

REGULAR MEETING
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
June 15, 2015
7:00 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Columbia Township Board of Trustees was held on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 8500 Jefferson Rd., Brooklyn, MI 49230.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Elrod called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of allegiance was led by Supervisor Elrod.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Deland, Reynolds, Calhoun, Marsh, Tackett, Beamish and Elrod.

A report from the Jackson County Board of Commissioners was given by Commissioner Phil Duckham towards the end of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was public comment from resident John Deming. John Deming requested to present to the Board of Trustees Petitions containing the signatures of approximately 250 lakefront property owners at Clark Lake, requesting that the Township Board create a Special Assessment District for the eradication and control of Nuisance Aquatic Invasive Species. A motion was made by Clerk Marsh to receive the Petitions and supporting documents by the Board. The motion was seconded by Trustee Beamish. There was a mention of the fact that Treasurer Calhoun and Trustees Tackett and Reynolds were all lakefront owners at Clark Lake to avoid any undeclared conflict of interest. Ayes all. Motion carried. There was also public comment from resident Helene Rhoads. Supervisor Elrod asked if there were any changes to the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Reynolds that included the addition of action item 11I, a closed session with Legal Counsel to develop legal strategy for a non sewer related civil matter. The motion was seconded by Clerk Marsh. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion by Clerk Marsh to approve the Consent Agenda was seconded by Treasurer Calhoun. Ayes all. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Motion to approve accounts payables in the amount of \$177,767.30 was made by Trustee Beamish. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Calhoun. Ayes all. Motion carried.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Motion by Treasurer Calhoun was seconded by Trustee Reynolds to receive and file the Controller's report. Ayes all. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Motion by Trustee Beamish was seconded by Trustee Tackett to receive and file the Police Chief's report. Ayes all. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Motion by Trustee Beamish was seconded by Trustee Tackett to receive and file the Fire Chief's report. Ayes all. Motion carried.

SEWER REPORT: Motion by Treasurer Calhoun was seconded by Trustee Reynolds to receive and file the Sewer report. Ayes all. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: There was discussion on a proposed Invasive Species cleaning station at the Clark Lake Township park, which would cost the Township nothing. The consensus of the Board members was to support the concept of the cleaning station as long as all details and requirements were met first. After the requirements were met, the issue would be placed on the agenda at the next scheduled or special meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ACTION ITEMS: Action was taken on the following items. A motion to approve the (MTA's suggested) FOIA procedures and guidelines was made by Trustee Reynolds. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tackett. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Beamish to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendation on the Custodial posting. The recommendation was to hire Jeff Simpson for the part time maintenance/custodial position. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Calhoun. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Clerk Marsh to approve a Comcast Service Agreement. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tackett. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Treasurer Calhoun to approve the 2014/2015 Budget Amendments as presented by the Controller. The motion was seconded by Trustee Deland. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Tackett to approve the consensus decision of the Board to offer another opportunity to allow the Wilson request to be heard by the ZBA at no additional cost, if the applicant declines that opportunity, then refund the cost that would be applied to publishing the notification but not to exceed \$100. The motion was seconded by Trustee Beamish. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion was made by Trustee Reynolds to approve the RFP prepared by the Facilities Committee for lighting at the 8500 Jefferson Road. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tackett. Ayes all. Motion carried. Supervisor Elrod stated that the Regular monthly meeting was in recess, so that the Township could begin the scheduled, 2015/2016 Budget Hearing. At the start of the meeting, Supervisor called for any public comment or input on the proposed budget for the 2015/2016 fiscal year. There was no public comment on the proposed budget. Treasurer Calhoun read the 2015/2016 Financial Plan Resolution out loud. The Supervisor called again for any public comment. There was public comment at that time from Resident Helene Rhoads. After the public comment and the reading of the resolution, a motion was made by Trustee Reynolds to adopt the Resolution and approve the 2015/2016 Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tackett. On a roll call vote – Ayes: Beamish, Tackett, Marsh, Calhoun, Reynolds, Deland and Elrod. Resolution adopted. The 2015/2106 Budget was approved. Supervisor Elrod declared that the Budget Hearing was completed. The Board resumed the regular monthly meeting at 8:35pm. A motion was made by Trustee Reynolds to table the Resolution to accept the settlement proposal on SRI bond debt. The motion was seconded by Treasurer Calhoun. On a roll call vote: Ayes – Marsh, Tackett, Beamish, Deland, Reynolds, Calhoun and Elrod. Motion approved. Supervisor Elrod used his Chairman's prerogative to recognize public comment from residents Ron and Beth June. At 8:52 pm, a motion was made by Clerk Marsh to go into the closed session to consult with its attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation, but only if an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigating or settlement position of the public body. The motion was seconded by Trustee Reynolds. Ayes all. Motion carried. At 9:12pm, a motion was made by Treasurer Calhoun to return from the closed session with Attorney White. The motion was seconded by Trustee Tackett.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no additional public comment.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Elrod, seconded by Trustee Deland. Ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Marsh, Clerk
Columbia Township