

## BALTIMORE TOWNSHIP MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

March 14, 2006

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

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor VanSyckle. Supervisor VanSyckle stated now that the recall election is over, he hoped that everyone would put the matter to rest. He also stated that he would like to see everyone work towards making Baltimore Township a better place to live.

Pledge of Allegiance

### LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT

Gene Willison asked guest Mr. Roger Caris, of the Hasting Fire Department, to explain the 1<sup>st</sup> responder policy.

Guest Mr. Roger Caris, Hasting Fire Department gave a presentation.

### COMMISSIONER REPORT – Tom Wing - ABSENT

### NEW BUSINESS

- **SEXTON'S CONTRACT** - Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by Soya to approve the sexton's contract at \$7,500.00 for the 2006-07 year.  
ROLL CALL VOTE: Ypma – YES      VanSyckle – YES      Rhodes – YES  
McKeever – YES      Soya – YES      Motion carried.
- **WEBSITE** - Treasurer McKeever asked the board to approve the cost to implement a website. McKeever's husband, Chad, is a computer programmer and offered to design the website for the township at no cost. Start-up cost is \$130.00, registration fee of \$15.00, and monthly fee \$10.00. It was suggested that the board try a website for 1-year. Moved by McKeever, seconded by Ypma to approve the fees for a township website. All ayes. Motion carried.
- **NEWSLETTER** - The board discussed a newsletter that would be inserted with the property tax statements. This will not be an added expense for the township. Clerk Ypma volunteered to help Treasurer McKeever with the newsletter. Any board member wanting to add information to the newsletter is encouraged to write an article and submit to McKeever.
- **TRUSTEES' PER DIEM/PLUS SALARY** – the board discussed paying salary plus per diem as it was not clear from the changes made from last year's salary increase (from per diem \$40.49 per meeting to salary \$1,200.00). On hand was a chart from Michigan Township Association listing salaries and per diem for trustees within Barry County. Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by Rhodes to table until next month. All ayes.  
**Van Syckle asked each board member to bring a suggestion to next month's meeting regarding the above.**
- **DUST CONTROL** – Supervisor VanSyckle reported cost from Liquid Dust Layers @ 34.5 cents per gallon, Michigan Chloride 17 cents per gallon (one pass). Both 26% chloride. In the past, the township has contracted with Michigan Chloride to apply chloride for residents who pay for individual applications; however, Michigan Chloride will no longer do individual applications. VanSyckle will do calculations on what it will cost the township to do one-pass of chloride.

- **HOURS OF WORK** - Moved by Soya, seconded by Rhodes to limit the deputies' hours to 2 hours per month and set rate of pay at \$10.00 per hour. **ROLL CALL VOTE:** Ypma – NO McKeever – NO Soya – YES Rhodes – YES VanSyckle – NO Motion failed.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- **PARKING LOT LIGHT** – Supervisor VanSyckle reported we should have a light installed soon.
- **SEMCO Energy Ordinance** – Supervisor VanSyckle reported he has tried to get in contact with SEMCO Energy regarding the letter sent to the township asking to adopt an ordinance. Clerk Ypma suggested we seek legal advice on the ordinance. VanSyckle agreed to contact the township attorney.
- **SEXTON'S PAYMENT** – After much discussion regarding worker's compensation and payment at the time of service for opening and closing of graves (requested by the sextons) it was decided by the board to seek legal advice regarding such. VanSyckle agreed to contact the township attorney. Moved by VanSyckle, seconded by Soya to table until next month pending legal advice. All ayes. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** of the 02/14/06 regular board meeting. Moved by Rhodes, seconded by McKeever to accept the minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT** - Report provided. No discussion. Approved as read.

#### **LIMITED PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident suggested that Mr. McKelvey, Assessor, present a report to the township either monthly or quarterly. VanSyckle stated he would talk to the assessor about giving a report. A resident expressed concern about his property being zoned residential (from agricultural) and asked who he should contact. Questions regarding zoning for the new potential post office in Dowling; VanSyckle reported the land had been approved for commercial use by the Zoning and Planning Committee.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Richard VanSyckle, Supervisor

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Penelope J. Ypma, Clerk