

NORWAY TOWNSHIP BOARD MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES: June 13, 2017

Board Members Present: Don Byczek, Supervisor; Joyce Giuliani, Clerk; Kristen LaValley, Treasurer; Dave Solda, Trustee; Mike Steeno, Trustee

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Supervisor Byczek. Pledge was recited.
2. Approve/amend agenda: agenda approved as presented by general consensus
3. Citizens' Time: B. Girardi - shoulder problem on County Rd. 577 near his driveway
4. Approve minute of May 9th meeting: motion by Steeno, support by LaValley, to approve the May 9th minutes as presented. All ayes. Passed 5-0
5. Treasurer's report: report for May was given by Giuliani. Due to this report being prepared by both the clerk and treasurer, it will from now on be referred to as the financial report.
6. Bills for approval: list of bills for payment was presented by Giuliani. Motion by Solda, support by LaValley, to pay bills as presented. All aye. Passed 5-0
7. Guest Speaker: Dick Berlinski was unable to attend the meeting and will be rescheduled for July 11th
8. OLD BUSINESS:
 - a. Blight ordinance progress: Byczek reported that of the 8 letters sent out so far everyone has responded by taking the necessary corrective action. The next area of concern we will look at is unoccupied, dilapidated buildings.
9. NEW BUSINESS:
 - a. Pay request from Sid Bray: Sid Bray, who worked for the township ordering and installing fire numbers, at a rate of \$44.32 per month, has sent a request to be paid for 22.5 hours worked between October 2013 through March 2017. He is also requesting reimbursement for 328 miles driven during this same time period. The board determined that since Bray was already paid a salary of \$44.32 per month whether he installed fire signs or not, this request should be denied until more information is received.
 - b. Electric franchise & electric rates: reviewed Ordinance No. 2013-3 regarding the electric utility franchise to the City of Norway to provide electric power to its customers within the Township of Norway. Byczek stated that beginning July 1, 2017 the rate for streetlights provided by the City of Norway will be reduced from \$18.00 per light to \$15.00 per light. On July 1, 2018, this rate will drop to \$12.00

per streetlight because the fixtures are having LED bulbs installed. There are 131 streetlights in the township provided by the City of Norway.

- c. Adopt-a-forest: the Dept. of Natural Resources is encouraging citizens to volunteer to clean up illegal dump sites which were found on state land in Norway Township. Contact Joyce Giuliani for more information.
- d. Budget transfers: total cost for this year's spring clean up was \$5416.08. \$500 was budgeted based on previous years' data. Motion by LaValley, supported by Steeno, to amend the proposed budget as presented. Roll call vote: ayes - Solda, Giuliani, Byczek, Steeno, LaValley; nays: none. Passed 5-0.
- e. Toro mower grant: date for applying for a mower grant from Toro Corp. has passed. We will apply for a grant next year.
- f. Cemetery wall problem: rocks keep falling out of the stone wall at the cemetery. Chartier is patching the problem areas with mortar. Also, the road where the ditch is has washed out due to heavy rains. The county road commission is working on solutions to this ongoing problem.
- g. Culvert and ditch issues on WPA Road: so much gravel has been added to the shoulders of the road that they are now higher than the road bed. The county plans to scrape excess gravel off the shoulder and slope it away from the road. During the upcoming paving project, 4 culverts will be replaced and 1 removed. Byczek will let us know when paving is scheduled to begin. Cutting of the grass along the side of the road was also discussed. County has some broken equipment which is putting them behind.
- h. Sale of excess property: motion by Giuliani, support by Steeno, to offer for sale to the highest bidder, 2 riding lawn mowers and 2 self-propelled mowers which are excess to our needs All ayes. Passed 5-0. Sealed bids will be received until 4:00 p.m. on July 10th. Information will be placed on the website and on Channel 7 on the cable system.
- i. Principles of governance pledge: board members signed the Principles of Governance pledge prepared by the Michigan Township Association. It will be displayed in the town hall.

10. Citizens' Time: None

11. Committee reports: Steeno - Norway Area Planning Commission - medical marijuana meeting for city council members and township board members to be held on 6/19 at

6:30 p.m. at the Norway City Hall. Solda - North Alert Ambulance Authority - new roof has been installed at ambulance garage.

12. Board member comments: Giuliani - discussed broadband article she was interviewed for. LaValley - discussed the new BS&A tax software. It will be installed soon and information will be sent to Lufts Advertiser for printing of tax bills. Byczek - discussed meeting with Beau LaFave scheduled for 6/23 at 1:30 p.m. at the Breitung Township Hall in Quinnesec. He also reported that he has been looking into countywide ordinances that are currently in effect.
13. Facilities Manager comments: 1) Roof work is done on the shed at the recreation area; 2) A lot owner at the cemetery wants to reactivate an old irrigation system this is located on their cemetery lot(s). Chartier is wondering if the township board will allow it. After discussion, the board decided that no underground systems will be allowed, except as owned by the township. The lot owner can come to the next board meeting to appeal this decision if necessary; 3) Veterans groups have requested to leave the small graveside flags in place until after July 4th. The board felt that due to the wear on the flags that they should be taken down after Flag Day on June 14th. With over 1200 flags out, the cost of replacing them adds up.
14. Adjournment: being no further business, motion was made by Giuliani, support by LaValley, to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Passed 5-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m

Joyce Giuliani
Clerk