

BEARINGER TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
17034 Town Hall Highway  
Millersburg, Michigan  
December 9, 2014

Supervisor J.G. Malaski called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Present for the meeting were Board Members, Supervisor John G. Malaski, Treasurer Keitha Malaski, Clerk Beverly Rossetto and Trustees Kay Dowker and Archie J. Patterson II. Property Owners in attendance were Irv Dedow, Doug Wood, Doug Thompsen, Dave Cowper, Bob Hartmann, Nancy Shutes, Jim McKindles, Barb and Bill Davis, Anna and Larry Beach and Tom Harkleroad.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion was made by Kay Dowker to approve the agenda, supported by Keitha Malaski. Five aye votes, no nays. Motion carried.

**Approval of Consent Agenda:** Motion was made by Kay Dowker and seconded by Keitha Malaski to approve the Consent Agenda and pay the bills. Five aye votes, no nays. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** **November 14, 2014 Minutes.** Motion was made by Keitha Malaski and supported by Kay Dowker to approve the November 14, 2014 minutes. Five ayes votes, no nays. Motion carried.

**Correspondence:** Clerk Rossetto reported that two (2) letters were received:

1. Michigan Township Association, Presque Isle County Chapter of Township Officials quarterly meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2015 at 6:30 pm, hosted by Krakow Township.
2. MetLife, as of November 15, 2014 MetLife Insurance Co. of Connecticut will change the name to MetLife Insurance Co. USA.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Keitha Malaski reported that winter taxes were mailed December 1, 2014. As of today over forty (40) taxes bills have been returned because property owners have moved and have failed to supply new addresses to the Treasurer's office. Any property owner who moves can contact the Treasurer by mail or telephone with an address change. Following are the account balances ended November 30, 2014

1. General Fund - Savings Account	\$149,506.95
2. General Fund - Checking Account	5,873.42
3. CD (Savings) Account	104,664.82
4. EMS Money Market Account	<u>15,545.15</u>
Total (All Accounts)	\$275,590.34

**Clerk's Report:** Clerk Rossetto reported that copies of the November 2014 Minutes, Check Register, Balance Sheet and the Amended Budget Report ending November 30, 2014 are available.

**Assessor's Report:** Supervisor John Malaski read the Assessor's report. The Assessor has been reviewing and working on the AMAR audit response and has given the letter of response to the Supervisor to be sent to the state of Michigan. The CPI for the 2015 tax year will be 1.6%. Mr. Most is working to complete all field visits and entering deeds. The last Board of Review meeting of 2014 was held today at 2:30 pm, several people were in attendance.

**Trustee's Report:** Trustee Dowker gave the Onaway Area Ambulance Service report for the November 19, 2014 meeting. They went over the preliminary drawing of the 16'X36' addition and discussed the finances. Moran Iron is building the deer catcher for the new ambulance for \$800.00, the manufacturers price was \$1,200.00, a saving plus supporting local business. The Workers Comp Insurance will cost less in 2015 because there have been no claims for a while.

Trustee Patterson reported on the Rogers City Ambulance Authority Special meeting held, November 12, 2014, to consider the Allied proposal to sign a fifteen year contract. The RCAA felt that there should be a meeting with the other users of the service to come up with a unified approach. A group meeting was held in Gaylord, Michigan, November 24, 2014. The sudden increase in overhead costs was the focus. After discussion of various options the Allied CEO was asked to come into the meeting and a one year contract with an overhead value of approximately \$230,000.00 was presented. This will be taken back to the Allied board and a decision will be present at the next RCAA board meeting December 10, 2014.

**Supervisor's Report:** Supervisor J.G. Malaski reviewed the results of the AMAR audit and stated that Bearinger Township completed the audit in good shape.

**Old Business: Snowplowing Contract** – being no response to the ad for snowplowing bids placed in the Advance and Outlook newspapers, Supervisor Malaski contacted Northcott Excavating for recommendations. Mr. Northcott proposed a contract for \$55.00 per plowing and salt will be at the cost of salt. John Malaski made a motion to accept the snowplowing contract, Beverly Rossetto seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Kay Dowker – yes, Keitha Malaski – yes, Archie Patterson – yes, Beverly Rossetto – yes and John Malaski – yes. Motion carried.

**Township Meeting dates for 2015** – John Malaski presented a schedule for regular Bearinger Township Board meetings for 2015. Meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month with January 13, 2014 and February 10, 2015 meetings to be held in the afternoon at 1:00 pm. The following meetings will be held at 6:30 pm: March 10, 2015, April 14, 2015, May 12, 2015, June 9, 2015, July 14, 2015, August 11, 2015, September 8, 2015, October 13, 2015, November 10, 2015 and December 8, 2015.

**New Business:** Irv Dedow presented a power point sample of Planning & Zoning for Bearinger Township. Mr. Dedow stated that much of the information was from a survey with input from our citizen/property owners. Bearinger Township is a beautiful and special place. We receive very little planning and zoning from the county, it doesn't seem to care about our township. We need to remove the county's mismanagement of our township. Bearinger Township does have a Master Plan and it needs to be updated. Zoning creates standards for our community, most of Bearinger is off the grid, it is a rural area with cottages and homes along the shorelines of Lake Huron, Black Lake and Clear Lake, nothing is in the middle, there is no electricity, telephones, road, etc., we need to preserve our community and property values.

Zoning Overlay is property that exists 300 feet from any body of water; we need to protect our local water and natural resources. Overlay is a greenbelt and/or a setback protected strip of land along water shorelines to prevent runoff and erosion of soil.

Irv gave an estimated cost for the operating of Planning and Zoning for our township. Permit fees would be used to support the Planning and Zoning Boards. The cost for the first year would be around \$3,000.00 for training, mileage, and supplies, to establish a Planning and Zoning department.

Doug Wood asked if the lakefront homeowners would have to change what they have now. Irv replied that existing homes are grandfathered in.

Jim McKindles asked who did the survey and who was for Planning and Zoning. A lengthy discussion about why and how we should protect our community and way of life ended the presentation.

**Public comments:** Irv Dedow thanked Archie Patterson for his hard work and effort in getting the cemetery surveyed, cleaned up and marking all the grave sites.

Bill Davis questioned the Supervisor about the statement in the winter newsletter regarding a new Township Hall. John Malaski explained that this is looking into the future 15 to 20 years, as our community grows we will need a larger place for meetings and township business. We should be looking now for a piece of good property that we might be able to get from the State of Michigan for a small price. Our existing building is old and sits on a low piece of property that has been filled in with limestone.

Bill Davis also asked why Large Item Day was discontinued. The supervisor explained that we cannot get volunteers to work and that if anyone gets hurt, it would be a costly liability. We are suspending it for 2015 and if anyone has comments or suggestions, please put them in writing and submit them to any Board member for future consideration.

Next regular Township Board meeting, **Tuesday afternoon, January 13, 2015 at 1:00 p.m.**

Motion was made by Keitha Malaski and seconded by Kay Dowker that this meeting be adjourned. Five aye votes, no nays. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7: 50 p.m.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by,

Beverly Rossetto, Clerk