

**REGULAR MEETING
COLUMBIA TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 16, 2012
7:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Columbia Township Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 16, 2012 at 8500 Jefferson Rd., Brooklyn, MI 49230.

CALL TO ORDER: Supervisor Elrod called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Trustee Deland

Invocation was given by Trustee Reynolds

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was public comment by Allison Bates a candidate for Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney.

Supervisor Elrod asked if there were any changes to the agenda. A motion by Treasurer Calhoun to move the Zoning report to discussion item 10d was seconded by Clerk Marsh. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion by Supervisor Elrod to table discussion item 10c – Resolutions proposed by Trustee Raczkowski until the August 20, 2012 meeting was seconded by Trustee Reynolds. On a roll call vote; Ayes – Reynolds, Calhoun and Elrod. Neys – Raczkowski, Deland, Marsh and Beamish. Motion failed. A motion by Trustee Beamish to add the land combination request for 1900 Q Lane, Clark Lake was seconded by Clerk Marsh. Ayes all. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the agenda with the above mentioned changes was made by Treasurer Calhoun, seconded by Clerk Marsh. Ayes all. Motion carried. A motion by Trustee Beamish, seconded by Clerk Marsh to approve the consent agenda with the above mentioned changes. Ayes all. Motion carried.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE: Motion to approve accounts payables in the amount of \$170,071.71 by Treasurer Calhoun, seconded by Trustee Beamish. Ayes all. Motion Carried.

SEWER REPORT: Motion by Treasurer Calhoun, seconded by Clerk Marsh to receive and file the Sewer report. Ayes all. Motion carried.

CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Motion by Treasurer Calhoun, seconded by Clerk Marsh to receive and file the report from the Controller. Ayes all. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Motion by Treasurer Calhoun, seconded by Clerk Marsh to receive and file the report from the Fire Department. Chief Lutz was forced to cut report short due to emergency call. Ayes all. Motion carried.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT: Motion by Treasurer Calhoun, seconded by Trustee Reynolds to receive and file the report from the Police Department. Ayes all except Trustee Deland. Motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Motion by Clerk Marsh, seconded by Trustee Beamish to receive and file the report from the Treasurer’s Department. Ayes all. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS: There was discussion on a proposed replacement for the People Channels service of public broadcasting of meetings by the Granicus Company via the internet Supervisor Elrod indicated that hopefully there will be more information down the road to bring back to the Board. Supervisor Elrod updated the Board on his efforts to hire the Engineering firm of Ripstra Scheppelman to re-engineer the Township parking lots in order to provide the needed information to get bids for the lots as it would be in the \$50,000 range. Trustee Raczkowski outlined his eight proposed resolutions and there was discussion by various Board members. Treasurer Calhoun spoke about his concerns with the delay of proper Zoning enforcement with a property at Clark Lake. It was recommended that the Zoning Enforcement Official follow all proper steps and procedures with the property in question.

ACTION ITEMS: Action was taken on the following items. A motion by Trustee Beamish to approve the proposed language for Township Inspectors was seconded by Trustee Reynolds. Supervisor Elrod indicated that the language would be submitted to the local newspaper and letters will be sent to the current inspectors. Ayes all. Motion carried.

A motion by Calhoun to approve a partial refund (\$100) as soon as Mr. Willaert removes his current political sign was seconded by Supervisor Elrod. Treasurer Calhoun amended his motion to a \$50 refund. Ayes – Calhoun and Elrod. Neys – Reynolds, Marsh, Beamish, Deland and Raczkowski. A motion by Clerk Marsh to follow the Controllers recommendation to give a partial refund to Joseph J. Willaert was seconded by Trustee Reynolds. Ayes – Beamish, Reynolds, Marsh, Deland, Raczkowski and Elrod. Neys – Calhoun. Motion carried.

Supervisor Elrod indicated that information is still being gathered and RFP language will be brought back to the Board. A motion by Trustee Beamish to approve the land combination for 1900 Q Lane, Clark Lake was seconded by Treasurer Calhoun. Ayes all. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was public comment from Resident Flip Reynolds. And there was also public comment from resident Deborah Toburen.

FINAL BOARD COMMENT: Treasurer Calhoun mentioned a recent decision by the Michigan Tax Tribunal that resulted in a major reduction to a local property and that the Township is going to see a drop in revenue. Trustee Deland spoke of the potential for grant revenue. Clerk Marsh commented that if properties are reduced by the Tribunal then so be it. Clerk Marsh also reminded residents about the August 7, 2012 election. Trustee Raczkowski mentioned that there were candidates for the Township Board present and for residents to consider them.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Clerk Marsh, seconded by Treasurer Calhoun. Ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Marsh, Clerk
Columbia Township