

Clark Township Minutes

CLARK TOWNSHIP
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ELECTORS
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009
10:00 AM

Call to order: 10:00 AM by Supervisor Hill.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Miller, Hill, Carpenter, Lofdahl, Wellnitz
Others Present: Bob Dunn, Bob Smith (Lakeside), Rose Miller, Chet Kasper, Robert Miller, Julie Smith, Paul Smith, Luke Jaroche

Approval of the Agenda

Carpenter moved to approve the agenda. Lofdahl supported.
All Ayes. Motion carried.

Budget Hearing

Miller made the motion to open the budget hearing. Lofdahl supported.
All Ayes. Motion carried.

The budget for the 2009-2010 year was presented and discussed. Carpenter pointed out that this budget does contain a 30% reduction in State Shared Revenue. Copies of the budget are available in the Clerk's office.

Lofdahl made the motion to close the budget hearing. Carpenter supported.
All Ayes. Motion carried.

Budget Resolution

Carpenter offered the following resolution. Miller supported.

Whereas, it is a new fiscal year for the Township and whereas, it is necessary to adopt a new budget for this new fiscal year. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the budget for fiscal year 2009-2010 with total revenues of \$1,687,362.00 and total expenditures of \$1,615,756.00 be adopted by the Clark Township Board of Trustees.
Vote: Yes - Miller, Hill, Lofdahl, Wellnitz, Carpenter.
No - None Carried.

Minutes for 2008

Miller read the minutes of the Annual Meeting dated June 28, 2008

New Business:

1.) Dredging & Harbor Report

"Lakeside Bob" showed a short film on what the committee has done and would like to do. He said that a small group formed about 2 years ago and met at Bob Dunn's to talk about dredging the channels. The group consisted of the Watershed, Community Foundation, Islands Association, Chamber, Tourist Association and Clark Township Board. As of this meeting, Bob reports that we have been approved to receive up to 1.4 million for the dredging project. He pointed out that both Senators Stabenaw & Levin's offices have been a big help to this effort. He went on to say that we have over 900 island properties and 2000 boats in this community housed at both private and commercial docks. He said they have a Plan A and a Plan B. Plan A is a request for a commercial ramp, fire boat docking area, restrooms and a long-term parking area across the road. Plan B would establish a fishing pond behind the existing parking area across from the launch ramp in Cedarville with a look-out platform. This would replace a pond that was in existence when the present parking lot was put in.

2.) Recreation Report

Hill reported that the outfields are being worked on. The Lion's Club has promised at least \$24,000 for the work on the infield and the fence. It was noted that there has been a lot of volunteer work given toward this project. Thank you to all our volunteers because without you so much less would be done. Carpenter has a call in to the Community Foundation to get some input on what their involvement will be in this project.

3.) Ambulance Report

Nothing new to report other than a big thank you to Clark Twp residents for passing the millage to be able to hire an EMT.

4.) Fire Dept. Report

Chet Kasper reported that the Department now has 24 active members with 10 of those being officers. 8 of those members also serve on the Ambulance Corp. The Fire Dept has 3 meetings per month. The first meeting is for planning and the other 2 meetings are used for training. The Dept LOVES the new tanker truck. It does so much more than the last one and is much more efficient. The tanker works on hydraulics to fill and drain. It takes only 4 minutes to fill the tanker and 4 minutes to drain it. The Dept is currently training for the ISO which is the International Organization for Standardization that sets protection class and rates. The Dept's goal is to get the insurance rates down for our taxpayers. The Dept received a grant for a \$40,000.00 air compressor to fill their air tanks. They are looking into getting better tanks. The current tanks can run for 15-30 minutes and the new tanks would be good for 1 hour. The Dept is currently working on a grant for a new Fire Hall. One plan is to use the money to remodel the Fire Hall downtown. Another plan would be to put up a new Fire Hall near the Twp offices. They will keep us updated on this. Once again they offer a huge THANK YOU for all the new equipment and strong support of our community.

5.) Road Committee Report

Luke Jaroche handed out the Road Committee's Annual Report. Several projects have been completed. New culverts are currently being put in several locations. Oliver House is doing a great job of assessing our Twp road conditions. He is developing a baseline and grading system and prioritiz-

ing all roads for future routine repairs, structural improvements and maintenance road work. Bob Dunn expressed concern about our road ends and launch areas. Luke will look into who is responsible for the maintenance of those areas. It was suggested that a meeting with the Mackinac County Road Commission is much needed.

Hill made a motion that the Board set up a meeting with the Mackinac County Road Commission. Rose Miller supported.

Vote: Yes - all 12 present

No - None Motion carried.

6.) Electors Set Salaries

Salaries will remain the same the next budget year for the elected officials and the other Clark Twp employees as voted at the June Board meeting. Wellnitz commended the Twp. Board and all the hard work they do. Bob Miller questioned how other Townships in the area do with less. Lofdahl pointed out that our Township is larger and deals with a full sewer system, marina, airport, and etc.

Rose Miller made a motion to put a wage freeze on all salaries for this budget year. Bob Miller supported.
Vote: Yes - 10 No - None Abstain - 1 Motion carried.

7.) Public Comments

Bob Miller commented that all our Township committees are doing an exceptional good job.

8.) Building Inspector Update

Miller reported that background checks are underway on applicants for the job. Dave Kovar is on board for the interim period.

Rose Miller made a motion to adjourn. Wellnitz supported.
All present voted in favor.

Adjournment: 11:30AM

DEAL ME IN

When Not To Be On The Phone

Dear Mark: I was recently at a casino in Las Vegas and cashed out my winnings at the cashier's cage. Upon giving the cashier my chips, my cell phone rang and so I answered it not paying attention to the cashier counting out my money. I got to my car and realized that the cashier did not give me the right amount. I returned to the cashier's cage and asked to speak to a manager because the person I went to was gone. After waiting for 15 to 20 minutes he came back and said that he watched the transaction on video and said that the cashier gave me \$1,100, and I disputed with him saying that was not true. I took \$1,100 in chips to the counter and when I counted my money in the car I only had \$400.

So he calls the Gaming Commission and upon explaining my situation to the Gaming Commission employee I was told that they would review the transaction and let me know the outcome and this should only take about 10 to 15 minutes. I waited for an hour and then the Gaming Commission comes back and tells me that I was given \$1,225 I asked to review the transaction myself and I was told that I could not see it. I do not know what I should do to get the money that I won. Could you please point me in the right direction if possible?

Lamond H.

By already having the Gaming Commission weigh in, Lamond, you're probably not going to climb the ladder any higher than you did. As for letting you review the tape, they just don't, due to their need not to reveal how they do what they do, (exception: the tape could be entered as evidence in a civil trial).

So what did both the cage manager and the gaming agent's prying eyes see? Well, for starters, know that the essence of casino security is the extensive use of closed circuit television (CCTV), and there are probably more eye-in-the-sky views of the cashier's cage than of anything else in the casino, thanks to those ceiling-mounted, dome-shaped enclosures with each camera able to be panned up to 360 degrees.

The main function of those cameras is the production of film records, documenting the assets of the casino in areas that are cash-sensitive, or where large dollar amounts change hands, e.g. a huge slot payoff. Those areas include the cashier cage, the pit, the slot drop, etc.



Mark Pilarski

But even with cameras rolling and a surveillance operator doing the watching, that's not to say a rogue employee didn't pocket the difference. Because there is that dastardly desire in the poison heart of some individuals to rip off others, employee theft does happen in a casino. But in your case, the theft would most definitely have been on camera, with no second chances for the employee. If detected, he or she would have been canned immediately, with possible confiscation of their Sheriff's card, and the offender would have a tough time finding another job in the industry.

Outside of looking into every nook and cranny of your wallet, your car key pocket, glove box, sun visor ledge (You know what I mean -- where you would put a stash of winnings to hide it from your significant other), I can't explain the discrepancy of \$400 in your pocket, \$1,100 you claim you won, and \$1,225 an employee of the Gaming Commission said you were paid. What was missing from your e-mail was the willingness of the casino to count down the drawer to see if there was an overage. They do it anyway at the end of every shift, and you could have at least got an accounting of its result.

It's up to you to decide how long and far you feel like chasing down your lost winnings. You can always find a lawyer, working out of his car to keep the overhead down, to take up your fight, but for now I offer you a lesson learned, that being it is your responsibility if destiny favors you to count and verify full payment when cashing out, and of course, a sympathetic pat on the back.

Gambling Wisdom of the Week:

"The mantra "SLOW DOWN" fits just about every game, and should be applied by just about every gambler."
~Frank Scobleto, 109 Ways to Beat the Casinos

Got a question about gambling? Write to: Deal Me In, P.O. Box 1234, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 -email: pilarski@markpilarski.com • To order Mark Pilarski's "Hooked on Winning" audio cassettes-laminated win cards package (\$12.95 plus \$2 S&H) call 1-800-WINNERS.

Clark Township Minutes

CLARK TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
June 30, 2006
2:00 P.M.

Call to order: 2:09 PM

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Hill, Wellnitz, Carpenter, Miller
Absent: Lofdahl

Public Comments: None

Approval of Agenda:

Miller made the motion to approve the agenda. Carpenter seconded.
All Ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1.) Out of Block Amendments

Miller presented the amendments to be made to the Board.

Wellnitz made the motion to approve the out of block amendments in the amount of \$4,557.45.

Carpenter supported.
Roll Call: Yes - Hill, Miller, Carpenter, Wellnitz / Lofdahl Absent
No - None Motion carried.

2.) Gazebo report at the Cemetery

Miller reported that the roof on the gazebo is in desperate need of repair. Once the expense is approved, the job can be done as time permits. Miller also reported that Michigan Works has a worker that can help with various odd jobs in the Twp. This is free labor up to 40 hours a week and is funded through the Michigan Works program. Carpenter made a motion to approve expenditures up to \$1500.00 for the roof repair. Wellnitz supported.
Roll Call: Yes - Hill, Carpenter, Wellnitz, Miller Lofdahl absent.
No - none Motion carried.

3.) Resolution - Dredging Spoils / Transfer Station

Carpenter offered the following resolution. Miller supported.

At a meeting of the Clark Township Board of Trustees, for the County of Mackinac, State of Michigan, held on the 30th day of June, 2009

It is hereby resolved Clark Township does hereby support the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers "Les Cheneaux Islands Channel Dredging" project, including disposal of dredge materials at our Township landfill north of State Rd. in Cedarville (contingent on an agreement with Smith Sanitation).
Vote: Ayes - Carpenter, Miller, Hill, Wellnitz Absent: Lofdahl
Nays - none Carried.

4.) Copier - Maintenance Agreement

Miller reported that we have received our annual maintenance agreement for the main copier. To continue with the agreement, it will cost the Twp. \$1,014.00. It was also noted from National Office Products that our copier is getting older and there is a possibility that parts may not be available at some point during the contract. Miller

got some reports on repairs and that is a costly route. Wellnitz said that the school has a lease program for some of their large copiers. He will check out what the school is doing and then report back to the Board and they can make that decision at a future meeting.

(Mike Lofdahl showed up to the meeting at 2:27 PM)

5.) Holiday Pay - Lorie Thompson

Lorie talked to Mike Miller and requested Holiday pay. She said that a couple of years ago she was able to receive that and wondered if she would be able to have it again. The Board had some discussion on this and concluded that according to the employee manual, seasonal and part-time workers do not receive Holiday pay. Lorie's request was denied.

6.) Assessor's Email request

Polly Cairns has emailed to the Board members that in the future, any requests for the assessor need to be received in written form. When she was questioned as to the reason why, she replied that she does not want to get burned as in the past. This was in response to an invoice she had submitted to the Board for reimbursement during a Tribunal case and was denied payment. Miller went on record to say that she has now developed a bad attitude. It would be unproductive in the office if every request were to be put into writing. Lofdahl pointed out that she has a contract with the Twp and should not be allowed to dictate how the Board should act. Carpenter pointed out that Polly's contract states that she is to be available by phone 5 days per week. Carpenter said that she has called and left messages and not heard back. It is usually left up to Jessica to take messages and relay them to Polly whether by phone or email. Carpenter reported an incident that recently happened. Tax bills were received in the office on June 29 and are by law supposed to be out in the mail by July 1st. It is the assessor that signs the tax warrant and as a courtesy provides an updated list of the July Board of review so that those bills can be pulled out and a letter sent to the taxpayers so they do not pay the wrong amount. This is a courtesy for our taxpayers that we started a few years ago. An email was written to Polly requesting these items and when Carpenter went to her for the information, Polly said to just put it on the desk and she would get to it later and would Carpenter please put the request in writing. Carpenter responded that Jessica had sent her an email the previous week. By the end of the day Jennifer went in to request it again and Polly was rude to Jennifer and said she would get to it when she could. The warrant was received right at the end of our working day on Monday, June 29. Miller met with Hill this AM and wanted him to talk to Polly as to why this request is being made and to ask her to attend this meeting to explain. Hill asked

Polly twice to attend and she said that she would not be available to the Board. Miller said that the meeting started at 2:00 PM and Carpenter heard her leave at 2:20 PM and there was no reason why she could not come and explain. Hill had a letter from Polly from earlier that day and copies were distributed to the Board. The letter referenced how she receives communications from the State, County, Tax Tribunal etc. The Board felt that this is an unacceptable way of doing business within the office. The Board strongly urged Hill to take control and deal with this issue as the department head for the assessing office. Lofdahl went on record to say that Polly's attitude needs to be dealt with if she wants to be employed here. Miller went further to point out that according to her contract, her employment can be terminated by the Board. Miller felt that Polly slapped the Board in the face by refusing to attend this meeting. She had the opportunity to explain this issue to us and refused to do it. Carpenter said that communication between the Treasurer's office and the assessor's office is very important but the bottom line is the satisfaction of the taxpayer and the response time to answer their questions and meet their needs. Discussion followed about Polly's availability and possible solutions.

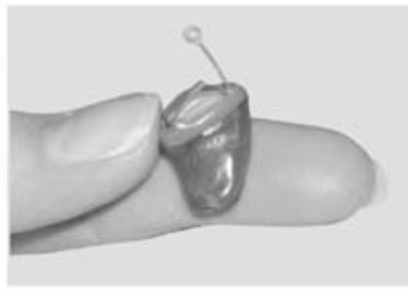
The Board feels that they have been covering too much for her and answering questions that they should not have to. Discussion followed about her recent challenges concerning her contract and the fact that she is calling the shots and setting her own hours rather than the Board giving that direction. Carpenter feels the Twp is at risk and Polly's service to the Taxpayers is questionable. The Board again strongly urged Hill to take control of this situation as the department head for that office and other areas that he oversees. Carpenter pointed out that all the elected officials oversee different aspects of the Twp. It should not be necessary for some of these issues to even come before the Board if Hill was doing what he needs to do and handle situations. Wellnitz said that the recent events need to be documented and if it continues, stronger decisions will be made by the Board. The office cannot continue with this "non-communication". We all need to handle our differences professionally and in the best interest of our taxpayers and the community.

Lofdahl made a motion to adjourn. Carpenter supported.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjourned: 3:07PM

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