

MILLEN TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: Monday, October 3, 2022

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Millen Township Hall

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

2. Roll Call

Board: Cathy Ostrander – Clerk, Denny Smith – Supervisor, Scott Kosal – Trustee, Jeff Somers – Trustee; Absent (ill) – Barb Bartlett - Treasurer

Other Attendees – Terry Small, Rich Gillies, Mike Davio, Joe Schmidt-S&S Wood Products, Rodney Cordes, Jesse Campbell, John Sickinger-S&S Wood Products

3. Public Comments – none.

4. Reports

a. Clerk:

- i. Motion to approve meeting minutes, Township Board September 6, 2022. Motion to approve by Kosal and seconded by Somers. Motion carried.
- ii. Copy of Workers Compensation and Employers Liability Insurance presented
- iii. November 8 -General Election; Election Commission Meeting October 10 at 9:45
- iv. November 8- Election Accuracy Testing 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- v. Sample Ballot Presented for November 8 General Election

b. Treasurer:

- i. General Income Fund: \$79,865.09
- ii. Road Fund: \$79,067.85
- iii. Fire Fund \$0
- iv. ARPA Fund \$40,274.42
- v. Total: \$199,207.36
- vi. Motion to accept Treasurer Report, subject to audit. Motion to approve subject to audit by Kosal and seconded by Somers. Motion carried.
- vii. Motion to pay bills, subject to board's post-audit policy authorizing payment: Checks #11582 - 11600 for Wages, EFPTS, Consumers, FOE (rent), Election Source, Accident Fund Insurance, Stout's Lawn, Alcona County Road Commission, Lappan Agency, Everett Leeseberg (Burials), Internet Payments Clerk & Treasurer. Motion by Somers and seconded by Kosal. Motion carried.
- viii. Treasurer and Clerk Balance – yes

c. Road Committee – Jesse Campbell

- i. Speed study on Trask Lake Rd. – Request made to increase the speed limit in Barton City from 25 mph to 35 mph. Speed Study was conducted 6/9-6/16/2022.
 - (a) Study location East of Richardson Rd. results: 206 car/day is average; 34.42 mph at the 85% percentile; High speed was 66 mph.
 - (b) Study Location west of Campground/Park entrance results: 721 car per day; 46.05 mph was average speed; High speed was 79.3 mph
 - (c) Study was submitted to Michigan State Police (MSP) Officer Hilborn. MSP is okay with speed limit increases, but would like an additional study by Montana Rd. Goal is to have traffic flow smoothly. If the study shows average speeds above 40 mph, then they will not honor the suggestion of 30-35 mph, they would actually raise the speed limit to 40-45 mph. Additional study may not be completed until next year when the summer traffic can be included. MSP wants the traffic to flow and not to be restrictive.
- ii. Sanborn Rd. upgrades and possible alternatives for Truck use to the Mill was discussed.
- iii. Campbell applied for a Raise Grant for Sanborn Rd improvement. Currently, Sanborn Rd is classified as a minor collector and asphalt layover was estimated at \$418,000 (prices are increasing). The grant was not approved.

- iv. Road Commission 50% match of road funds with the Township on minor collector township roads. Total Sanborn Road project with 6" gravel and 2" asphalt overlay estimated at \$412,000. Original Sanborn Rd was done in 1996. It is important to get the road completed while condition is still good and not a full replacement.
 - v. Truck usage to Saw Mill and seasonal road restriction discussion. Campbell investigated the possibility of a variance to the road restrictions for our region. Currently, we are on as a region (Region 9 – includes 8 counties) for seasonal restrictions as many lower state regions. We are more north and weather conditions are different and frost comes up faster. Road Commission may provide more alignment with variable timing that matches the condition as currently regulated by the MSP. Last season the MSP had 18 pull overs with 12 violations recorded. "Thaw Caster" is what helps with understanding the road conditions. Another meeting on 10/28 for M-DOT to consider making a functional class change making Sanborn a major collector instead of a minor collector that would help with Federal funding. The traffic study also helped provide information helpful in grant approval process. If funding received, the project would be for 2024-2025 year. A major road class verses minor collector has 80% County funds with 20% match by the Townships. Would still need the Hawes Twp. portion of the road used for Saw Mill trucking.
 - (a) Comments by John Sickinger – He appreciated the Township reviewing the road restrictions. Sickinger Q: Is there is a local landing area on M72 that could be used while road restrictions are in place. Mill is expanding and will have more trucks moving material in 17-18 months.
 - (b) Kosal Q: asked how much land is required? Sickinger A: 3-5 acres of land that is firm bottom.
 - (c) Kosal Comment: 50% of project cost is still over budget for Millen Township Road Budget. It would take 2 years of Millen Road funds.
 - (d) Kosal Q: What length of time on road restrictions becomes a problem for the Mill?
 - (e) Schmidt A: Length 6-8 weeks is an issue.
 - (f) Jesse commented he wants to work with the MSP to set a time of day that trucks can run and reach agreement with MSP. He's also considering pulling off different sections of the roads based on the shade, etc. impact on frost.
 - (g) Joe Schmidt Comment: Desire is not to limit the material going out. Incoming stock of logs can be shipped and stored prior to road restrictions.
 - (h) Road Commission Comment: Township is responsible for local roads replacement costs when damaged.
 - vi. Campbell on Road projects for Millen Township under consideration for future maintenance:
 - (a) Walker East Sanborn and Bean Hill to Trask Lake. County actually did not receive enough to complete the asphalt regrind project this year if project had been approved.
 - (b) Millen Road south of Fowler Road was reviewed regarding current state of the limestone.
 - (c) Hubbard lake M-72 to Trask Lake section shared with Gustin.
 - (d) Fowler Rd S. to Sanborn west
 - vii. Campbell Comment: Forestry Service is going to log 1482 acres of Huron National Section on a 5 year logging program.
- ii) Smith Q – Bean Hill to Hubbard Lake Road has new survey stakes. Is there more work to take place? Campbell believes they may be cable and not the Road Commission markers.
- i. Ross Rd – Finish with fine stone.
 - ii. Gross Point Road – Complaints on gravel base. On the list
 - iii. O'Connell, Bennett and O'Donnell road on the watch list.
- d. **Zoning/Planning – Davio/Gillies**
- i. Davio: 3 Permits issued for sheds and decks.
 - ii. Davio: Burgess Road blight. No update.
 - iii. Condition of the house at back of Park that is needing repair. Davio to check with Harry Harvey on the house condition. No update. Comments from public that house may have sold.
 - iv. Davio: Reed Property on Sanborn and M72 – Three unlicensed vehicles on the property. Owner has been contacted regarding removal of unlicensed vehicles. Vehicles have been removed except for the box truck.

- v. Gillies: Noise Ordinance Board Vote – proposal 22-01, section 40. Moved to next meeting.
- vi. Gillies: Spoke with Attorney Tim Goulding and reviewed the plan of amendments.
- vii. Gillies: Had easement discussion with Goulding.
Kosal Q: Do our zoning ordinance have any enforcement over the easements?
Gillies A: Lot lines in a plated sub may be moved and approved by the Township. Land Division Act must be followed.
- e. Cemetery Sexton Update – B. Bartlett presented projects. Discussion tabled until next month.
- f. Fire Department, Chief Cordes:
 - i. Received the DNR grant for SCBAs. Received funding for new pager systems as county is eliminated the current. Grant would be a 50% match.
 - ii. Calls are averaging the same as last year. At 82 medical to date. Fire calls are down currently.
 - iii. Fire Hall Renovation: Siding is being added to the Fire Hall. Stonework still to be completed. Drywall on the main part of the new edition is done. Waiting on a shower pan to complete the drywall. One more coat of drywall mud then painting, electrical and sound system.
- g. Alcona County Commissioner, T. Small:
 - i. Broadband update. County meeting was 1:30 pm on Wednesday 9/7/2022.
 - ii. Vote at the Alcona County Commissioners on 10/5/2022 to approve broadband contract with PIE&G
Kosal Q: Will the broadband plan be published?
Small A: Presque Isle Electric & Gas reviewed proposal with the board. Non-disclosure agreements in place with two board members. Contents to be disclosed after vote and agreement in place with the County.

5. Unfinished Business

- a. Unpaid Taxes - Personal Property Tax of BC Bar \$6, 278.74
- b. ARPA Grant– Project Planning. Tabled to next meeting.
 - i. Cemetery Projects – Bartlett
 - 1. Expansion of lots
 - 2. Sign improvement
 - 3. Old Brick Planter updates
 - 4. Shed – Roof and Door repair (rot)
 - 5. Along Burns Road – stump cleanup
 - 6. Cleanup stump grinding
 - 7. Tree Removal in existing cemetery – move to ARPA fund
 - ii. Damaged Pavilion teardown – 2 bids received. Updated bids not available yet. Smith to work to close out the bids.
 - iii. Remaining ARPA Grant Funded Project Proposals
 - 1. Repaint the upper Pavilion
 - 2. Inspect the roof and make any wood repairs from weathered boards. Smith noted shingles are missing. Require a bid for new shingles. Smith to request bids.
 - 3. Re-roof the outdoor cement toilet. Smith to request in bids.
- c. Ordinance to provide clarity of easement rights of parcels around the lake. Kosal to send email to Gillies on details to review with NEMCOG. Discussed above. Item closed at this time.
- d. Dead Trees in Park due to Oak Wilt
 - i. Supervisor Smith would like to seek bids for trim and removal. Smith contacted 4 tree removal companies. Bids have been opened. Rick’s Tree Stump removal of 2 very large trees, including stump grind and remove the wood at \$6500 - \$1200 (discount) = \$ 5300. Griff and Son’s

(Glennie) \$8500. Motion by Ostrander to accept the bid of Rick's Tree & Stump Removal. Kosal seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- ii. Kosal to check grant options, including ARPA Grant. No update.
- e. Park posts by play area needs repair. Post repaired. Item closed. Smith to continue to monitor the park.
- f. All Band Communication Update–Invitation to Millen Township Board on 9/30/2022 (12:00 – 3:00pm). No member attended. See PIE&G Broadband above.

6. New Business

- a. Alcona County Grassroots Conservatives – Resolution Condemning the Actions of the Alcona County Commission On Aging and Calling on the Alcona County Board of Commissioners to Investigate these Actions. Terry Small has seen. Ostrander Q: Any steps at the County Board of Commission? A: Not at this time.
- b. Tree cutting contracts –bids opened. See item above
- c. Contract for removal of pavilion (discussed above)
- d. What to do with extra 6 picnic tables from damaged pavilion? – Tabled discussion.
- e. Trunk or Treat on Halloween. Monday, October 31st.
- f. Winterize water system: Cox Plumbing and Heating contacted Smith this week. He will keep the water on until after the Trunk or Treat, but will watch the weather.
- g. Discussion for painting and roofing pavilion (upper) – Smith to request bids.

7. **Public Comments** – None.

8. **Adjourn** – Motion by Somers to adjourn, seconded by Kosal. Motion carried.

***Next Meetings:** October 10 – Election Commission at 9:45 and Public Accuracy 10:00 – 12:00
November 7, 7:00 pm - Millen Township Board Meeting

** Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Clerk, Cathy Ostrander*