

BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
February 14, 2006

PRESENT: Supervisor Richard VanSyckle, Treasurer Jennifer McKeever, Clerk Penelope Ypma, Trustee James Rhodes, Trustee David Soya.

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle.

Pledge of Allegiance

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

Philip Armstrong asked when the last day qualified voters could request AV ballots by mail for the Feb. 28, 2006 election. Clerk Ypma reported Feb.25th, by 2:00 p.m. P. Armstrong asked who previews the bills prior to board approval. Treasurer McKeever explained that all board members receive a copy of bills being approved. It was suggested that Roberts Rules of Order be followed in managing the meetings.

COMMISSIONER REPORT – Tom Wing - ABSENT

OLD BUSINESS

- Night light in parking lot – Supervisor VanSyckle reported he had spoken to the electrician this evening and a light will be installed soon.
- New Post Office in Dowling – Supervisor VanSyckle reported that the Planning and Zoning Committee will meet next month for final approval.

NEW BUSINESS

- SEMCO Energy letter was distributed to each board member to study for March meeting. Moved by Ypma, seconded by Soya to table until next month. All ayes. Motion carried.
- Sexton's payment for opening and closing of graves. Discussion about Williams-Gore Funeral Home changing their policy by not paying the sextons directly for opening and closing of graves. Williams-Gore wants to pay the township directly and the township pays the sextons. Clerk Ypma explained conversation with Williams-Gore and their reason for the change. William-Gore does not carry workers compensation insurance on the sextons and has been advised to pay the township, rather than the sextons directly. The sextons are requesting payment at the time of service from the township. Both Clerk Ypma and Treasurer McKeever reported they would be willing to write checks at time of service. Union Cemetery would need to be separate from the township, as advised by our accountants. The township carries workers compensation and liability insurance on the sextons. With much discussion it was decided to table until the March meeting. Moved by Soya, seconded by Rhodes. All ayes. Motion carried.

AMEND BUDGET

- Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by Ypma to transfer \$2,400.00 from the general fund to the assessors account. Roll Call Vote: Soya – YES Rhodes – YES McKeever – YES VanSyckle – YES Ypma – YES Motion carried.

- Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by McKeever to transfer \$1,150.00 from the general fund to the Cemetery account. Roll Call Vote – Ypma – YES VanSyckle – YES McKeever – YES Rhodes – NO Soya – NO Motion carried.
- Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by Ypma to transfer \$4,300.00 from the general fund to the fire fund. Roll Call Vote: McKeever – YES VanSyckle – YES Rhodes – YES Soya – YES Ypma – YES Motion carried.
- Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by McKeever to transfer \$700.00 from the general fund to insurance/bonds & fringe account. Roll Call Vote: Rhodes – YES McKeever – YES Ypma – YES VanSyckle – YES Soya – YES Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the 01/10/06 regular board meeting. Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by McKeever to accept the minutes with changes. All ayes. Motion carried.

PAY BILLS: Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by Ypma to pay bills as submitted. 3 ayes, 2 opposed Motion carried.

REPORTS OF BOARD OFFICERS

Supervisor:

- VanSyckle gave a road commission report pertaining to paved roads, along with recommendations totaling approximately \$80,000 for 2006-07. The board will meet with the road commission in April to preview the township's gravel roads.

Treasurer:

Report provided. No discussion. Approved as read.

Clerk:

- Minutes from the Nov. 23, 2004 & Dec. 10, 2004 closed session meeting will be destroyed – (law requires to keep 1 year 1 day)
- Clerk Ypma reported the polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. on Feb. 28, 2006.
- New voting equipment will be arriving this week (purchased with a statewide grant).
- Old voting equipment will be used for the Feb. 28th recall election.
- Two Challengers will be present at the Feb. 28th recall election– Barbara Cichy and David Brinkert, both representing the Democrat Party.
- Accuracy test tomorrow, Feb. 15th at 5:00 p.m. – open to the public. Testing will be held at the hall if anyone is interested in previewing.

LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Newton suggested Supervisor VanSyckle seek legal advice regarding the township paying for workers compensation for the sextons. VanSyckle reported he would look into it. Question asked if the board had a policy regarding per diem pay for the trustees. Treasurer McKeever reported “no”. It was suggested that Supervisor VanSyckle obtain a mutual agreement in writing from the fire chief regarding first respondent and fire rules. Supervisor VanSyckle agreed to look into the matter. It was suggested more dollars be spent on gravel roads in the upcoming budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Penelope Ypma, Clerk