

Ray Township Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday January 19, 2016 at 7:30 p.m.

Location: Ray Township Hall  
64255 Wolcott, Ray, Michigan 48096

Present: Charles Bohm, Supervisor  
Douglas Stier, Treasurer  
Paula Artman, Clerk  
Betty Grader, Trustee

Absent: John Zoccola, Trustee

Also present – 17 residents.

**1. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Supervisor Bohm called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Supervisor Bohm, Treasurer Stier, Clerk Artman, and Trustee Grader present. Trustee Zoccola was absent.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** –Mr. Bohm stated 10a would be moved up to 3. Public Comments as the officials from the Clinton River Watershed Preservation Council and The Six Rivers Conservancy have a presentation.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to approve the agenda as amended, supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

**Dan Jaroma**, 64350 Wolcott, asked the Board how much it costs to run the parking lights per month. Mr. Stier advised he would email the information to him. Ms. Artman asked if he was aware of the Board's past response to his inquiry. He indicated he had.

**10a. Clinton River Watershed Council Presentation**

Anne Vaara, Executive Director of the Clinton River Watershed Council, Abby Lane, Program Coordinator, and Danielle Devlin, Six Rivers Land Conservancy appeared before the Board for the presentation tonight. Ms. Vaara briefly introduced their project to the Board, explaining their focus was to protect our land, water and natural resources. Ms. Vaara expressed how happy they are to be a part of Ray Township. She explained their program could be beneficial for land holders as well as for natural resources; they have been working on this project for two years. Ms. Vaara explained the diagram briefly to the audience.

Abby Lane, the Program Coordinator explained how they created the map using the GIS program. She noted they focused north of 26 Mile, using criteria such as: rivers, property close to parks, and property close to trails.

Ms. Devlin explained Six Rivers was formed 25 years ago; they merged with Macomb, Genesee and Lapeer. They've attempted to protect and preserve almost 2000 acres in this region. Their mission is to help homeowners protect their land voluntarily through conservation. They also hold non-profit through projects such as this. They work with cities, government agencies, and grants. The next meeting will be held in Richmond Township on February 24 for anyone interested and information will be available for that meeting.

**4. Correspondence**

**a. Richmond Lenox Report**

Ms. Artman read the report from Jeff White, Chief of Emergency Medical Service dated November 11, 2015; she pointed out his comment, specifically: "Our new headquarters will not take place of the existing EMS stations at 27 Mile and Gratiot, School Section at M-19 or the future substation to be built on property owned by the Ambulance Authority at Masters Rd. and M-19. Also noted they transported for Ray Township 101 runs. The full report available upon request.

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- b. Comcast –Discussion continued regarding the need to contact Comcast and how to reduce fees. Ms. Artman read the letter from Comcast indicating changes in the channel lineup affecting customers in the area. This letter is available for viewing upon request.

**MOTION by Ms. Grader to receive and file the correspondence received at the meeting of January 19, 2016, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**

- 5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES –December 15, 2015 –** Minor corrections to the minutes.  
**MOTION by Ms. Grader to approve the minutes from November 17, 2015, as amended, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**  
**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Special Meeting – January 5, 2016 –** Minor corrections to the minutes.  
**MOTION by Ms. Grader to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting of January 5, 2016, as amended, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**
  
- 6. **APPROVAL OF BILLS –** Mr. Stier mentioned we will be adding the payment to Chemical Bank 10h later in the agenda, paying off the copy machine in the amount of \$8,529.76; in addition one invoice to Planning Commissioner, Justin Lease for training in the amount of \$47.50; and two invoices to Planning Commissioner, Tom Hancock in the amounts of \$60.00 for training and \$50.00 for repair work; Mr. Stier said the new grand total with modifications, pending approval of 10h tonight, is \$113,076.52 through January 7, 2016. Ms. Grader questioned the Romeo Computer bill. Mr. Stier explained this is an annual fee. We are looking into using SYO in the future budget.  
**MOTION by Mr. Stier to approve the bills through January 7, 2016 as modified, totaling \$113,076.52, pending approval of Item 10h, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**
  
- 7. **OFFICER’S REPORTS**
  - a. **Supervisor –** Mr. Bohm advised the budget for the next fiscal year was being worked on currently. He **mentioned** the cars at the house on the south side of 29 Mile Road, 6 houses west of Wolcott. There are a dozen cars parked in the yard; Mr. Bohm said they will be ticketed if they are not removed. Proof of insurance and licensing has been asked. A check has been received from Farm Bureau Insurance Co. in regard to the Rayman matter.
  - b. **Clerk –** Ms. Artman reported she received an email today from DTE notifying the Township the light poles in the front parking lot will be installed beginning February 15. Election day will be March 8 for the presidential primary where you will select a Democratic or Republican ballot. If you live in New Haven there is a proposal to vote on. In New Haven you can vote Democratic or Republican or you can just vote on the proposal.
  - c. **Treasurer –** Mr. Stier reported the taxes are rolling in.
  - d. **Trustees –** nothing to report.  
**MOTION by Ms. Grader to receive and file the Officers’ Reports, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**
  
- 8. **DEPARTMENT REQUEST/REPORTS**
  - a. **Assessing- Pending Michigan Tax Tribunal Cases –** Mr. Bohm referred to the Assessor’s report; the Marasco hearing is scheduled for April 18; the golf course issues are not scheduled until May 12. The report is available upon request.
  - b. **Building Department –** Permits, Residential Finals and Temp Occupancy Report – Mr. Bohm said the total permits issued between 12/1/15 and 12/31/15 were 13, totaling \$4,017.00. The total permit list for 2015 was 195 totaling \$49,239.00.

- c. **Fire Department Report** – Mr. Bohm read the report detailing 40 calls for the month of December. Activities consisted of 21 medical calls, 1 fire, 1 mutual aid, 4 motor vehicle accidents, 5 personal injury accidents, 1 wire down, 3 trees down across the road, 1 fire alarm, 1 co detector alarm, 1 assault and 1 lift assist. The Fire Department also participated in the tree lighting ceremony.
- d. **Library Report** – Mr. Bohm said the Library Report is available for anyone to view the breakdown of the patronage.
- e. **Recreation Report** – no report submitted.
- f. **Senior Report** – Mr. Bohm referred to the Senior Report submitted for January, February and March. The report is available for anyone to view.
- g. **Standard Budget Reports through November, 2015 for the General Operating Fund, Building Department and Fire Fund-** Mr. Bohm said if there are any questions on the reports added to the agenda tonight, please call himself or Mr. Stier.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to receive and file the department requests/reports as presented, received at the meeting of January 19, 2016, supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- a. **CDBG Blight Project Bid** – Mr. Bohm stated the two houses are torn down and the inspections completed. The next step for the house on Indian Trail will be to file a lien on the home. The money has been received from the county, interest free.

**MOTION by Ms. Artman to remove the CDBG Blight Project Bid from the agenda until further information is available, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**

- b. **LaFon Blight Abatement Complete** – Mr. Bohm said the contractor has ceased work due to a weather delay. When the weather cooperates, the contractor will clean up the blight.

**MOTION by Ms. Artman to table the LaFon Blight Abatement for further information, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**

- c. **Ray Township v. Michael L. Nokielski** – This matter has been scheduled for trial.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to table Ray Township v. Michael L. Nokielski for further information, supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

- d. **Hazardous Material Abatement Ordinance Amendment** – Mr. Bohm said we are waiting for more information from our engineer; he is working on this.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to table the Hazardous Material Abatement Ordinance Amendment, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

- a. **Clinton River Watershed Council Presentation** (presented early in agenda tonight)

Clinton River Watershed Council 2016 Membership dues - \$500.00

**MOTION by Ms. Grader to pay the 2016 Membership dues to the Clinton River Watershed Council in the amount of \$500.00, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**

- b. **Set CDBG Public Hearing** -. Ms. Artman said the current amount is \$7500. Mr. Bohm said in the past it was quite a lot more. Discussion continued concerning why it was more in the past.

**MOTION by Ms. Grader to set the Public Hearing for the CDBG 2016/2017 Budget for Tuesday, February 16, 2016, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**

**c. Set Public Hearing for Proposed 2016/2017 Budget**

**MOTION by Ms. Grader to set the Public Hearing for the Proposed 2016/2017 Budget for Tuesday, February 16, 2016, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**

**d. Request from David and Deborah DeSmith** – Mr. and Mrs. DeSmith request to park a 21 ft. camper on the lot at 62339 John Henry while they construct their new home.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to allow the request of the DeSmith family to put a camper on 62339 John Henry as they construct their new home, for one year, supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

**e. Adopt the Macomb County Regulations Governing Animal Control** – Mr. Bohm explained we received and filed this Animal Control Ordinance when received from the County earlier last year; in order to enforce these regulations, the Township must formally adopt the regulations. Mr. Bohm explained the only significant difference he found was the number of dogs. Ms. Grader questioned microchipping the dogs and the cost; and the length of time the dog is held. The cost is \$20 for microchipping if the dog is picked up by Macomb County.

**MOTION by Ms. Artman to adopt the Macomb County Animal Control Ordinance, adding the amendment that a kennel license be obtained for more than 3 dogs in a home, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**

**f. Budget Modifications** – Mr. Stier briefly explained the Budget Modifications for the General Fund and Fire Budgets, and the distribution of funds moved within the accounts.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to accept the budget modifications of the General Fund as presented as of November, 2015, supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

Mr. Stier stated there were equipment purchases last month and other expenditures needed in the Fire Funds needed for the budget modifications.

**MOTION by Ms. Grader to accept the budget modifications of the Fire Fighting Fund as presented as of November, 2015, supported by Mr. Stier. Motion carried.**

**g. Fire Department Request** – Chief DiMaria requested to use the MITN auction sight to auction old and surplus items as listed in his letter to the Board. (Letter dated Jan. 7, 2016 available upon request).

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to allow Chief DiMaria, Fire and Rescue Chief to list items in his report on the MITN site for disposal, supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

**h. Chemical Bank – Payoff of Copy Machine** – Mr. Bohm stated it was suggested by our accountant to pay off the copy machine to avoid interest through March, 2018. We will be saving approximately \$1,500.00.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to pay the note off for the copy machine to Chemical Bank in the amount of \$8,529.76, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion carried.**

**i. Adopt Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest (according to Federal Guidelines)** – Ms. Artman stated we are required to adopt these Federal Guidelines to qualify for CDBG funding.

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to adopt the Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Policies according to Federal Guidelines as presented, supported by Ms. Artman. Motion Carried.**

**11. PUBLIC COMMENT** – none

**12. ADJOURNMENT.**

**MOTION by Mr. Stier to adjourn at 9:13 p.m., supported by Ms. Grader. Motion carried.**

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**Charlie Bohm, Supervisor**

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**Paula Artman, Clerk**

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**Date**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Marcia Jamroz, Recording Secretary**