

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING HELD ON JULY 8, 2014**

Supervisor Schmitt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Supervisor Schmitt, Clerk Tischler, Treasurer Mooney, Trustees Koss, Holloway, Nelson and Walsh

Absent: None

Others Present: Sandra LaJoie, Deputy Clerk

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Schmitt stated while on vacation he checked the Southfield Township website for accessibility and did not experience any problems.

Supervisor Schmitt welcomed Jim Creech, Franklin Village Manager to the Township.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Tischler noted the replacement PC for the Qualified Voter File has been installed and added issues with the printing of forms, which has been resolved with the help of Teresa Hebert from West Bloomfield Township.

Clerk Tischler stated as of yesterday 1,215 Absentee Ballots have been issued and all the election equipment has been pretested. Clerk Tischler noted testing for the mock election for the transfer of election night results has been scheduled for July 22nd between 10 and 11 a.m. The Public Accuracy Test required by Law has been scheduled for July 22nd at 2 p.m. in the Township Hall. Training of election workers is scheduled for July 29th and 30th.

Clerk Tischler mentioned to date, 812 dog licenses have been issued compared to 639 last year with 41 cat licenses issued this year compared to 29 last year.

Clerk Tischler advised the receipt of the updated pages for the Township Code of Ordinances and requested that Board Members return their Ordinance Books to be updated.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mooney commented summer tax bills were mailed on June 30th and started receiving payments on July 1st.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT CONTAINED ON PUBLISHED AGENDA:

No one wished to be heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Mooney, supported by Walsh, the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JUNE 10, 2014 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Mooney, supported by Nelson, to approve the June 10, 2014 Board meeting minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE AUTHORIZATION TO OBTAIN APPRAISAL:

Supervisor Schmitt commented the Bingham Center (and the adjacent strip center) has the highest assessed value in the Township, exceeding \$13,000,000. That assessment is being challenged in the Tax Tribunal. Moreover, it appears the matter is not likely to settle soon, and an appraisal will be necessary for trial or to obtain a more favorable settlement position. If we have an appraisal it must be ordered promptly because of trial and disclosure deadlines. The appraisals estimated cost is \$18,000: \$10,000 for Bingham, and \$8,000 for the strip center.

Supervisor Schmitt noted our choices are: 1. Try to settle the case, with potential tax refunds approaching \$30,000 (the Township's portion is less than \$1,000) for 2013, and a little more for 2014; or 2. Order the appraisal and rely on it for an advantage for settlement or trial.

Supervisor Schmitt added unfortunately, there are no parcels in the Township similar to the Bingham Center, so our attorneys and County Equalization think an appraisal would be useful. However, they believe they can appraise the strip center themselves. The hope is to get the appraisal firm to just do the Bingham Center for \$10,000.

Supervisor Schmitt commented several appraisals were approved and prepared a few years ago, but did not include the Bingham Center.

Resolved by Schmitt, seconded by Walsh, that Southfield Township authorizes its attorneys to obtain an appraisal of the Bingham Center and adjacent strip center in an amount not to exceed \$20,000 including appraiser's fees.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Tischler, Mooney, Holloway, Koss, Nelson, Walsh, Schmitt
Nays: None
Absent: None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF SETTING PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR POLICE AND FIRE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICTS:

Treasurer Mooney requested that the last word of the last paragraph be changed from “residents” to “parcels”.

Resolved by Mooney, seconded by Koss, the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Southfield Township Board of Trustees will hold a Public Hearing on August 12, 2014 at the Township Hall located at 18550 West Thirteen Mile Road, Southfield Township, Michigan at 7:30 p.m. for the purpose of spreading a Special Assessment for police and fire protection for Township Only parcels.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Mooney, Holloway, Koss, Nelson, Walsh, Schmitt, Tischler
Nays: None
Absent: None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF TOWNSHIP SHREDDING DATE FOR 2015:

Clerk Tischler stated the Township Board has for several years authorized free shredding of documents for Township residents.

Clerk Tischler commented the program has become increasing popular each time the service has been offered. At the May shred date this year, the truck was almost filled.

Clerk Tischler added Absolute Shreds was contacted to obtain a cost for the program for 2015 and was advised that the price for one truck for two hours would be \$250, the same as the cost in 2013 and 2014. Jim Cornell, from Absolute Shreds, has advised that the cost for 2016 will probably be \$300.00.

Clerk Tischler added if the Township Board chooses to proceed with the program a spring date seems to have the biggest draw and a Saturday date in May has been the month of choice. Saturday dates in May are the 2nd, 9th, 16th or 23rd. Beverly Park Clean Up is scheduled for May 9th and the rain date is scheduled for May 16th.

Trustee Nelson commented that with the cost of the appraisal of the Bingham Center and the money appropriated from fund balance, Trustee Nelson does not support the Township Shredding Program.

Motion by Tischler, supported by Koss, to contract with Absolute Shreds for a 2015 Shredding Program to be held on May 2nd, at the Township Hall, at a total cost of \$250.00 for one truck for two hours.

A suggestion was made that the event should only be promoted for shredding of confidential items containing personal information.

Motion carried 6-1 Nays- Trustee Nelson

REVIEW AND CONSIDER EXERCISING THE TOWNSHIP'S RIGHT TO PURCHASE OR REFUSE TAX FORECLOSED PARCEL:

Treasurer Mooney noted a parcel in Franklin was tax foreclosed and the redemption period ended April 1, 2014. The Township has the option of purchasing the parcel by paying the amount due at the end of the redemption period and any additional costs and interest accrued provided the Township has a "public purpose" in mind.

Treasurer Mooney noted the respond was due by July 1, 2014, however an extension was granted, since the Board of Trustees was not scheduled to meet until July 8, 2014.

Treasurer Mooney stated the parcel is in a neighborhood and the request for the right of refusal is required by law.

Resolved by Mooney, supported by Holloway, that the Southfield Township Board of Trustees waives its' right of refusal to purchase parcel #TF 24-05-103-001.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Holloway, Koss, Nelson, Walsh, Schmitt, Tischler, Mooney
Nays: None
Absent: None

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JUNE EXPENDITURES:

Motion by Walsh, supported by Nelson, to approve the June expenditures as follows:

101 General Fund	\$153,026.26
703 Tax Fund	\$ <u>0</u>
	\$153,026.26

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

No one wished to be heard.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Trustee Nelson commented the landscaping mulch has been spread all around the entire Township Hall with the exception of the island in the parking lot. Trustee Nelson noted the need for Board approval to purchase an additional eight (8) bags to finish the mulching.

The Board suggested Trustee Nelson purchase the mulch and complete the job.

Supervisor Schmitt, Clerk Tischler and Treasurer Mooney complimented Trustee Nelson on his effort to clean up and mulch the landscaping of the Township Hall.

Treasurer Mooney noted the article in the Bingham Post (Bingham Farms newsletter) written by Kathy Hagaman noting that Southfield Township has a website.

Trustee Walsh commented the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority will meet on Wednesday, July 9th at 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Senior Community Center.

Supervisor Schmitt adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Phillip Schmitt, Supervisor

Sharon Tischler, Clerk