

**MINUTES OF THE SOUTHFIELD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2017**

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 Cook Nelson and O'Reilly

Absent: Trustee Scarcello

Others Present: Sandra J. LaJoie, Deputy Clerk

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Schmitt wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day. Supervisor Schmitt commented the Board of Review will be meeting beginning the second week in March. Supervisor Schmitt recommends highly attendance at one of the sessions.

Clerk's Report

Clerk Tischler noted that 331 dog licenses have been purchased compared to 298 last year and 24 cat licenses have been issued compared to 16 last year.

Clerk Tischler stated no hardship applications have been returned for processing yet.

Clerk Tischler mentioned 5 businesses at the Corners Center have applied for their Merchant Licenses.

Clerk Tischler provided an overview of the election equipment vendor fair that was held last month, noting that at this time all three vendors have received approval from the State. ES&S was the lowest bidder but a price war has broken out, so depending on which of the three vendors is chosen, two have agreed to meet the allotted allocation of funds per precinct that the State is providing. The selection process is not an easy one as each vendor's products provides features that would be nice to have and issues that will be a concern such as storage or complexity of operation. The County Clerk will make the decision as to which vendor will be chosen to supply the county with election equipment.

Clerk Tischler noted a vendor selection should happen within the next few weeks and whichever vendor is selected they will be required to remove our current equipment and while the State will pay the \$40 million for the new system for five years which will also cover maintenance, in the second five years, the local units will have to pick up those costs.

Clerk Tischler updated the Board on the audit of the City of Detroit's election issues noting that the State Bureau of Elections found a number of precincts which were unbalanced and were not countable. Director Thomas stated that there was no evidence of voter fraud or that widespread voting equipment failure led to the imbalances, according to their audit. But in a separate statewide review of the election, the state did find 31 individuals statewide who appeared to have voted twice – once by absentee and again in person on Election Day. Those 31 people will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for criminal investigation. It's a felony to vote more than once in the same election, and the punishment could include up to four years in prison, and a fine of \$2,000 or both. According to the state's breakdown, 14 of those 31 people were from Detroit.

Clerk Tischler advised the Board that legislation will be forth coming to create a Voting Systems Technology and Innovation Fund with the intent that the money put in the fund would remain there and not be folded over to the State's fund balance at the end of each year. The legislation is looking to appropriate an amount equal to 7% of the amount paid to local units to pay for voting machines to be deposited into the fund each year. It will also require an Advisory Committee be established who's purpose will be to make recommendations to the Secretary of State and the Legislature on how the costs of voting equipment shall be shared between the State and Local Units of Government in the future.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Mooney noted to date, the Township has collected a little over 97% of the winter taxes. Treasurer Mooney added taxes will not be accepted at the Township after February 28th, they will have to be paid at the County.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT CONTAINED ON THE PUBLISHED AGENDA:

No one wished to be heard.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by O'Reilly, supported by Nelson, the agenda be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 10, 2017 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

Motion by Cook, supported by O'Reilly, the January 10, 2017 be approved as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018:

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Supervisor Schmitt opened the Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m.

No one from the public wished to be heard.

Supervisor Schmitt closed the Public Hearing at 7:36 p.m.

BOARD COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018:

Supervisor Schmitt asked the Board if they had any comments on the proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year 2017/2018.

Trustee Nelson commented he wishes the budget could be balanced without dipping into Fund Balance.

Trustee Cook confirmed that there were no changes since our January budget study session meeting.

Clerk Tischler responded that is correct.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF BID PROPOSAL FROM JASON'S OUTDOOR SERVICES, LLC:

Supervisor Schmitt asked Trustee Nelson to present the Resolution.

Jason's Outdoor Services submitted a proposal for handling this year's Township's landscape maintenance. Jason's is a company well known and respected in the area, and the firm which provided our landscape services in 2016.

Prior to Jason, we have had difficulty finding a competent and reasonably priced firm.

Trustee Nelson mentioned spring cleanup has cost the Township as much as \$350.00.

Trustee Nelson noted Jason's figures are quite a bit lower.

After general discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to adopt the following Resolution.

Resolved by Nelson, seconded by Mooney, that Southfield Township accepts the proposal, dated February 2, 2017, from Jason's Outdoor Services LLC, in the amount of \$937, for landscape maintenance for the 2017 season. Further, the Supervisor and/or Clerk are authorized to accept the proposal.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Tischler, Mooney, Cook, Nelson, O'Reilly, Schmitt
Nays: ~~Scarcello~~
Absent: ~~None~~ Scarcello

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF JANUARY EXPENDITURES:

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

101 General Fund	\$ 36,693.15
703 Tax Fund	<u>\$ 3,594,284.20</u>
Total	\$ 3,630,977.35

Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE:

No one wished to be heard.

COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD:

Supervisor Schmitt commented there is no such thing as a "Hardship" application it is a "Poverty" application.

Clerk Tischler commented just to make everyone aware there has been talk about voter fraud. Clerk Tischler stated Secretary of State Ruth Johnson wrote a letter with regard to the Election, which offered some suggestions on how the Federal Government might be able to help get the States to cooperate and the letter was sent to Vice-President Pence.

Clerk Tischler referenced the 2017/18 Budget Worksheet, under the Actual Column it lists received revenues of \$445,000 of which \$400,000 was transferred from the Tax Fund to the Township General Fund. Additional revenue will be transferred at the end of this year's tax collection period. Outstanding unpaid taxes will be remitted to us from the County's revolving fund.

Clerk Tischler added the e-mailed items of February 10th contained the retiree health care quarterly statement from Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan,

Trustee Cook mentioned she misses Trustee Walsh and his report from the Water Authority.

Trustee Cook asked who replaced Trustee Walsh as the representative.

Trustee Nelson replied he is still the representative.

Trustee Nelson wished everyone a Happy Valentine's Day.

Supervisor Schmitt adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Phillip Schmitt, Supervisor

Sharon Tischler, Clerk