next step would be to hire an engineer, which we will go out for bids for.

(F) County Commissioner Stu McKinnon - Not Present

Treasurers Report:

Treasurer Lambert presented the monthly reconciliation report for the month of October. The report showed that there was \$363,585.93 in the various bank accounts. \$10.07 in the Forest Area Federal Credit Union, \$10,594.33 in the Members Credit Union Building Fund MM account, \$18,439.84 in the Members Credit Union Township Improvement Fund MM account, \$44,256.81 in the Tax account and \$100.00 in the Petty Cash account. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the treasurers report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business:

(A) Cunningham Road Property - Hodges said that the bid notice was in the paper for two weeks and we never received a call on it. Lambert said that nobody wants it because of the cost of the cleanup. Discussion followed. Neubecker said that he wants to go on record stating that he is frustrated with the fact that we are in violation of our own township ordinance right now and that is not appropriate or proper and we have to look at doing something with the property one way or the other. He said that we did not ask for the property, we had no choice other than to take it from the State. The letter we received from the State really didn't give us any time other than to take over the property. Neubecker suggested that we get bids to clean up the property. Discussion. Hodges suggested that we wait until possibly March and advertise for bids for cleanup. Neubecker said to make it a matter of record that the township wants to move forward with cleanup on the property as soon as the weather permits, to bring us into compliance with our own ordinance.

New Business:

(A) Agreement for Kalkaska Public School summer 2012 tax collection - Short discussion. M/Neubecker S/Hodges to accept the agreement for summer tax collection for Kalkaska Public Schools for the year 2012. All in favor. Motion carried.

(B) Zoning - Corrado said that he attended a meeting at the Kankaska County Zoning Board of Appeals on November 9th. He said it was regarding a setback variance for Ralph & Marilyn Gohr whose property is in Coldsprings Township. He said that one of the board members had to step down because of a conflict of interest and from that point on he was very disappointed by the way the meeting was conducted. He said in his opinion it was not very professional. He said that they never had a land use permit and never pulled a permit, they never went to Zoning to discuss it, they went to the Building Department and the girl in the Building Department (so the contractor says) gave them permission to go forward with the project and there was never any objection until a complaint was filed by some of the property owners around the construction site. He said that there were enough objections that they should have considered them. But the ZBOA went ahead and gave them the variance with a 30-day wait time so that any objections could be filed. Corrado said that we as a board should appeal the decision on behalf of the township. Neubecker explained that we (the township) appealed the decision on Gancers construction and we took it all the way to the State Court of Appeals, and that we could not even get the question heard because the court made the determination that the township does not have the authority or the right to act as an injured party unless the township actually owned a piece of property adjoining the property in question. Discussion followed. The board took no action.

Approval of Bills:

Bills were reviewed. One bill was added for Michigan Election Resource in the amount of \$19.92. M/Bagnell S/Corrado to approve the bills with the one addition, in the amount of \$19,293.73. Roll call vote. Lambert yes, Hodges yes, Neubecker yes, Corrado yes and Bagnell yes. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments:

Began at 8:03 p.m. Comments were received from two persons. Garbage truck turning around in a driveway and the condition of Covert Road. Public comments ended at 8:11 p.m.

Upon proper motion the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Mary Hodges, Coldsprings Township Clerk