

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 10, 2015**

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 and Trustees Koss, Nelson and Walsh

Absent: Trustee Holloway

Others Present: Sandra J. LaJoie, Deputy Clerk
Joseph Hlavaty, Bingham Farms
John Mooney, Beverly Hills

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Schmitt mentioned the proposed animal control contract from Anytime Animal Control has been reviewed and approved by the Animal Control Committee, Anytime Animal Control and is being reviewed by the Township Attorney. It will be on next month's agenda for ratification.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Tischler noted the Grant Application for funding to replace the entrance doors to the Township Hall has been completed and sent to the State for review.

Clerk Tischler commented the staff has visited two vendor sites to evaluate and review the options offered on several copy machines. A recommendation will be placed on next month's agenda for review and approval by the Township Board.

Clerk Tischler noted to date, five (5), 2015 Merchant Licenses have been issued.

Clerk Tischler mentioned 298 dog licenses have been purchased, compared to 293 at this time last year and 17 cat licenses have been issued compared to 12 last year.

Clerk Tischler noted updated information for the Policies and Procedures Manual was either included in your Board Packet or has been made available this evening.

Clerk Tischler reminded the Board that the State will be providing us with new Election equipment in the near future. Clerk Tischler discussed the different options for funding. The Township will probably have to share in the cost.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mooney noted to date, 97.2% of our summer taxes and 81.8% of our winter taxes have been collected with one week left to pay winter taxes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT CONTAINED ON PUBLISHED AGENDA:

No one wished to be heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JANUARY 13, 2015 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Supervisor Schmitt noted on page 8 under "Report, Discussion and Possible Action on Animal Control Bids" 2nd paragraph down, first sentence after "Supervisor Schmitt" insert "stated that while he preferred awarding the contract to Anytime Animal Control, but was philosophically and fiscally opposed to providing wild life services.

Motion by Walsh, supported by Nelson, to approve the January 13, 2015 Board meeting minutes as amended.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED TOWNSHIP BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015/2016:

Supervisor Schmitt opened the Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m. and the floor to the public.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Treasurer Mooney modified the requested "Current Property Tax" line item from "\$583,920" to "\$579,000" due to more current information regarding Michigan Tax Tribunal, outstanding tax cases, personal property and the number of calls for March Board of Review.

Clerk Tischler indicated that changes will increase the requested "General Operating Reserve".

Joe Hlavaty inquired if the number of tax tribunal cases changed since the last report and questioned the reason for the adjustment to the requested "Current Property Tax".

Joe Hlavaty commented at the December Board of Review the county presented a short list of cases pending and questioned if those cases have been resolved.

Treasurer Mooney responded the cases have not been resolved.

Joe Hlavaty questioned if the adjustment is based on the homes being purchased that are being uncapped.

Treasurer Mooney responded it was and some of the MTT cases.

Clerk Tischler commented on the need for the Compensation Committee to review how increases in salary are determined. Continual rate of inflation adjustments does not take into account actual expenses or employee accomplishments.

Trustee Nelson commented the concept is noteworthy; however fund balance is used to make up short falls at this time.

Trustee Nelson inquired on page 1 under "Township Board" line "Legal Notices Publishing" Dept. \$900.00, why the requested amount for the 2015/16 budget is less than the prior year, by a difference of \$400.00 dollars.

Supervisor Schmitt asked Trustee Nelson if he would like to change the amount in the line item to \$1,500.

Trustee Nelson responded an adjustment would be appropriate.

There was general discussion of various issues such as how increases in salaries should be determined; the actual amount the Township spends out of the General Operating Reserve versus how much is budgeted.

Supervisor Schmitt closed the Public Hearing at 7:52 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JANUARY EXPENDITURES:

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

101 General Fund	\$ 152,180.88
703 Tax Fund	<u>\$ 3,188,863.62</u>
	\$ 3,341,044.50

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

No one wished to be heard.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Trustee Walsh commented Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority will meet on Wednesday, February 11th at the Clawson City Hall at 8:30 a.m.

Treasurer Mooney wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Trustee Nelson asked the Clerk if she was licensed to marry someone.

Clerk Tischler responded not at this time.

Treasurer Mooney added there is proposed legislation to allow Supervisors that privilege.

Trustee Nelson questioned the need for the Township to supply a computer to AAC in order to generate computerized reports.

Clerk Tischler responded the Township will not supply a computer to AAC. AAC will supply computerized reports and added the Township Board can request what information it wants to see in the report.

Trustee Nelson commented the increase made to publishing under "Township Board" will be made up with two less Board of Trustee meetings this year.

Supervisor Schmitt adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Phillip Schmitt, Supervisor

Sharon Tischler, Clerk